

These people, [the Australians,] who are in the lowest state of barbarism, have been called by some ethnographers, Malanesians, or Black Islanders, in contradistinction to the negroes or blacks of Africa, to whom they bear no resemblance. * * * * *

A polar current sets along the west side of New-Holland from the south pole into the Bay of Bengal, and there are other currents in this great body of waters, but their course and direction are as yet too imperfectly known to be accurately described.—*Universal Geography*.

Electricity.—Electrical effects are exhibited by the same bodies when acting as masses, which produce chemical phenomena when acting by their particles; it is not improbable, therefore, that the primary cause of both may be the same. * * * * * With regard to the great speculative questions, whether the electrical phenomena depend upon one fluid in excess in the bodies positively electrified, and in deficiency in the bodies negatively electrified, or upon two different fluids capable by their combination of producing heat and light, or whether they may be particular exertions of the general attractive power of matter, it is, perhaps, impossible to decide in the present imperfect state of our knowledge.—*Sir Humphry Davy*.

The platypus *anatinus*, or duck-bill, (the ornithoryneus *paradoxus* of Blumenbach,) one of the many wonders of New South Wales, unites in its form and habits the three classes of birds, quadrupeds, and amphibials. Its feet, which are four, are those of a quadruped; but each of them is palmated or webbed, like a wild fowl's; and instead of lips, it has the precise bill of a shoveller, or other broad-billed water bird; while its body is covered with a fur exactly resembling an otter's.

Yet it lives, like a lizard, chiefly in the water, digs and burrows under the banks of rivers, and feeds on aquatic plants and aquatic animals.

* * * It is a curious fact, that in that vast part of the globe which has been latest discovered, and to which modern geographers have given the name of Australia, comprising New-Holland and the islands with which its shores are studded, not a single bed or stratum of limestone has hitherto been detected, and the builders are obliged to make use of burnt shells for their mortar, for which I have lately advised them to substitute burnt coral.—*Dr. Good*.

Animals are often contemplated under the three divisions of terrestrial, aquatic, and aerial. Plants may be contemplated in the same manner. Among animals it is probable that the largest number consists of the first division; [the land animals,] yet from the great variety of submarine genera that are known, this is uncertain. Among vegetables, however, it is highly probable that the largest number belongs to the submarine section, if we may judge from the almost countless species of *fuci*, and other equally prolific tribes of an aqueous and subaqueous origin, and the incalculable individuals that appertain to each species; and more especially if we take into consideration the greater equality of temperature which must necessarily exist in the submarine hills and valleys.—*Dr. Good*.

* * * * * After all the wonderful and important discoveries which have been developed in it, NATURAL HISTORY is even yet but little more than in its infancy, and zoonomy is scarcely entitled to the name of a science in any sense. * * * * *

But the globe has been upturned from its foundation; and with the wreck of a great part of its substance has intermingled the wreck of a great part of its inhabitants. It is a most