

where they are illustrated by excellent engravings, and they form the basis of the prelections of many a learned professor.\*

Since the theory of the development and transmutation of the species has been supposed to obtain support from the succession of organic remains which we observe in the strata, we have thus briefly indicated some of the principles which that theory involves, and shall now endeavour to explain some of the numerous facts and arguments which may be opposed to it. The power of external agents, such as varied conditions of temperature, moisture, and food, have, no doubt, some influence in modifying animals and also vegetables. The plant which has smooth leaves and stem when found in the low countries, becomes stunted and covered with hairs on the summit of the mountain; and the Shetland pony, the London dray-horse, and the Arabian courser, are illustrations of the influence of food and climate. In addition to this, we are informed that the desires of the animal becoming, from repetition, habits, produce in the course of ages instruments by means of

\* The following are the titles of some of the chapters of a work on natural history, published by an eminent professor: On Nothing. Mathematics is based upon Nothing, and consequently arises out of Nothing. The Essence of Nothing. Forms of Nothing. Something.