Now a similar case of direct action of alien pollen upon the fruit, or grain, occurs in Indian corn, and is familiar to every farmer in the country, in the form of grains of different varieties on the same ear. A decisive instance is before us in a small ear of sweet corn, grown in the vicinity of a patch of the common hard, yellow variety; in consequence from three to six grains in every row have become yellow corn, while the rest retain the characteristic appearance of the sweet variety. It is not rare, where several sorts of maize are cultivated together, to find nearly all of them separately represented upon one ear. This must be the result either of cross-fertilization of the previous year showing itself, not in a blending of the characters of the fruit of the progeny, but in a complete separation into the constituent sorts in the fruit resulting from one seed, which would be a wonderful anomaly, but no impossibility; or else, of an immediate action of the pollen the present year, as is reputed of squashes and melons. But the occurence of three sorts of corn upon one ear goes far towards excluding the first supposition, since there can have been but two immediate parents to one embryo. (Prof. Gray).

Agassiz's Contributions to the Natural History of the United States.—The first two volumes of this work have made their appearance and are worthy of the high reputation of their author. We shall in a future number review the work at length, and in the meantime give the following summary of its contents.

Vol. I., Part I. *Essay on Classification.*

Chapter I. The fundamental relations of animals to one another and to the world in which they live, as the basis of the natural system of animals: under which head the author treats of —the actual foundation in nature of the true zoological system or classification,—the unity of plan throughout the diversified types —the distribution of the same types over widely diverse geographical regions, and as widely diverse geological ages,—the permanency of types and the immutability of species,—the relations between plants and animals and the surrounding world,—embryology a basis for determining the rank of species—succession in geological time a basis for deciding approximately upon rank;—all of which topics, besides others not here enumerated, are so handled as to bear directly on the question of creation by physical agencies, giving it a decided negative reply.

Chapter II. Leading groups of the existing system of animals —a philosophical disquisition on the true significance of the