The formation of vegetable mould through the action of worms. Mr. Darwin's books are always interesting, not only from the controversy that has gathered round his name, but from the patient research and observation of facts which he has never more strikingly exhibited than in the present volume. The facts are, even for Mr. Darwin, specially minute, relating to the habits and actions of the lower animals, and these are the nearest and best known of nature; and the time devoted to gathering them has been unusually long, the observations beginning in the year 1857, ten years after the origin was published, and a paper on the subject before the Geological Society of London. Moreover, the book is not marred by any of those risky, startling utterances which have thrown so much discredit on science, and have caused such distress in intellectual schools of thought. There is not a hint of evolution or development; the worm, whether he was created what he is, or whether he has been changed after he was made, has a wormy geological era, and all that he has been working for the good of man — has taken a large share in the formation of the layer of vegetable mould in the region of the present forests of the land in every moderately humid country. This mould is so largely his work that it might better (Mr. Darwin) be called animal than vegetable. It is a clear instance of design. Our author says nothing directly about it; but no candid reader, no one whose mind is not unalterably set against its being made up by the lower animals, can fail to see in this the workings of one of the seen, the causeless and essential for the economy of nature is striking instance of the adaptation of means to ends.

Mr. Darwin says, briefly and lucidly describing the creature to whom man owes so much; and in this, as in other parts of his book, he manages to write with thorough scientific accuracy, and without the popular vulgarity and affectation which will increase the popularity of the book, and might well be imitated by writers who think it needful to impress their meaning in a net-work of the most knavish and misleading couplets. Mr. Darwin shows the worm has had in the economy of nature a striking instance of the adaptation of means to ends.

The gorilla, the orang, the chimpanzee, the monkey in the yolk of the hen's eggs, but it is calculated that in garden-ground they are twice as numerous as elsewhere. Their habits are nocturnal — those that we meet wandering about by day are sick, generally marked by the carcasses of the vegetable mould on which the greater part of the work which entitles them to the gratitude of man. For ages before he came upon the earth the worm has been manufacturing the fine mould on which the great trees stand, by penetrating it over and over again, bringing it constantly up to the surface, transforming the Vegetable mould by the force of its action and its weight, and their intestines (on the principle of an intestine within an intestine) are so arranged that a very large absorptive surface is gained. They have a deep cavity near the lower end of the body; and their brain power is sufficient to enable them to fix their attention. Thus, though eyesless, they are not insensible to light. A bright flash falling on them generally sends them to their holes in safety unless they are working or otherwise engaged, in which case they do not seem to notice the light. But Mr. Darwin, we shall see, will change them to holes with greater powers than that of mere attention. Indeed, after reading his chapter on their intelligence, as shown by the knowing way in which they hold their bodies, we gladly help-believe that man is far in the scale; they have actually a capacity and intelligence, as opposed to instinct, which the ant