only test of its value is its actual productiveness, which, so far as we know, yet remains to be proved. It seems to us quite possible that the chemical agents contained in the deodorizing process may have a serious effect in impairing this.

Should the facility with which privies, cesspools, &c., can be *deodorized* by Ellerman's process lead to the retention of such nuisances, we shall consider that it is positively prejudicial rather than useful. Our sense of smell was certainly given to us, among other purposes, in order to warn us against noxious emanations; and it is, as it were, neutralizing its utility, to deodorize without also destroying poisonous miasmata. We believe that the immunity from fever enjoyed by catgut-makers, glue-makers, tanners, and others whose employments lie amidst putrescent animal matter, greatly depends upon the warning which they receive through their noses, *compelling* them to obtain as much fresh air as circumstances will permit, and preventing that accumulation and stagnation of noxious matter in the air, which seems to be the condition most favorable to the generation of pestilential miasmata. We trust, therefore, that deodorizing fluids will never be employed, or even proposed, as substitutes for efficient drainage, ventilation, &c.; and that the profession in general will strenuously endeavour to set the public right on this head. To their legitimate employment, in facilitating the use of sewage as manure, we heartily wish all success. There can no longer be the slightest question of the marvellous efficacy of the refuse of our towns in promoting the growth of the materials of their food; and the agricultural public is fully alive to the fact. The value of certain meadows in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh has been increased, through the use of a part of the town drainage for the purpose of irrigation, by more than £5000 a year; and there seems no reason to doubt that, if the whole drainage of London could be so employed, at a sufficient distance from the town, the annual increase in the value of the land to which it would be applied would exceed £500,000. By a different method of computation, founded upon the comparison of the substance of the excreta with other manures, and taking the market price of the latter as the standard, it has been calculated that the refuse of the town of Sheffield, with a population of 110,000 inhabitants, is worth £30,000 a year. Surely these sums are worth saving, if efficient means can be devised for the conservation and application of the sewage, without evil results to public health.

ART. X.—*Illustrations of Instinct, deduced from the Habits of British Animals.* By JONATHAN COUCH, F.L.S. &c. London, 1847. Post 8vo. pp. 343.

THE purpose of this little work is to aid in the diffusion of improved views as to the relative modes of action of instinct and intelligence, and to point out the path by which these may be more clearly distinguished, so that their respective provinces may be better defined. It does not aim at the character of a complete or even of a systematic treatise on the subject; but brings together in a pleasing form a variety of disconnected observations, that may serve as *illustrations* of the nature of the inquiry which the author desires to promote.

“Preference has been given to examples derived from the creatures of our own country; because these are best known to an ordinary inquirer; and because

it is the author's desire to call into this field of examination a greater number of men capable of useful observations, if their attention were once directed to the pursuit. Many curious habits remain undescribed, to reward the industry and patience of an observer who will study them abroad, in the fields and woods; and the arts by which the wild animals of Britain still maintain their standing among us, in spite of the exterminating endeavours of their great enemy, and amidst so many other opposing influences, form perhaps the most interesting portion of their history." (Preface.)

Mr. Couch starts with what we regard as essentially correct notions of the relative characters of instinctive and intelligent actions, of the almost exclusive predominance of the former principle of action in the lower animals, and of the modifications gradually introduced by the increasing importance of the latter, as we ascend the scale. And we can therefore recommend his work as possessing a real scientific value, as well as from its presenting an agreeable source of healthful recreation. We could wish, however, to be able to trace some principle of sequence in the arrangement of its contents; and we should like to meet, in a future edition, with a larger proportion of original facts, such as an observer possessed of Mr. Couch's qualifications and opportunities can scarcely fail to have collected.

ART. XI.—1. *Portraits of Diseases of the Skin.* By ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. Fasciculus I. London, 1847. With four coloured Plates. Folio, pp. 8.

2. *On Ringworm, its Causes, Pathology, and Treatment.* By ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S., Consulting Surgeon to the St. Pancras Infirmary. London, 1847. With 12 Figures on Steel. Post 8vo, pp. 102.

THESE two works are not more dissimilar in size, than they are in their objects and characters. The first-named may be truly designated a splendid performance, surpassing in the artistic beauty of its delineations, and fully equalling in their fidelity to nature, anything of the kind which has yet been brought out either in this country or on the continent; and one, consequently, which is most creditable to all parties concerned in its production. The following extracts from the preface will explain Mr. E. Wilson's intentions in regard to the objects of the work:

"I have determined that no labour or expense shall be spared to render it complete as a series of 'PORTRAITS OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN;' and my confidence in the talent of the artist, Mr. William Bagg, emboldens me to hope that the strict fidelity of the delineations to Nature will only be surpassed by their beauty and excellence as works of Art.

"In another sense I might have termed the work, 'Illustrated cases of Cutaneous Disease,' inasmuch as it is my intention to report the case of the patient with each plate, introducing among the details of the case such general deductions and practical observations as may tend to explain more fully the history and management of the disease. By following this plan the student will be placed in the position of the consultant before whom the case is brought; and the peculiar characters of the disease, being thus strongly impressed on his mind, will be made available when a similar case is presented to his notice in practice. Indeed the cases will be given and the portraits drawn, in the order in which they come before myself, and without reference to classification; the circumstance determining the selection being the character of the case as a good specimen of the particular disease, and the instruction which it may be calculated to convey. By pursuing this course, the practitioner will have ensured to him the most characteristic and best examples of cutaneous disorder, and the author will be relieved from the yoke of following a particular arrangement in the sequence of his illustrations. Another advantage will arise out of this plan, which is, that the artist,