Were not Latreille the first entomologist of all ages, and had he not shown himself a master in describing species, characterizing genera, defining natural families, and improving generally the classification of Insects, it would hardly be worth our while to consider his attempt at classifying the Acalephs. But this attempt of his may serve as a warning against the temptation, too frequently indulged by eminent men, to express opinions upon matters with which they are not familiar, or to cover their ignorance by an easy display of high-sounding but empty words. On looking at the diagram of Latreille's classification of the Acalephs, it might seem, at first sight, that he presents in it a new and original arrangement of these animals. The names *Poecilomorpha* and *Cyclomorpha*, with which he designates the two orders into which the class is divided, are certainly new to science, but they are utterly useless and superfluous, inasmuch as they neither represent a new view nor a new combination in the classification of these animals, and are in no way better than those which had already been proposed by Lamarck and Cuvier for the very same division. The limitation of the families is, if possible, worse, and the names applied to them are liable to the same objections as those of the orders.

CLASSIFICATION OF LATREILLE, 1825.

The views of Latreille upon the affinities of the Acalephs were published in his " Familles natu-relles du Règne animal," Paris, 1825, 1 vol. 8vo. Adopting the class of Acalephs as circumscribed by Cuvier, he divides them into two orders and six families.

1st Order.   POECILOMORPHA, corresponding to the Radiaires Mollasses Anomales of Lamarck, exclusive of Lucernaria.
    1st Family.   Ciliata: Beroe, Callianira, Cestum, Diphyes.
    2d Family.   Papyracea: Porpita, Velella, Noctiluca.
    3d Family.   Hydrostatica: Physalia, Physophora, Rhizophysa, Stephanomia.
2d Order.   CYCLOMORPHA, corresponding to the Radiaires Mollasses Médusaires of Lamarck.
    1st Family.   Monocotyla: Medusa, Æquorea, Foveolia, Phorcynia.
    2d Family.   Polycotyla: Cyanea; Rhizostoma.
    3d Family.   Acotyla: Lymnorea, Favonia, Geryonia; Berenice, Eudora, Carybdea.

The families of the Cyclomorpha are entirely artificial, and in no way express the natural affinities of the animals; and the families of the Poecilomorpha are borrowed from other writers,—the name of *Beroes*, proposed by Goldfuss, being changed to *Ciliata*, that of *Porpitæ* to *Papyracea*, and the name *Hydrostatica* retained from Cuvier. The Hydroids are referred partly to the class of Polyps, in the tribe Vaginiformia, and partly to his class Helianthoidea, which embraces Actinia, Zoanthus, and Lucernaria.

The animals belonging to the class of Acalephs are so peculiarly delicate, so difficult to handle, and so perishable, that the circumstances under which they may be studied, form almost as important an element in their investigation, as the aptitude