

nized. Diodorus of Sicily left some writings on the different branches of Natural History.

STRABO, (B.C. 50,) a Cappadocian, belonged to the Roman civilization. This celebrated geographer mentions the natural products of the countries which he describes. He is the first to describe the sugar-cane, and to mention the silk cocoon, which he regarded as the fruit of a tree; he also left an accurate description of the fishes of the Nile. From this philosopher we learn many of the speculations of the Greeks of his day with regard to the occurrences of marine exuviae on the mountains. Some of these considered that the sea had been at different heights and that having made an outlet it sank to the present level, but Strabo regarded this as insufficient to account for their presence, and considered the occurrence of marine organic remains on mountains to be due to the upheaval of the ancient sea-bottoms, and he accounts for their situation, and all terrestrial changes by the agency of causes every day in action as volcanoes, earthquakes, and gradual elevation or subsidence of continents above or below water. He was aware of the effects of aqueous degradation and recognized that islands were separated from the main land by this means, and some islands, he says have risen from the bed of the ocean. He considered volcanoes as safety valves, this theory not being a modern doctrine. Strabo informs us that the Druids of Gaul, believed the universe to be immortal, able to survive the catastrophies of fire and water.

Until the time of Vespasian, the Roman Emperors favoured science very little indeed. But during his reign there appeared one whose name is as widely known as that of Aristotle, Pliny the Naturalist. Although he died at the early age of fifty-six, when the eruption of Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum, he left 160 large volumes of extracts from authors which he had read. He was a compiler rather than a producer, and copied matter without questioning its accuracy, yet when he made original observations, his descriptions were exact. He divided organized beings into terrestrial, aquatic and aerial. He described the cetaceous fishes, which then inhabited the

Bay of Biscay. His Ornithology is a fable; by his description of the Phoenix, the Golden Pheasant is designated; he also mentions the Tregopan as being a horned bird. In his Entomology he describes the habits of the bee, and thought it came spontaneously from the putrefaction of the ore. He recognized that the silk, which came from a far distant country, was produced by different insects. His Zoology is a confusion, and his Botany is still more confused. His classification of plants is arbitrary, and his descriptions are inaccurate, but his observations on their flowering is worthy of notice, and his while of therapeutic is erroneous. His Mineralogy is interesting as a history of the fine Arts and of technology.

(To be continued.)

CRIBS.

"Vetitum nefas"—*Hor.*

It is still a doubtful question among the educators of youth, whether a judicious use of translations of the classics should be sanctioned or even recommended in Schools and Colleges; and if so, to what extent, and with what restrictions? As usual, those who know nothing whatever about the question are those who prate most glibly about it, and who express their opinion most loudly. The unlearned public are, as a rule, strongest in their wholesale condemnation of what they deem an unfair practice, and by many persons a student who avails himself of these aids while competing for academical honours, is regarded as little better than a dishonest candidate who endeavours to secure his election by bribery and corruption. Many good parents entertain this unreasoned aversion to cribs, though they do not object to their son's having a tutor, and would not think it unfair that he should be put up to the 'dodges,' when his competitors can not afford to pay for the same advantage.

Competent judges, however, are by no means at one on this question. Some think that the present state of science demands that more attention should be given to it, and that the long years spent in picking up fragments from authors who died two thousand years