

on ; but it has been less noticed that the men who thus occupied themselves in acquiring and forwarding a knowledge which many may deem purely ornamental, were the same individuals who were most engaged in the active discharge of the duties of their profession, and the most instrumental, to its advance. Boerhaave, Cullen, Hunter, Darwin and Jenner are very memorable instances of this fact, which is illustrated with lesser brilliancy in Lister, Sloane, Mead, Fothergill, Lettsom, Sims, Maton, in Withering of Birmingham, in Percival and Hull of Manchester, in Pulteney of Dorset, Stokes of Chesterfield, and numerous others whose names will occur to every one conversant with the history of medicine. This is only what on reflection might have been anticipated, for that very activity of mind and perspicacity which originated and upheld their sagacity and success as practitioners, was sure to carry them far in whatever side-path the natural bent of their taste led them for the occupation and entertainment of the leisure hours which the busiest must have or may create. Idleness has no leisure. Were it necessary I might safely shelter myself under the cover of these exemplars, in the contemplation of whose lives I have often nurtured my love to my profession,—and hence, perhaps, an ambition to follow them even at a far distance ;—but there never was a time when it was necessary to vindicate to any but the ignorant the erratic excursions of medical men into the fields of science and literature, for assuredly the rank which the profession as a body has taken and holds in public estimation depends for its patent, in part at least, on the scientific and literary character of its professors ; and by continuing to support that character they will best secure it from the vulgarity of a common mercature, or the selfishness of a venal quackery.

Zoophytes present to the physiologist the simplest independent structures compatible with the existence of animal life, enabling him to examine some of its phenomena in isolation and free from the obscurity which greater complexity of anato-