

able to class the several kinds or modifications of clouds. There are seven modifications ; three of which are simple, two intermediate, and two compound. The following table will form the basis of the remarks we shall make upon the several kinds :—

*Simple Modifications.*

1. CIRRUS ; parallel, flexuous, or diverging fibres, extensible by increase in any or in all directions.
2. CUMULUS ; convex or conical heaps, increasing upward from a horizontal base.
3. STRATUS ; a widely-extended, continuous, horizontal sheet, increasing from below.

*Intermediate Modifications.*

1. CIRRO-CUMULUS ; small, well-defined, roundish masses, in close horizontal arrangement.
2. CIRRO-STRATUS ; horizontal, or slightly inclined masses, attenuated towards a part or the whole of their circumference, bent downward or undulated, separate, or in groups consisting of small clouds having these characters.

*Compound Modifications.*

1. CUMULO-STRATUS ; the cirro-stratus blended with the cumulus, and either appearing intermixed with the heaps of the latter, or superadding a wide-spread structure to its base.
2. CUMULO-CIRRO-STRATUS, or NIMBUS, the rain-cloud. A cloud, or system of clouds, from which rain is falling. It is a horizontal sheet, above which the cirrus spreads, while the cumulus enters it laterally and from beneath.

For this classification of clouds, which is sufficiently accurate for the present state of the science of meteorology, we are indebted to Mr. Howard, who has rendered more than ordinary services to this interesting branch of physics. The eye of the casual observer may rest upon the broad expanse of heaven a thousand times, year by year, and in it he may find nothing in form to “stir the soul to ecstasy,” much less to induce a philosophical discrimination of causes. But although there may be little to interest the man whose highest aim is the personal satisfaction of his grosser nature, or him who traverses the earth without knowing more of its condi-