

in their stately beauty, looked down on the dazzled eyes of the believing Shepherds.

A very large number of persons, members and non-members of Scientific bodies, take an increasing interest in the result of Scientific research, and would gladly become familiar with the alphabet of the system. They are generally deterred by the new language proposed to them as a condition of the desired knowledge. Ignorance of Greek, a very common disease with the masses, is a terrible difficulty in the very threshold; and without the persevering student, who knows nothing of the powers of that wondrously plastic tongue, has to fatigue his memory with thousands of (to him) most unmeaning and formidable compound terms. The variation of a vowel, the mistake of a diphthong, being occasionally so fatal to accuracy as to send the poor groper among the Infusoria into the startling company of Plesiosauria or Pachyderms. The Greek of Sophocles or Æschylus has even to undergo some comic violence in its adaptation to the anatomy and economical habits of the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Scientific nomenclature is, doubtless, a necessity, and without it there could be little communion of labour or thought among the learned of many lands. Still, one may be permitted to regret, that to the increasing millions who speak that pleasant English tongue, "whose sound" (as has been grandly said) "has gone into all lands, and whose words to the ends of the earth," we cannot as yet teach the marvels of science, the wondrous story of the mutations of their own earth, and unfold its mineral and floral wealth, as readily as we teach them the history of man or the elements of morals or religion.

We are sadly in want of truly popular explanations of scientific research. The mere English scholar turns up a so-called *popular* treatise to learn something of an animal, he is enlightened by finding that it is perhaps a graminivorous pachyderm, or some fossilized relic that is "crustacean, semi-calcarious, striated, cordiform, and is never found in palæozoic formations." A pleasant writer says, "Even the 'hand books' and 'outlines' intended for general readers and docile beginners, abound in words of such puzzling obscurity (not to mention the abstruse speculations frequently implied in their very mention) that one would think the English public was made up of pundits, and been reared in the nursery in the circle of the Sciences." What, in the name of Linnæus, he will ask, can be meant by the sub-Kingdom 'Cœlenterata?' His knowledge of Greek, be it ever so extensive, will