

duties, to superintend the preservation of stuffed specimens of birds and other animals ; a task requiring a degree of taste as well as of skill and attention, which perhaps persons accustomed to these matters can alone duly appreciate. The public collection of plants and minerals on board the *Fury* has been in great part made and entirely arranged by Mr. Halse, to whose industry and attention in these departments for several years past I am particularly desirous to do justice. So general however have the taste for collecting and the skill in preserving become, among the individuals employed on these Expeditions, that much additional interest has been derived from an examination of the distinct collections of plants and minerals made by several of the officers, and particularly from that of Mr. Edwards, whose notes on the Natural History of these regions have added much valuable information on this subject. Some skeletons of animals have been prepared for the Museum of the College of Surgeons by Mr. Skeoch, among which those of a wolf and an Esquimaux dog will perhaps not be considered the least interesting, as shewing the comparative anatomy of those two animals. Soon after the arrival of the ships in the river Thames, the public Collections of Subjects of Natural History were put into the hands of three gentlemen well qualified to describe them. I need only mention the names of Professor Jameson, Professor Hooker, and Dr. Richardson, to assure the public how much justice will be done to their description ; but I cannot omit this opportunity of offering my warmest thanks to these gentlemen for the kind and handsome manner in which they did me the favour to undertake this task.

A monthly Abstract of the Meteorological Register is inserted in its proper order in the course of the narrative, that method having been considered most convenient for reference, on a subject necessarily