

tails of structure. Unfortunately many naturalists are deficient in this. Hence they regard a good natural genus such as a mind like that of Linnæus could found, not as one, but as several; their mental vision not enabling them to see the whole of it at once, though they can see little trifling distinctions. They break it up, attach names to the fragments, and believe themselves discriminating interpreters of nature, until the discovery of a few more species or the glance of some higher intellect throws the whole again into one, and nothing remains except a shoal of obsolete synonymes, against which young students may wreck themselves. We could fill our pages with instances, but it is better not to enter into particulars. The subject is, however, so important to the progress, and especially to the diffusion of science, that it demands at least an energetic protest against the genus-makers as a body. We are glad to see in some good modern text books, as in Woodnoid's *Mollusca*, many useless genera restored to their proper places.

6. *Species*.—In this most important department of the subject a large number of naturalists will at once join issue with Agassiz; and we think that the interests of truth demand a careful sifting of the views put forth, not only in the short section under this head, but also in the introductory chapters. The general definition, which we have already quoted, is so vague in its terms that it hardly serves to give the author's view. The "relations of individuals to each other" may, for instance, mean much or very little; and on the interpretation of this expression hangs the whole question here in dispute between Agassiz and other naturalists. The precise view intended to be conveyed may perhaps be best gathered from the following passages:—

"The species is an ideal entity, as much as the genus, the family, the order, the class, or the type; it continues to exist, while its representatives die, generation after generation. But these representatives do not simply represent what is specific in the individual, they exhibit and reproduce in the same manner, generation after generation, all that is generic in them, all that characterises the family, the order, the class, the branch, with the same fullness, the same constancy, the same precision. Species then exist in nature in the same manner as any other groups, they are quite as ideal in their mode of existence as genera, families, etc., or quite as real. But individuals truly exist in a different way; no one of them exhibits at one time all the character-