

carried on in the Museum with a view of ascertaining the natural limits of the Faunæ at the present time and in past ages, and the genetic relations which may exist between the order of succession of organized beings upon the earth, their mode of growth, and their metamorphoses during their embryonic life, and the plan and complication of their structure in their adult condition.

"The means for publishing this work have been most liberally granted by the Legislature, at a time when, in a less enlightened assembly, the material cares of the community would have engaged their exclusive attention."

J. W. D.

EMBRYOLOGY OF THE STARFISH. By Alexander Agassiz.

SEASIDE STUDIES IN NATURAL HISTORY. By Elizabeth C. and A. Agassiz.

These are new products of the teeming workshop of Zoology established under Professor Agassiz at Cambridge. While the great zoologist is himself exploring in Brazil, these works have been issued by his son and by Mrs. Agassiz. The first mentioned is an elaborate account of the remarkable changes through which two of our commonest American star fishes, *Asteracanthion pallidus* Ag., and *A. berylinus* Ag., pass in their progress to maturity. In some respects it forms a supplement to the investigations of Muller and other European naturalists on the Embryology of Echinoderms; but it elucidates several points which had been left in obscurity; and it fully vindicates the claim of the echinoderms to be placed in the great Cuvierian group of radiates, in opposition to the preposterous attempt to place them with the worms, which has lately gained currency in some quarters. Every one interested in these questions should carefully study this work, which will constitute a part of the forthcoming volume fifth of Agassiz's "contributions."

The second work above named is a popular sea side book, giving an excellent and very interesting summary of the marine radiates of Massachusetts Bay. Most of the species referred to are found also on the shore of Maine and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so that the work will form a good companion and guide for visitors to those coasts as well as to Massachusetts. The book is well illustrated, and is at once thoroughly popular and accurate in a scientific point of view.

J. W. D.