

was oppressed with both its novelty and vastness," and he adds "men's minds require to be familiarized with propositions of such generality before their exact limits and right application be appreciated."

Some idea may be formed of the vast mass of anatomical labour involved in the illustration of the works of his great predecessor, by perusing the following:—

'It is impossible,' he says, 'to reason correctly upon the structure of a detached organ, unless the condition of the rest of the organisation, and the habits and mode of life of the species be known; but to this end the name of the species from which the detached organ was derived is indispensable; without this fact, the contemplation of the most elaborately dissected specimen can yield little satisfactory information, and to determine it became, therefore, the first and most essential step in the formation of the catalogue of the physiological specimens. This part of their history has, in most cases, been effected by a comparison of the Hunterian preparations with recent dissections.'—*Phys. Cat.*, v. xiv.

From the sponge to the man no form of animal life has escaped his researches, and he seems to have thrown new light on each subject. In the memoir on the *Lepidosiren* is given the first account of one of the most extraordinary of vertebrated animals, if that can be so called which vertebræ has none; he establishes by a train of most beautiful anatomical evolutions the true piscine character of the animal. In regard to that form of quadrumanous mammal which makes the nearest approach to man, and of which Cuvier appears to have entertained obscure ideas, from the fact of his being acquainted only with the immature characters of both the Orang and Chimpanzee, Owen communicated the required knowledge at a time when the revival of the hypothesis of the transmutation of species began to agitate the scientific world. Most of the characters which were supposed to bring the Orang and Chimpanzee in disagreeable proximity to man are shewn to be transitory and peculiar to the immature animal, whilst yet retaining the deciduous teeth. His investigations of the several species *Pithecius* and *Troglodytes* from Borneo, and the Gaboon River have been of the most startling and elaborate nature. It would, indeed, be futile to analyze even in the briefest manner the subjects of his numerous works and minor contributions; nor can we contemplate the wonderful amount of admirable labour they display, without being struck by the power and energy of him who has done so much for fame and for science before he has passed the prime of intellectual life! His merits and name are universally known, and he is recognized throughout Europe as the Cuvier of England.

We shall proceed to consider the effect of his labours on the classification of the animal kingdom.

(To be continued.)