

new individuals ; the transmutations, it is alleged, may have been nicely graduated, and each new species may have differed little from the prior species by which it was developed. It is not permitted us to charge the hypothesis with atheism, because it allows that there may be a God, and contends that he may originally have impressed life with plasticity and adaptability, so that it may take to itself new forms and characters in suitableness to varying conditions and circumstances.

At the same time, there is nothing to be gained by supposing these metamorphoses of species to have happened, unless to invalidate the scriptural history of our race, confound the origin of rational and irrational beings, shed uncertainty and perplexity over their destination, and throw back divine intervention so far into the past, that, to our weak conceptions, it is virtually annulled in becoming so antiquated.

The hypothesis is besides liable to positive and insuperable objections, of which the following may be stated :—

1. The fossils contained in the different strata do not show a graduated progress from more