in de volgende lezingen geeft hij een speciale demonstratie van dit principe.

Allereerst wordt aangetoond dat trots de verschillen de crinoidea, asteroidea, echinoidea en holothurioidea overeenkomen in algemeen bouwplan en dat de rangschikking der deelen een uniforme is en daarom samengevat worden onder de groep der Echinodermata. Vervolgens worden de echinodermata vergeleken met de fossielen uit de verschillende geologische perioden. „A great many of these have been found in a fossil state, and these fossil remains we will compare with the living types. Such differences have been found between the fossils and the living ones, that we shall have an opportunity to allude to another relation which exists between different forms. Those wich have existed earliest upon our globe, in the ancient geological epochs, do not indeed resemble those which live now, but they are related to the forms of the Echinoderms of the present day in their earlier stages of growth. And so the class of Echinoderms wil afford us the means of investigating all the differences which exist between the animals of that class living now, as compared with their enbryonic changes, and also between the changes wich the representatives of the same class have under gone from the earliest geological times, up to the time when the order of things which now prevails upon this globe was introduced".

In de eerste geologische tijdperken komen in hoofdzaak crinoidea voor; doch in vormen welke typisch voor elk tijdperk zijn en overeenkomst vertoonen met de embryonale vormen van de thans levende. 't Zelfde kan gezegd worden van de hooger staande vormen asteroidea, echinoidea en holothurioidea; voor zoover ze gelijktijdig voorkomen hebben in de eerste geologische tijdperken de lager staande vormen de overhand.

Agassiz besluit de bespreking van deze groep aldus: that the class of Echinoderms presents, notwithstanding the imperfect condition of our information upon this point, the most perfect agreement between the various embryonic forms observed and the different permanent forms of the animals of that class in their full grown condition; that these embryonic forms agree also with the different structures of the fossil types through all the geological ages; and that these