

It may be said indeed that the pleasure of such recollections is for the most part of a moral and intellectual nature ; and, so far, is foreign to our present object : but the pleasure of the original enjoyment appears to be principally of a physical character ; and is no doubt intended to produce, at the moment, a highly beneficial, though merely physical effect : for while the eye of the child is attracted by the unexpected forms and colours of the plants and flowers presented to his view, and his mind is instigated to gratify the eager desire of possessing them, he necessarily subjects his limbs to that degree of exercise and fatigue, which contributes to the general health of his body. Nor let such pleasures be undervalued in their consequence : they give that moderate stimulus to the whole system, which even the early age of infancy requires ; and, by shutting out the listlessness that would arise from inactivity, they become eventually the source of moral and intellectual improvement.

With reference to the primary wants of mankind at large, the vegetable kingdom is of the highest importance. Let the earth cease to produce its accustomed fruits, and every form of animal life must be soon annihilated : for all animals either derive their nourishment directly from vegetable food, or feed on those animals which have themselves fed on vegetables. And,