

in tentacles, consisting of thin, straight, hair-like
pedicels, usually carrying a gland on the
summit. The tentacles of the tentacles
is lateral, with expansions, how their
inflation and re-expansion are produced.
Full more curious are the experiments which the
author describes in illustration of "the digestive
power of the secretion of diatoms." He explains
by a series of tests the comparative effect of the
acid secretion of the plant on different substances,
such as morsels of moderately roasted meat, carti-
lage, bone, enamel, and dentine, or small portions
of gelatine, milk, and so forth. Some of these
were much more energetic and rapid indica-
tion of the tentacles, and keep them inflated
for a much longer time than do others.
As a matter, for example, is as tough a substance
as a fish's head as by water, its prompt dis-
solution by the secretion of diatoms and subse-
quent absorption is perhaps one of the most
striking ones. Mr. Darwin also examined six
other species of diatoms—the *diatoms*, a
native of Portugal, and other plants, some of
them the inhabitants of distant countries, chiefly
for the sake of ascertaining whether they ought in-
deed to be considered as diatoms. The result of his investigations will be
very interesting to the advanced student in
natural history, but to convey any idea of his
diatoms theories and scientific definitions in this
concise manner would be utterly impossible. We
are so accustomed to regard the foliage of trees
and plants as destroyed by insects that it is
almost startling at first sight to read of the
diatoms exerting a fatal influence over the
leaves. The majority of readers who take
up the book would probably imagine that
"insectivorous plants" meant those that were
most exposed to be preyed upon by insects. But
to turn the information which Mr. Darwin has
supplied to a practical purpose it might be sug-
gested that gardeners should cultivate the diatoms
and other insectivorous plants in order to
exterminate at least a portion of the myriads
of flies which infest our plants and fruit
trees. Nothing so commonplace, however, comes
within the scope of his instructions, even to
the last word his descriptions are dry, technical,
and couched in compact language, intelligible
above all the first glance to philosophic inquiries.
For this reason, as well as for the other difficulties
already mentioned, no satisfactory review of the
work could be written unless the author could
have been followed in laying down his first prin-
ciples, tracing secondary causes, and arriving at
conclusions in a way which would have extended
the volume to a much greater length than was
desirable. *W. H. C. G.*