ART. XI.—*The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology*. Edited by FORBES WINSLOW, M.D. No. I, January, 1848.—8vo, pp. 192.

THERE can be no doubt that the extension and improvement of rational knowledge in regard to the nature, causes, and treatment of mental alienation, as well as the advance of psychological science itself, are likely to be promoted by a well-conducted Journal devoted exclusively to these subjects; and we are consequently disposed to look with a favorable eye upon any attempt at the establishment of such a periodical, notwithstanding the mass of this kind of literature that already crowds our shelves. That it can be a remunerating speculation, in a pecuniary point of view, is not to be expected; since a body of readers sufficiently interested in the subject to give to the work the requisite support, does not, we fear, at present exist in this country. Its maintenance must be a labour of love, therefore, to the parties concerned in sustaining it; and this constitutes an additional reason for extending to it a friendly welcome. If carried on in a right spirit, however, we have little doubt that it will in time succeed; as, in spite of the mechanical character of our age, there is a growing interest in psychological inquiry, and an increasing disposition to study the disordered conditions of the human mind in a scientific as well as in a practical point of view. We would recommend to the editor to endeavour to introduce as much variety, both of subject and of authorship, as the resources at his command may permit; and especially to invite the cooperation of all those whose lines of scientific inquiry are related to his own.—We may mention that the Journal will contain Analytical and Critical Reviews, Original Articles, and Abstracts of Reports of Lunatic Asylums, which last, if well digested, will form a collection of great value.

ART. XII.—*The Wonders of Geology; or a Familiar Exposition of Geological Phenomena*. By GIDEON A. MANTELL, LL.D. F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, &c. In Two Volumes. Sixth Edition.—London, 1848. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 938. With Six Coloured Plates, and 198 Wood Engravings.

WE are glad to have the opportunity of bringing this new edition of a very excellent treatise under the notice of our readers. To those of them who are not acquainted with the lustre which has been cast on the body of which Dr. Mantell is a member, by his scientific labours, we can only apply the ancient proverb, that “a prophet has no honour in his own country.” Amongst the comparative anatomists and geologists of every other country, as of our own, his name ranks as one of the “household words” of palæontology; his researches on the Geology of the South-east of England, including his restoration of the gigantic Iguanodon and other extinct reptiles of the Wealden district, having procured for him, a reputation which will place him, in the estimation of future generations, amongst the fathers of modern geology.

We always rejoice to find men of first-rate attainments in science coming forward to instruct the public by means of lectures and elementary treatises; and it is, we conceive, a very low view of their mission,

which would regard them as in any way degrading themselves by so doing. If *they* will not concern themselves in the elevation of the popular mind, it must be left to men of inferior capacity, who possess a smattering of all sorts of knowledge, and make a trade of communicating to the world the mixture of truth and error, the crude novelties, or the obsolete figments, with which their own minds are charged. The volumes before us had, as their original groundwork, a course of lectures delivered at Brighton, by Dr. Mantell, as part of an attempt (which unfortunately proved unsuccessful) to establish in that town a public museum, illustrative of the geology and palæontology of the South-east of England. The adaptation of this unpretending treatise to meet a popular want, is sufficiently proved by the rapid sale of five successive editions; and we rejoice to welcome a sixth, augmented by a large amount of valuable matter, and embodying a digest of all the most recent investigations in the different departments of geology and palæontology. The title of the work by no means indicates its real merits. Originally intended, perhaps, to excite public attention towards some of the more imposing and remarkable features of the science, it is scarcely applicable to a production that has been gradually expanded into the form of a complete systematic treatise, which, although elementary enough for the general reader, is sufficiently comprehensive in its range, as well as scientific in its character, to meet the wants of all who are disposed to rest satisfied with a good *general* acquaintance with this most interesting subject. The following recommendation of his favorite study will convey a good idea of Dr. Mantell's pleasing style :

"Geology, beyond almost every other science, offers fields of research adapted to all capacities, and to every condition and circumstance in life in which we may be placed. For while some of its phenomena require the highest intellectual powers, and the greatest attainments in abstract science, for their successful investigation, many of its problems may be solved by the most ordinary intellect, and facts replete with the deepest interest may be gleaned by the most casual observer.

"To the medical philosopher, geology presents peculiar attractions for those hours of leisure and relaxation, which are indispensable to maintain a healthy state of mind; for it requires the cultivation and application of chemistry, botany, comparative anatomy, zoology, and physiology,—sciences which form the very foundation of medical knowledge. It exerts, too, the most salutary influence, by calling forth the continual exercise of our intellectual powers; for the desire to explain what is obscure in the natural records of the past, induces a more accurate examination of existing physical phenomena, and of the organization and habits of the living beings within reach of actual observation. It enforces the necessity of weighing the conflicting evidence of apparently irreconcilable phenomena, of detecting differences, and seeking analogies, and of generalizing and combining an immense number of isolated facts. The mind thus acquires the power of acute observation, of patient investigation, and of salutary caution in drawing inferences and arriving at conclusions,—habits of the first importance in the discrimination and treatment of diseases.

"And however little, in the present state of the public mind, such qualities may be appreciated, the labour will bring an ample reward in the self-conviction that the talents intrusted to us have not been given in vain.

'Better than fame is still the toil for fame—
The constant training for the glorious strife.'

"For it should ever be borne in mind that the primary object of every study

ought to be an inward one—that of enlarging and elevating the intellect; and the direct aim of science should be the discovery of the principles of unity, order, and connexion, which are everywhere manifest in the universal life of nature.” (Preface, p. xi.)

We rejoice to know that Dr. Mantell has a son, who seems likely to be a worthy follower in his father's steps; having recently transmitted from New Zealand a magnificent collection of the bones of those numerous extinct struthious birds, whose existence was originally predicated by Professor Owen from a single fragment of the shaft of a femur destitute of articular extremities. The collection formed by Mr. Walter Mantell includes the nearly complete cranium of the *Dinornis giganteus* (a bird of about ten feet in height), the bill of which strongly reminds one of the broad end of a stout pickaxe; also fragments of the egg-shells of the *Dinornis*; and numerous bones referable to distinct genera. The entire absence of any rudiments of wing-bones in this large collection is a most interesting verification of Professor Owen's original deduction from the peculiarity of the cancellated structure in the fragment just adverted to;—namely, that the *Dinornis* must have been even more destitute of anterior extremities than the ostrich;—a deduction which, although looked upon by many as a clever guess, was in reality the result of a profound acquaintance with physiological laws, and of an implicit faith in the great principle of unity of design.

ART. XIII.—*The London and Provincial Medical Directory for 1848.*—London. 12mo, pp. 634.

THIS very useful and comprehensive work has undergone considerable changes since its last annual appearance; of which some, at least, are very decided improvements. The Provincial Directory has been augmented by a local list of the practitioners in each town and village, arranged under their respective counties, which will be, for a great variety of purposes, a most useful addition; and there is a similar list of the Poor Law Medical Staff, including the names of the officers, their counties, unions, and districts; so that, by reference to the name of any town or district of England or Wales, the names of all the practitioners resident in that locality, and of those acting under the authority of the Poor Law Commission, will at once be found. We would suggest that, in the next edition, the names of those who hold hospital or dispensary appointments, be indicated by an asterisk or some other distinctive mark. The London list is augmented by a diary, which embodies all the information of an almanac, with a variety of notices useful and interesting to the medical practitioner. We apprehend, however, that this will be but little used for the purpose of *entries*, for which it is specially designed, —a separate and more portable memorandum-book being usually found much more convenient; and we would therefore suggest to the editor the desirableness of compressing the diary to the dimensions of an almanac (retaining all the information which it contains, and even adding to this), and of again enlarging the list of references to the literary contributions of the several individuals enumerated, which list has always appeared to us so valuable and interesting a feature in the ‘Directory,’ that we much regret the curtailment of it. A Letts's Diary may be procured for a shilling