

of preceding years. Several works give such *résumés*; but they only serve to bring more glaringly to light the deficiency of the information upon which a natural system might be built. The fullest of these compilations is the thirteenth edition of the *Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, published between the years 1783 and 1793 by J. Fr. Gmelin.¹ Another is the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, published by an association of naturalists in Paris in 201 vols. 4to., between the years 1782 and 1832, with a view of presenting a complete cyclopædia of all that was known at the time in every branch of Natural History. The *Acalephs* were compiled by Bruguière. Nearly all the illustrations published by earlier observers are here reproduced, but nothing new is added. These publications have lost their merit now, and can only be used as books of easy reference to the scattered descriptions and figures of previous writers.

Besides the publication of these systematic cyclopædias, we have also to notice the scientific dictionaries of the time, which aimed at giving similar, though more condensed, accounts of the knowledge of their age,² but did not add much to the real progress of science. Not so with the proceedings and transactions of learned societies;³ for in their volumes we find innumerable original papers in which the discoveries of the day are recorded, and among them, here and there, some notices bearing more or less directly upon the natural history of the *Acalephs*. The most important of them have already been quoted.

SECTION IV.

THE SYSTEMATIC WRITERS AND ANATOMISTS.

With the beginning of the nineteenth century opens another era in the history of *Acalephs*. Now, for the first time, are successful attempts made to combine systematically the investigations of the past, and every year adds new materials to

¹ GMELIN (J. FR.), *Car. a Linné Systema Naturæ per Regna tria Naturæ, etc., editio decima tertia, aucta et reformata*, Leipzig, 1788-1793, 7 vols. 8vo.

² VALMONT DE BOMARE, *Dictionnaire raisonné universel d'histoire naturelle*, Paris, 1765-1768, 5 vols. 8vo.; 2e édit. 1768, 1769, 12 vols. 8vo.; 3e édit. 1775, 6 vols. 8vo.; 4e édit. Lyon, 1791, 15 vols. 8vo.

³ The most valuable of these transactions are

those of the Royal Society of London, of the *Academia Naturæ Curiosorum*, and of the Academy of Sciences of Paris. The former are published under the title of *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society, the latter as *Mémoires de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris*, and those of the *Academia Naturæ Curiosorum* appeared, first under the title *Miscellanea*, next as *Ephemerides*, and afterwards as *Acta*, and are now continued as *Nova Acta Academicæ Cæsareo-Leopoldinæ Naturæ Curiosorum*.