

“ are incapable of being held through defect of
 “ the requisite support: but if they reach exactly
 “ to the extremities of the fingers, they then,
 “ and then only, fulfil the intention for which
 “ they were made. The nails, however, are ap-
 “ plicable to many other purposes besides those
 “ which have been mentioned; as in polishing
 “ and scraping, and in tearing and peeling off
 “ the skin of vegetables, or animals: and in
 “ short, in almost every art where nicety of ex-
 “ ecution is required, the nails are called into
 “ action.”

In alluding to the sceptics of his time, the lan-
 guage of Galen is as follows. “^kWhoever ad-
 “ mires not the skill and contrivance of nature,
 “ must either be deficient in intellect, or must
 “ have some private motive, which withholds
 “ him from expressing his admiration. He must
 “ be deficient in intellect, if he do not perceive
 “ that the human hand possesses all those qua-
 “ lifications which it is desirable it should pos-
 “ sess; or if he think that it might have had a
 “ form and construction preferable to that which
 “ it has: or he must be prejudiced, by having
 “ imbibed some wretched opinions, consistently
 “ with which he could not allow that contrivance
 “ is observable in the works of nature¹.”

^k Lib. iii. cap. 10.

¹ Galen adds: “ Such persons we are bound to pity, as being
 “ originally infatuated with respect to so main a point; while