

more great plans, limited in this or any other way, is not a question of principle, but one involving only accuracy and penetration in the investigation; and I maintain that the first sketch of Cuvier, with all its imperfections of details, presents a picture of the essential relations existing among animals truer to nature than the seemingly more correct classifications of recent writers.

SECTION V.

PHYSIOPHILOSOPHICAL SYSTEMS.

About the time that Cuvier and the French naturalists were tracing the structure of the animal kingdom, and attempting to erect a natural system of Zoölogy upon this foundation, there arose in Germany a school of philosophy, under the lead of Schelling, which extended its powerful influence to all the departments of physical science. Oken, Kieser, Bojanus, Spix, Huschke, and Carus are the most eminent naturalists who applied the new philosophy to the study of Zoölogy. But no one identified his philosophical views so completely with his studies in natural history as Oken.

Now that the current is setting so strongly against every thing which recalls the German physiophilosophers and their doings, and it has become fashionable to speak ill of them, it is an imperative duty for the impartial reviewer of the history of science to show how great and how beneficial the influence of Oken has been upon the progress of science in general and of Zoölogy in particular. It is moreover easier, while borrowing his ideas, to sneer at his style and his nomenclature, than to discover the true meaning of what is left unexplained in his mostly paradoxical, sententious, or aphoristical expressions; but the man who has changed the whole method of illustrating comparative Osteology,—who has carefully investigated the embryology of the higher animals, at a time when few physiologists were paying any attention to the subject, who has classified the three kingdoms of nature upon principles wholly his own, who has perceived thousands of homologies and analogies among organized beings entirely overlooked before, who has published an extensive treatise of natural history containing a condensed account of all that was known at the time of its publication, who has conducted for twenty-five years the most extensive and most complete periodical review of the natural sciences ever published, in which every discovery made during a quarter of a century is faithfully recorded, the man who inspired every student with an ardent love for science, and with admiration for his teacher,—that man will never be forgotten, nor can the services he has rendered to science be overlooked, so long as thinking is connected with investigation.