

REVIEWS.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF THE MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY, AT HARVARD COLLEGE. NO. 1. OPHIURIDÆ, &c. By Theodore Lyman.

To a working naturalist, no publication is more acceptable than an illustrated descriptive catalogue of an extensive collection; and no work requires more care and patient application. Good museum catalogues, owing to the labor and expense they involve, are of rare occurrence; and the thanks of all naturalists are due to the director of the Cambridge Museum, Professor Agassiz, for this excellent beginning of a work which it is to be hoped will be continued in many successive numbers. The work of this catalogue is exceedingly well done, both in regard to scientific accuracy and mechanical and artistic execution. We could have wished, however, that the authors' names had not been changed in cases where a species is referred to a new genus. This not only deprives the original describer of due credit, but interferes with the facility of reference. The difficulty would be better met by giving the original author of the specific name with the letters Sp. following. In the present work the mode followed causes a large number of old familiar species to be referred to the author of this catalogue, who has merely changed the genus. In making this remark, however, we do not wish in the least to detract from the merits of this very excellent catalogue, or more properly descriptive monograph. The objects sought to be attained by its publication are thus stated by Prof. Agassiz:—

“The publication of the Illustrated Catalogue of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy has been undertaken with a threefold object. In the first place, like the catalogues of most institutions of a similar character, it is intended to make the contents of our Museum generally known, and to facilitate our exchanges. In the second place, to be the medium of publication of the novelties received at the Museum, which require to be described and illustrated by diagrams or wood-cuts, or more elaborate plates. Finally, it is hoped that it may be the basis of a systematic revision of such natural groups of the animal kingdom as are most fully represented in our collections, and that it may, as far as possible, present to the scientific world the results of the investigations