

the field of science to meet his brethren, to lay before them the result of his labours, to set forth the deductions at which he has arrived, to ask their examination, to maintain in the combat of debate the truth of his positions and the accuracy of his observations. These Meetings, unlike those of any other Society, throw open the arena to the cultivators of all sciences, to their mutual advantage: the Geologist learns from the Chemist that there are problems for which he had no clue, but which that science can solve for him; the Geographer receives light from the Naturalist, the Astronomer from the Physicist and Engineer, and so on. And all find a field upon which to meet the public at large, invite them to listen to their Reports, and even to take part in their discussions,—show to them that Philosophers are not vain theorists, but essentially men of practice,—not conceited pedants, wrapped up in their own mysterious importance, but humble inquirers after truth, proud only of what they may have achieved or won for the general use of man. Neither are they daring and presumptuous unbelievers—a character which ignorance has sometimes affixed to them—who would, like the Titans, storm heaven by placing mountain upon mountain, till hurled down from the height attained by the terrible thunders of outraged Jove; but rather the pious pilgrims to the Holy Land, who toil on in search of the sacred shrine, in search of truth,—God's truth—God's laws as manifested in His works, in His creation.

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## REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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*Memoirs of the Life of James Wilson, Esq., of Woodville, F.R.S., M. W. S.* By the Revd. JAMES HAMILTON, D.D., F.L.S.  
New York: R. Carter & Bros. Montreal: B. Dawson & Son.  
With portrait, pp 229.

Mr. Wilson was rather of the celebrated Professor John Wilson of Edinburgh, and although of very unobtrusive character yet was known among a large circle of most attached friends to be a most accomplished scientific and literary gentleman. Having no profession he resided on a small and beautiful property in the parish of Colenton, about two or three miles from Edinburgh. There he cultivated with great assiduity the zoological department of Natural History. Birds, insects, fishes, and the lower forms of