

present centuries have been principally instrumental.

Not so in the animal kingdom. In this branch of science the true principles of classification seem to have been almost as clearly understood in the age of Aristotle, as at the present day: and, in order to enable the reader to judge of the truth of this assertion, I propose to offer a short and cursory analysis of that work of Aristotle which is entitled *Περὶ Ζῴων Ἱστορίας*^q; comparing it at the same time with similar modern works, and particularly with that of Cuvier entitled, “*Le Règne Animal, distribué d’après son Organization,*” which was published in Paris in the year 1817, in four octavo volumes^r.

I shall not stop to inquire whether the work of Aristotle is to be considered as containing the result of his own observations only, or whether he has collected into one body all that had been observed by others as well as himself; which last supposition, however, is probably the true state of the case. But in order to illustrate the magnitude of such an undertaking, and the diffi-

^q It will be convenient here to state, that the edition to which references will be made in the following pages is that of Bekker, Berlin, 1829, 8vo.

^r A new edition of this work was published in 1829, but the preface of the first is retained without any important alteration, and indeed with scarcely any alteration at all. Nor are the alterations, or additions, which have been made in the body of the work, of such a nature as to affect the present comparison.