

ART. IV.—*The Animal Kingdom, arranged after its Organization, forming a Natural History of Animals, and an Introduction to Comparative Anatomy.* By the late Baron GEORGES CUVIER. Translated and adapted to the present State of Science. A New Edition, with Additions by W. B. CARPENTER, M.D., F.R.S., and J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S. Illustrated by Three Hundred Engravings on Wood, and Thirty-four on Steel.—*London, 1849. Royal 8vo, pp. 718.*

THE 'Règne Animal' of Cuvier must maintain its ground as the only complete systematic treatise on Zoology, until some naturalist, equally competent to the task, shall be bold enough to undertake the production of a similar work, adapted to the present condition of our knowledge. And this, we think, is not likely soon to be the case. For the vast accumulation of materials, which has been brought together since Cuvier reduced all that was then known into a systematic form, is sufficient to alarm the most enterprising, to confound the most self-confident. We seldom now hear of zoologists attempting to grapple with every department of their science. Those, for instance, who aim to acquire a comprehensive acquaintance with the structure and classification of animals as a whole, are fain to leave the subordinate questions of genera and species to be worked out by others, whose cast of mind leads them to feel an especial interest in such matters. But we usually now find zoologists devoting themselves specially to some one division,—whether mammals, birds, reptiles, or fishes, insects or worms, molluscs or zoophytes; and contenting themselves with but a scanty knowledge of the remainder. And it is one evil of this system, that the classifications which such men propose for their own particular groups are founded on principles which do not hold good in other departments of zoology; so that a new 'Règne Animal,' in which each class should be arranged according to the ideas of some naturalist who had made it a special object of study, would be a most heterogeneous farrago. Until, therefore, one of those giant minds arises, which illuminate the world from time to time by their combination of vast solidity of acquirement with the brilliancy of original genius, we expect that the great work of Cuvier will maintain its ground, notwithstanding that in no one department would it now be adopted as a guide by the scientific zoologist.

The translation of this great work prepared some years ago by Messrs. E. Blyth, G. Johnston, J. O. Westwood, and R. Mudie, was comprised in a single octavo volume of by no means inconvenient size; and was enriched with many valuable additions by the translators, who were for the most part well acquainted with the departments they respectively undertook; besides being illustrated with a considerable number of woodcuts. A new edition of this translation being called for, the publisher has still further added to its value, by procuring from Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Westwood such further additions as might give the best account of the recent progress of those departments of zoology, with respect to which the original is now most incomplete. Thus Dr. Carpenter has introduced a view of Professor Agassiz's classification of *Fishes*, as modified by Professor Müller and Owen. In like manner, he has given an account of the arrangement of the *Cephalopoda* proposed by Professor Owen, the correctness of whose principles of classification has been recently confirmed

by the dissection of *Spirula*, an animal possessing a chambered shell, but having the dibranchiate type of organization; and he has also furnished a summary of the researches on the *Tunicata* which have been so successfully prosecuted by Professor Milne Edwards and others. The *Articulated* series, originally treated of by M. Latreille, has had the advantage of the revision of Mr. Westwood; who has contributed a most laborious summary of the recent labours of entomologists, carcinologists, &c., with copious references to their works, which must be of great value to the student. Of the *Radiated* classes, which were left in the greatest confusion by Cuvier, Dr. Carpenter has given a general account; not attempting to enter into the minutiae of classification, nor even to enumerate the multitude of additions which have been made to their known forms; but confining himself to a comprehensive sketch of the structure of each class, and of the principles on which it ought to be subdivided.

The illustrations of the present edition have also received the addition of numerous woodcuts illustrative of the new matter, and of a number of steel-plates, etched by Thomas Landseer, representing numerous species of mammals and birds with that remarkable felicity for which that artist is scarcely less celebrated as an engraver, than is his brother Edwin as a painter. We cannot doubt, therefore, that this new edition will be very acceptable to every student of zoology.

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ART. V.—*An Essay on the Cerebral Affections occurring most commonly in Infancy and Childhood, including Notices of their History, Causes, Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment. Being the Council Prize Essay awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Bath, on Wednesday and Thursday, August 16th and 17th, 1848.* By VALENTINE DUKE, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, &c. &c.—*Dublin, 1849. 8vo, pp. 90.*

DR. DUKE'S essay reached us at too late a period to be included in our review of the 'Diseases of Children' (Art. IX). We regret this the less, since it offers no pretensions for analytical remark, and we must confess does not appear to us quite to attain even that standard of value by which we assume that we have a right to judge works of its own class.

After making all allowances for the usual mode of manufacture adopted in the production of such *forced* articles of literary and professional ingenuity as are prize essays, we are yet of opinion that Dr. Duke has proceeded beyond the mark in availing himself so much of the labours of others, whilst at the same time he offers us so little proceeding from himself. Not that our author is to be charged with the crime of passing off such labours as the results of his own reflections and researches, for he candidly acknowledges the various sources from which he draws; but he should have given more satisfactory proofs of original investigations of his own making. To demand this of Dr. Duke would surely not be imposing a very great tax on his professional experience, considering the scope of the subject upon which he has ventured to touch, and the limitation of his essay on it to ninety pages. We are of opinion also that our author has most unfairly favoured one disease—*tubercular meningitis*—in comparison with the consideration he has bestowed upon other affections. No less