

nevertheless, the zoological history of Avicenna, in the possession of the Royal Library at Paris, differs from Aristotle's work on the same subject.\* As a botanist, we must name Ibn-Baithar of Malaga, whose travels in Greece, Persia, India, and Egypt entitle him to be regarded with admiration for the tendency he evinced to compare together, by independent observations, the productions of different zones in the East and West.† The point from whence all these efforts emanated was the study of medicine, by which the Arabs long ruled the Christian schools, and for the more perfect development of which Ibn-Sina (Avicenna), a native of Aschena, near Bokhara, Ibn-Roschd (Averroes) of Cordova, the younger Serapion of Syria, and Mesue of Maridin on the Euphrates, availed themselves of all the means yielded by the Arabian caravan and sea trade. I have purposely enumerated the widely-removed birth-places of celebrated Arabian literati, since they are calculated to remind us of the great area over which the peculiar mental direction and the simultaneous activity of the Arabian race extended the sphere of ideas.

The scientific knowledge of a more anciently-civilized race—the Indians—was also drawn within this circle, when, un-

youth striven to attain to a more intimate acquaintance with science, although the cares of government have withdrawn us from it; we have delighted in spending our time in the careful reading of excellent works, in order that our soul might be enlightened and strengthened by exercise, without which the life of man is wanting both in rule and in freedom (*ut animæ clarius vigeat instrumentum in acquisitione scientiæ, sine qua mortalium vita non regitur liberaliter*). *Libros ipsos tamquam præmium amici Cæsaris gratulantur accipite, et ipsos antiquis philosophorum operibus, qui vocis vestræ ministerio reviviscunt, aggregantes in auditorio vestro.*" (Compare Jourdain, p. 169-178, and Friedrich von Raumer's excellent work *Geschichte der Hohenstaufen*, bd. iii., 1841, s. 413.) The Arabs have served as a uniting link between ancient and modern science. If it had not been for them and their love of translation, a great portion of that which the Greeks had either formed themselves, or derived from other nations, would have been lost to succeeding ages. It is when considered from this point of view that the subjects which have been touched upon, though apparently merely linguistic, acquire general cosmical interest.

\* Jourdain, in his *Traductions d'Aristote*, p. 135-138, and Schneider, *Adnot. ad Aristotelis de Animalibus Hist.*, lib. ix., cap. 15, speak of Michael Scot's translation of Aristotle's *Historia Animalium*, and of a similar work by Avicenna (Manuscript No. 6493, in the Paris Library).

† On Ibn-Baithar, see Sprengel, *Gesch. der Arzneykunde*, th. ii., 1823, s. 468; and Royle, *On the Antiquity of Hindoo Medicine*, p. 28. We have possessed, since 1840, a German translation of Ibn-Baithar, under the title *Grosse Zusammenstellung über die Kräfte der bekannten einfachen Heil- und Nahrungsmittel.*, translated from the Arabic by J. v. Southeimer, 2 bände.