reproduce here in a woodcut. The sketch was accompanied by Mrs. Blackburn's account of the circumstance as it came under her observation—which is here given from No. 124 of 'Nature,' a weekly illustrated journal of science.

"Several well-known naturalists who have seen my sketch from life of the young Cuckoo ejecting the young Pipit (opposite p. 22 of the little versified tale of mine)* have expressed a wish that the details of my observations of the scene should be published. I therefore send you the facts, though the sketch itself seems to me to be the only important addition I have made to the admirably accurate description given by Dr. Jenner in his letter to John Hunter, which is printed in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1788 (vol. lxxviii. pp. 225, 226), and which I have read with pleasure since putting down my own notes.

"The nest (which we watched last June, after finding the Cuckoo's egg in it) was that of the common Meadow-Pipit (Titlark, Moss-cheeper), and had two Pipit's eggs besides that of the Cuckoo. It was below a heather bush, on the declivity of a low abrupt bank on a Highland hill-side in Moidart.

"At one visit the Pipits were found to be hatched, but not the Cuckoo. At the next visit, which was after an interval of forty-eight hours, we found the young Cuckoo alone in the nest, and both the young Pipits lying down the bank, about ten inches from the margin of the nest, but quite lively after being warmed in the hand. They were replaced in the nest beside of the Cuckoo, which struggled about till it got its back under one of them, when it climbed backwards directly up the open side of the nest, and hitched the Pipit from its back on to the edge. It then stood quite upright on its legs, which were straddled wide apart, with the claws firmly fixed halfway down the inside of the nest, among the interlacing fibres of which the nest was woven; and, stretching its wings apart and backwards, it elbowed the Pipit fairly over the margin so far that its struggles took it down the bank instead of back into the nest.

* 'The Pipits,' illustrated by Mrs. Hugh Blackburn. Glasgow: Maclehose, 1872.