

under investigation without a direct acquaintance with them. It is indeed desirable that the author of a work of this kind should have examined all the species, and in various distant localities, that he may justly characterize them, and estimate the extent of their variations; nor was the circumstance of the comparative unmoveableness to which a medical practitioner is doomed unconsidered as a bar to my own competency, but the love of the subject prevailed, especially when friends were readily found to contribute to the removal of the difficulty. To them I have in this place to render my grateful acknowledgements. To Mr Bean of Scarborough, Dr Coldstream of Leith, J. V. Thompson, Esq. Inspector of Hospitals, for some time resident in Cork, and the Rev. David Landsborough of Stevenston in Ayrshire, I stand indebted for numerous specimens; and similar communications of less extent have been sent me in a friendly manner by John Edward Gray, Esq. of the British Museum; Mr Robert Embleton, surgeon in Embleton; Messrs Alder and Bowman of Newcastle; Mr Teale of Leeds: J. Hogg, Esq. of Norton; and Messrs Macgillivray and P. W. Mac-lagan of Edinburgh. One other name must not be forgotten, for, besides a friendly interest in the book, and his revision of it during its progress through the press, I have had the kind assistance of the Rev. Thomas Riddell, of Trinity College, Cambridge, whenever the assistance of a classical scholar was required.

I am not certain that any apology will be deemed necessary for the notes and quotations which have been introduced with considerable liberality, for the tastes of the naturalist have ever seemed to me akin to those of the antiquary; and this has always been a favourite mode of illustration with the latter. It is one that chimes in with my own humour, and the indulgence of it seemed at least harmless on the present occasion. Many of these notes are devoted to notices of the individuals who, so far as I could learn, were the first to notice the species of