

detail, and in this way we get most of the families of mammalia, birds, insects, and arachnida legitimately illustrated, whilst by stretching a point here and there, even the classes of reptiles, fishes, and mollusca are more or less represented. Under the Vermes we find a good account of the curious natural history of the Entozoa. Either as a practical guide for the cultivator, or as a first book in the study of general zoology, Dr. Giebel's volume will be found of great value, and we can only repeat our expression of regret that we have nothing like it in our own language.

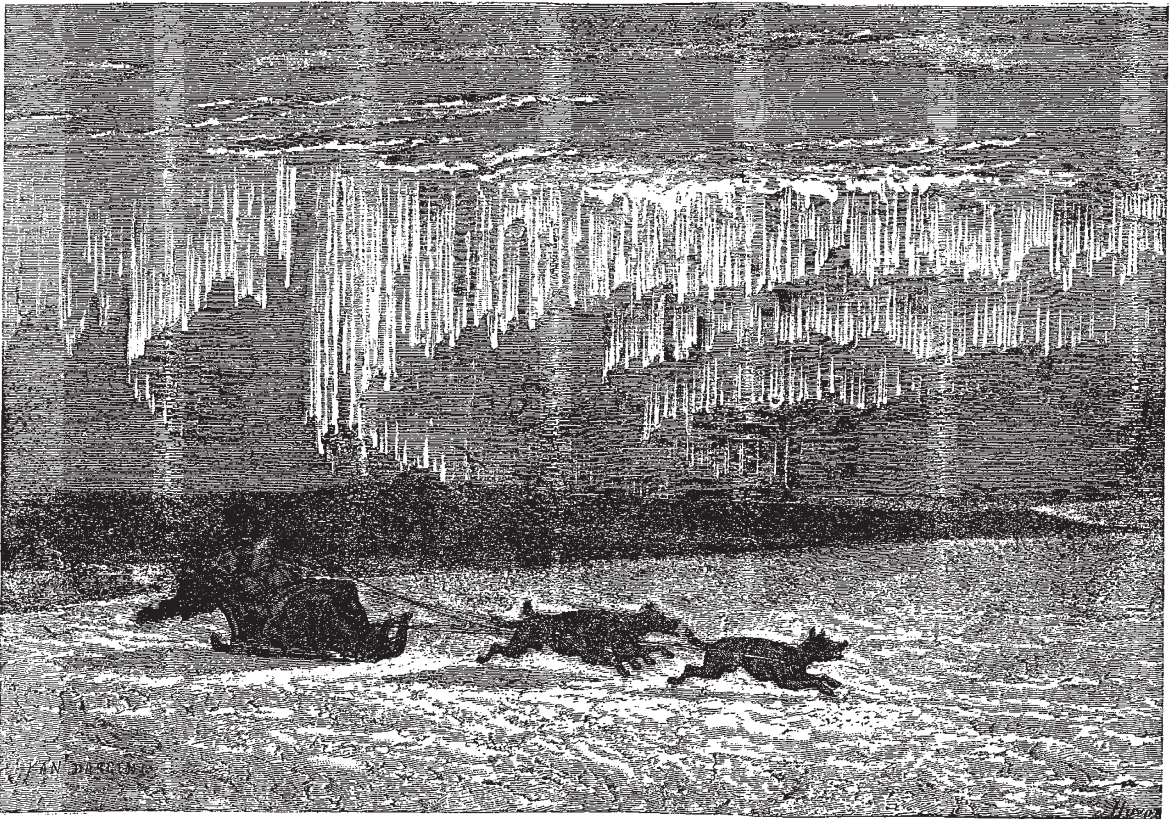
*History of Meteors and of the Grand Phenomena of Nature.* By J. Rambosson. (London and Edinburgh: Williams and Norgate.)

NOTHING is more sublime, or more engrossing, or at times more awful than the phenomena of Nature on the

large scale; and yet nothing is more prosaic than most of the treatises on meteorology.

Those terrible statisticians with their columns of figures have certainly succeeded marvellously in creating a distaste for the study of the greater natural phenomena. A cyclone at sea is one of the most glorious and awful sights that can be imagined, yet in the pages of meteorological journals it becomes a barometric difference of an inch and a half, a wind equal to 12, and a sea disturbance equal to 9.

But M. Rambosson, with that talent for elucidation which so many Frenchmen and so few Englishmen possess, has spared neither trouble nor expense in order to produce a thoroughly popular and, at the same time, thoroughly scientific description of the grander class of natural phenomena.



THE AURORA BOREALIS

Being himself a traveller as well as a man of science, his descriptions and illustrations are particularly good; and no student can read the book without retaining a vivid impression of the aspects of Nature in her wilder moments. Some of the illustrations remind one of Gustave Doré; that of a hurricane on land and sea, Fig. 3, is particularly good; so is that of a hurricane in the desert, Fig. 33; also his pictures of lightning, Figs. 62, 63, 64; on the other hand, some few illustrations might possibly be dispensed with.

It has often occurred to us that while the student of chemistry and of physics is made acquainted in the laboratory with the forces with which he reasons, so the student of meteorology should, if possible, like the author of this book, be brought face to face with the grander class of natural phenomena; failing which, a well illus-

trated book, like that of M. Rambosson, is an admirable substitute for the personal experience which few can have.

B. S.

*Our Own Birds. A Familiar Natural History of the Birds of the United States.* By W. J. Baily. Revised and edited by G. D. Cope, Cor. Sec. Acad. Nat. Sci. With illustrations, after Audubon. (London: Trübner).

ALTHOUGH the object of this work is not to treat ornithology scientifically, but rather to present the subject in a pleasing manner to the young, Mr. Cope's name on the title-page is a guarantee of its scientific accuracy; and although the birds of the United States are mainly dealt with, the volume will doubtless be welcome to many young naturalists in this country, for the habits and interesting peculiarities of each bird are fully dwelt upon. Some of the illustrations are admirable.