

liar with the general fact, that the most splendid exhibitions of colours of every description, are displayed in the warmer climates ; and that the tints of natural objects, generally speaking, become more sad and faded, as we approach the colder regions ; till they merge into the white of the polar snows. Most persons, also, are aware of the well known circumstances attending the total abstraction of light from plants and animals ; and that they thus become more or less white, or *etiolated*. Hence, we need scarcely do more than remind the reader, of what must be already familiar to him, viz., that the decided colours of tropical productions of every kind ; whether we consider the gaudy plumage of the birds ; or the variegated adornment of the fishes and insects, &c., are so striking, as to be quite characteristic of these productions. In the higher latitudes, also, where the contrast between the summer and winter seasons is very great, the colours of some animals vary with the seasons ; being in the summer generally of some dark hue, but in the winter nearly white ; while still further, in the polar regions, all is more or less white ; and the natural covering of the earth, the snow, is the whitest body in nature.

Putting out of sight the great importance of the colours of objects, which will fall more naturally to be spoken of hereafter ; it may be