

possess that kind of instinct which leads him to the selection of a specific sort of material for his nourishment or clothing, or for the construction of his habitation : but, in proportion as he feels new wants, he meditates on the means of gratifying them ; and usually perceives, with a quick eye, those qualities in external bodies, which make them capable of being fitted to the end he has in view. This power of perception is peculiarly characteristic of the intellectual faculties of man : and although the inferior animals have, to a certain extent, the same power, with reference to their specific instincts, yet in them it is very limited. The nest of the same bird may be composed, in different years, of somewhat different materials, according to the latitude of her choice ; but, with the exception of such a modification, she never varies from or improves upon the original plan : the comparatively unsheltered hovel of the rook, for instance, is never improved into the comfortable cottage of the swallow.

It is probably owing to the exercise of the

“wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place?
“ For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth *teach*
“ him.” Ch. xxviii. 24—26. And so, when Dr. Thomson considers it as “remarkable that almost all those metals which
“ were known to the ancients possess malleability,” (Thomson’s Chemistry, sixth edit. vol. i. p. 325.) it may with propriety be observed that those are exactly the metals, without which society could not have existed.