

the books out of which this little *new* one comith are of too recent a date to be pronounced *old*. The volume consists of four chapters, of which the first is a republication of that portion of the author's "Philosophy of Zoology," which treated of molluscous animals; which again was a reprint from an article in Brewster's Edinburgh Encyclopædia. Chapter II. is not in the "Philosophy," with the exception of five or six pages; but the matter in its other pages is so familiar to us, that we feel pretty sure of having before read them in some other book: they are probably from the article "Conchology" in Brewster's Encyclopædia, or from the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica, or from both. Chapter III. is also from the fruitful "Philosophy," with one or two trifling interpolations, amendments, and omissions: and Chapter IV. is reprinted from the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica, whether *verbatim* or not we cannot pronounce decidedly, but nearly so. Surely the material must be good that allows so frequent a transfusion! It may be so, and the article may, for all that we know, come up to that standard of excellence by which encyclopædists measure their contributions; but this we are certain of, that as a separate "Treatise" on molluscous animals it is very defective in every point of view. The beginner will read the book with advantage, because the manner in which the subject is treated is a good one,—anatomy and physiology going hand in hand with the systematist and œconomist;—but the further advanced conchologist will find it no more than a convenient and cheap collection of articles he has previously studied.

The Cabinet Cyclopædia; conducted by the Rev. D. Lardner. Natural History. Animals in Menageries. By William Swainson, Esq., F.R.S., L.S. 8vo. London, 1838.

The subject to which this volume is devoted, our author tells us, "is one in which little novelty can be expected;" and we must confess that in all respects it scarcely comes up to the usual standard of the volumes in Dr. Lardner's Cyclopædia. The two first parts are a compilation neatly enough executed, but still a compilation in almost every line, without the least pretence to novelty; and it is a pity that here and there an original remark should be introduced on the unscientific character of the works of Fred. Cuvier, or upon the "careless and ungrammatical" style of that of the venerable Latham, especially as such ample use is made of both the works. These do not contribute to the value of Mr. Swainson's volume, neither do they add to the pleasure of most of its readers. The ornithology of the latter, though not possessing the lucid arrangement which may

be given to the works of the present day, contains an immense mass of information, with descriptions of many of the birds which are now receiving names as entirely new. We must notice one little error in the second part. Speaking of *Clangula Barrovii*, it is said, "We believe only one specimen is in England, and it has hitherto only been found in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains;"—a beautiful male specimen of this rare bird was shot some years since in Iceland by Mr. Atkinson; so that its range is more extensive.

The third part of the work, "Two centenaries and a quarter of birds either new, or hitherto imperfectly described," has no connection with the first or second parts. The short specific descriptions are a little troublesome, from having the species mixed up together, and not generically arranged; and it is less useful than it might be from the want of synonyms; for though many are new, many are also described and indicated in other works: for instance, *Platyurus niger* seems to be *Scytalopus fuscus*, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. for 1837; *Ramphapis Melanogaster* is the same with Lefresnaye's *M. dimidiatus*, figured in the *Magazin de Zoologie* in the beginning of the last year; *Aglaia melanotis* is very like D'Orbigny's *Tanagra Schrankii*, &c.; *Crypticus* "*Superciliosus*," should be *C. Superciliaris*, at least so Mr. Sandbach named it. Some of the birds again scarcely require to be introduced as little known; *Leistes Suchii*, here called *L. oriolooides*, has been at least twice figured, and several times described.

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APRIL. Zoology.

I. *Analysis of Fossil Scales from the old red Sandstone, Clashbermie, Perthshire.* By A. Connell, Esq. The most curious fact in the analysis of these scales is, that the ratio of the phosphate to the carbonate of lime is in the proportion nearly of thirteen to one, and similar to two out of three analyses of recent fish-scales by Chevreul. Of the animal matter there remained only a "trace."—II. *On the organized bodies found in the mineral fluid of Animals, and their analogy to the pollen of Plants.* By G. R. Treviranus. (Taken from Tiedemann and Treviranus's *Physiological Journal*.) The paper endeavours principally to establish the analogy between the fertilizing particles of the productive parts of plants and animals.—III. *Further Observations on the Unity of Structure in the Animal Kingdom, &c.*



1838. "The cabinet cyclopædia; conducted by the Rev. D. Lardner. Natural history. Animals in menageries. By William Swainson, Esq., F.R.S., L.S. 8vo. London, 1838." *Annals of natural history* 1, 148–149.

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