

ple justice to an exposition of the secret workings of a being not made by man. It is usually admitted that the arrangement of the organism is based upon a peculiar *vital force* which imparts to it properties differing from those of inorganic nature. Our author scorns such a faith, as "impedes a correct recognition of the fundamental principles on which the existence of living creatures is based; and leads to results which are decisively opposed by more exact physiological investigations", and concludes, that the phenomena of life are due simply to physical and chemical agencies. He does not support these statements with arguments, that they cannot pass for more than the worth of individual hypotheses. Equally cursory and dubious is much of his contrast of the functions of animals and vegetables; he does not dwell sufficiently on their points of similarity and dissimilarity, several of which are wholly ignored, although possessing much importance, as the acquisition and dismemberment of carbonic acid by vegetables, their appropriation of its carbon and elimination of the oxygen; so also with other instances of the unity and perfectness of the original plan of an all-wise Creator, as that of the pitcher plant, which *does possess a large cavity in which considerable quantities of food are collected and dissolved by special fluid secretions*. But facts such as these are safely eschewed, as they militate against the sweeping assertion of the author, which takes from vegetables all traces of digestive apparatus and function.

The fourth chapter is the longest in the book, embracing 80 pages, and considers the physical properties of the human body. We fancy it in reference to this the translator introduces the following explanation in his preface:—This book may be used "as a convenient summary of many experiments hitherto imperfectly known in this country. It comprehends so much of various kindred subjects as may either obviate, or, what is better, fructify a reference to the ordinary text book of each, i. e. of Chemistry, Optics, Electricity, Magnetism and Physics in general. Here we have full descriptions of the Barometer, Manometer, Electrometer, Electro Magnetisers, and sundry other devices of cunning art. Here we can learn up the Daltonian theory, gaseous diffusion, specific heat, polarization of light, and many other modern instances. Here also are taken in capillary attraction, repulsion, friction, pressure of liquids, absorption, et id genus omne. Here the scientific sparks of light and electricity scintillate, and altogether a strange medley of facts is worked up as it were into an harmonious whole, the propriety of affording which so much space in a text book on Physiology must at least be very questionable.

After an introduction on the chemical composition of organized beings, the author enters upon the consideration of Digestion, and next takes successively Absorption; Circulation; Respiration; Evaporation; Secretion