

In the outline this system is not very materially different from that of Cuvier, the deviations being sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse. If the *Polypi ciliati* are to be numbered amongst proper zoophytes it is for the better to have them placed in a separate order; but *Zoantha* is badly associated with the *Hydra*, *Coryne* and the spurious *Pedicellaria*. The *Polypi vaginati*, considered as an order, is a most heterogeneous collection; and the manner in which it is subdivided into sections, although in general excellent and worthy of commendation, is yet far from unexceptionable; and these exceptions are very obvious in the first, sixth and seventh sections, in which apolypous, or it may be vegetable productions, are mingled with real zoophytes. The characters which divide the *Polypi tubiferi* from the *natantes* are not of sufficient importance to be considered ordinal, (it would have been preferable to have made them families in one order); and the location of the *Encrinus* in the latter is the result of a most unlucky conjecture.* As a systematist, however, Lamarck has few equals, and probably, with the exception of Linnæus, not a superior: there is no vagueness nor ambiguity about him,—all is clear, well arranged and ordered, and his characters, which are usually well chosen, are defined in expressive words and in a felicitous manner. These advantages have given his System great currency, and though the favour shewn to it has somewhat abated, it still holds its place, and is in frequent use, with those who are engaged in arranging local catalogues and museums.

Dr Fleming is the only British naturalist who has attempted

* According to Lamarck Nature could not have done otherwise than she has done, and we are repeatedly assured that his System is a naked exposition of her necessitated steps in calling organized beings into existence! After announcing with an almost ludicrous degree of confidence and complacency, that this fictitious Power can only complicate animal organizations in successive gradation, he adds,—“ La connaissance de cette vérité me suffit; je reconnais le véritable rang des *polypes*, comme celui des infusoires; j'aperçois les rapports qui les lient les uns aux autres, ainsi que ceux qui lient les familles entr'elles; enfin, je conçois les limites que la nature n'a pu franchir dans la composition de l'organisation de ces animaux, d'après celles que je découvre dans ceux des classes supérieures. Je puis donc dire positivement, à l'égard des *polypes*, comme à celui de bien d'autres, ce que la nature n'a pas pu faire.” Anim. s. Vert. ii. 8.—What a humiliating commentary and lesson have the discoveries of a few short years afforded on this passage!