

The Snake in the Grass (*Sir J. Reynolds*), a Recumbent Venus (*Titian*), and the Triumph of Silenus (*Rubens*), are truly magnificent pictures, and have been studied by several gentlemen, whose exertions, if not altogether crowned with success, are nevertheless very commendable, and deserve encouragement.

Before concluding this notice, we must advert to the polite attention of Mr. Barnard, the keeper, to the various students, who have received every possible assistance from that gentleman.

G. W. N.

The Naturalist.

CURIOUS FUNGUS.

At the first meeting of the Medico-Botanical society for the Session, on Tuesday last, a paper was read from Dr. Walsh, describing the *Fungus Meliteusis* growing in the Isle of Gozo, and once held in such reputation by the Knights of Malta that a particular guardian was appointed for its preservation. The narrative of the difficulties and the perils attendant on procuring it, with the graphic delineation of the romantic spot on which it grows, excited great attention. Specimens of the rock, of the alluvial soil, and of the fungus itself, were exhibited.

THE RHINOCEROS.

A huge specimen of this animal has been shipped at Calcutta, and is on its passage to this country. It is described as a very furious animal, stands 8 feet high, and is about 11 feet long. It was for several years in the possession of one of the Rajahs of India, who would only part with it on condition of having in exchange a full pack of English hounds, which were taken out last year. It has been insured for 1,500*l.* and is destined for the Zoological Society. According to the *Morning Herald*, there has not been a rhinoceros in England for 15 years. We remember to have read an interesting paper on the economy of this animal in the *Philosophical Transactions*. The writer was Dr. Parsons. The rhinoceros, a male, arrived in England in the year 1739, and was exhibited in Eagle-street, Red Lion Square. Dr. Parsons often visited it, and Dr. Douglas, on June 24 of that year, exhibited before the Royal Society a drawing, with a collection of figures of the animal taken from several authors; but Dr. Parsons completed what Dr. Douglas began, and a very interest-

ing memoir have the two doctors produced.

STUPENDOUS OX.

AN ox of extraordinary size has been fattened by the Duke of Devonshire, and is called "the Chatsworth Ox," from being grazed on that luxuriant estate. This ox is now $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old, and weighs 220 stone of 14lb. or 3,080 pounds; and is allowed by the best judges of stock to be the largest and best of his age ever grazed in England. He would make a good Christmas acquaintance.

SUBSTITUTE FOR TEA.

A patent was granted in February last to a tea-dealer, "for a new mode of preparing the leaf of a British plant for producing a healthy beverage by infusion." The specification states the plant to be *Hawthorn*, from which the leaves may be taken from April to September inclusive: they are first to be carefully picked and cleansed, and next to be well rinsed in cold water and drained; and whilst in the damp state, they are to be put into a common culinary steamer, and thus steamed until they change from a green to an olive colour; the leaves are then to be taken out and dried "upon a hot plate well heated," and to be continually stirred up and turned over until they are thoroughly dry, in which state they may be preserved for use. When required for this purpose, an infusion is to be made.

ATTACKS ON PHRENOLOGY.

Dr. Elliotson, at the meeting of the Phrenological Society, Nov. 7, read a paper in reply to the Attacks on Phrenology made during the current year;—when the ingenious lecturer pointed out the errors into which the abusers of Phrenology have fallen. It appears that certain barbarous experiments attributed to phrenologists have been made by anti-phrenologists. Dr. Elliotson has explained that "all phrenologists condemn such experiments, and moreover never made them; that Gall, throughout his work condemned them, and urged his disciples not to attempt cultivating phrenology by such unsatisfactory means or barbarous mutilations, but to cultivate it by observing the facts of nature, and to investigate the results of those mutilations which nature herself has established,—by observing what deficiency in intellect or feeling corresponds with natural deficiency of individual parts of the brain."