

There is hardly a branch of Natural History to which Edw. Forbes has not made some valuable contribution. His investigations upon the distribution of marine animals, as bearing upon the geological changes which have affected their area, have left a permanent impression upon the progress of modern Geology. Among his special zoological studies, the natural history of the Acalephs formed always a favorite topic, to which he constantly returned with renewed interest. His monograph of the British naked-eyed Medusæ contains a summary of what he had done in that direction up to the year 1848. In the preface to this work he pays a just tribute of gratitude to his friend Mr. McAndrew, to whom he was mainly indebted for the facilities he enjoyed in collecting these materials, and whose name will forever remain associated with that of Edw. Forbes in the memory of naturalists.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF EDW. FORBES, 1848.

Forbes's classification, published in his "Monograph of the British Naked-eyed Medusæ," relates only to the Discophoræ, which he divides into two natural groups, corresponding to the Discophoræ phanocarpæ and cryptocarpæ of Eschscholtz, but based upon different characters, not before taken into consideration in the arrangement of the Acalephs. They are as follows:—

##### I. GYMNOPHTHALMATA.

- 1st Family. Willsiada: Wilsia.
- 2d Family. Oceanida: Turris, Saphenia, Oceania.
- 3d Family. Æquorenda: Stomobrachium, Polyxenia.
- 4th Family. Circeada: Circe.
- 5th Family. Geryoniada: Geryonia, Tima, Geryonopsis, Thaumantias, Slabberia.
- 6th Family. Sarsiada: Sarsia, Bougainvillea, Lizzia, Modeeria, Euphysa, Steenstruppia.

##### II. STEGANOPHTHALMATA. Aurelia, Pelagia, Chrysaora, Rhizostoma, Cassiopen, Cynæa.

#### MY OWN VIEWS OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF ACALEPHS.

In a series of lectures, delivered before the Lowell Institute in the winter of 1848-1849, a phonographic report of which appeared first in the "Traveller" and afterwards in the form of a separate pamphlet, I have presented my views of the natural affinities of the Radiates in general, and there began to trace the homologies of these animals with the other Radiates, and introduced some changes in their classification, which an uninterrupted study for more than ten years longer, along the whole Atlantic coast of North America, from Canada to Texas, has only confirmed and enlarged by furnishing additional means of comparisons.

There I circumscribed the type of Radiata in the same manner in which I now think it should be circumscribed, admitting in it three classes only,—the Polyps, the Acalephs, and the Echinoderms. There I showed also that the Hydroids are