

the inorganic branch of chemistry, and the names of the distinguished chemists throughout Europe and America whose co-operation the editor has been fortunate in securing would appear to promise well for its value and success. The first number, says *Nature*, contains the following six original memoirs: "Phosphorus Sulphoxide," by T. E. Thorpe and A. E. Tutton; "The Double Acids of Heptatomic Iodine," by C. W. Blomstrand; "The Action of Hydrogen Peroxide upon certain Fluorides," by A. Piccini; "Ammoniacal Platinum Compounds," by O. Carlgren and P. T. Cleve; "Preparation of Tungstates free from Molybdenum," by C. Friedheim and R. Meyer; "A Lecture Experiment," by C. Winkler.

— "Humanity in its Origin and Early Growth," by E. Colbert, is a work recently issued by the Open Court Publishing Company of Chicago. It is, of course, mainly historic in character, and much that it contains is familiar. The history of religion is the leading topic in it, but considerable space is also devoted to the origin and growth of language and the rise of the industrial arts. The book, however, is full of crude and often fantastic theories, the author being one of those men, by no means rare in these days, who have thrown off all traditional religious belief and taken an attitude of religious skepticism, but are, nevertheless, extremely credulous of new-fangled theories and alleged scientific discoveries. Thus Mr. Colbert tells us with an air of assured conviction that man originated at the North Pole, and also that some thousands

of years hence most of the land in the northern hemisphere will be submerged by the ocean, while a vast southern continent will arise from the waters. Religion, he thinks, originated in the worship of the heavenly bodies; and expressly says that the Greek and Roman Jupiter is nothing else than the planet of that name (p. 230). He thinks that religion was mainly the work of the priests, who used the popular belief in astrology and magic as a means of domineering over men; and he nowhere shows any conception of the grandeur of the religious sentiment nor any respect for the religious beliefs of mankind. Yet he is half inclined to believe in astrology himself, holding that "a great deal may be said in justification of the old fashioned idea of stellar and planetary rule over the affairs of men" (p. 390). Altogether the book is a curious one, especially as revealing the character of the author's own mind.

— Houghton, Mifflin & Co., have recently issued a large-paper edition (of 250 copies) of "The Discovery of America," by John Fiske, a work in four volumes, forming the beginning of Mr. Fiske's history of America, and the most important single portion yet completed, written upon original sources of information regarding ancient America, the Spanish conquest, mediæval trade, questions about Columbus, the causes of the transfer of supremacy from the Spanish race to the English, etc. The work contains abundant foot-notes, which are the results of vast research. We understand that the whole of this large-paper edition has al-

#### CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

##### Chemical Society, Washington.

Mar. 10. — H. W. Wiley and Wm. H. Krug, The Solubility of some Inorganic Salts in Acetone and of Acetone in Dextrose Solutions; H. W. Wiley and K. P. McElroy, The Specific Gravity of Acetone and Mixtures of Acetone and Water.

#### Publications received at Editor's Office.

DRUMMOND, HENRY. *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*. New York, James Pott & Co. 12°. 438 p. 75 cts.  
FOTHERGILL, J. MILNER. *The Will Power; its Range in Action*. 3d. ed. New York, James Pott & Co. 12°. 184 p. 60 cts.  
MAXWELL, J. CLERK. *Theory of Heat*. 10th ed. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 16°. 357 p. \$1.50.  
MEYER, LOTHAR. *Outlines of Theoretical Chemistry*. Trans. by D. Phillips Bedson and W. Carleton Williams. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 8°. 232 p. \$2.50.  
ORDER in the Physical World, and its First Cause according to Modern Science. From the French. New York, James Pott & Co. 12°. 247 p. \$1.  
PEARSON, KARL. *The Grammar of Science*. London, Walter Scott. New York, imported by Charles Scribner's Sons. 12°. 510 p. \$1.25.  
TILLMAN, S. E. *Elementary Lessons in Heat*. 2d ed., revised and enlarged. New York, John Wiley & Sons. 8°. 172 p.  
WHITELEY, J. LLOYD. *Chemical Calculations*. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 12°. 114 p. 60 cts.  
WORTHINGTON, A. M. *Dynamics of Rotation*. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. 12°. 167 p. \$1.

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For sale or exchange, Das Ausland, 10 vols., 1882 to 1897, including 6 vols. bound, 4 in numbers. Wheeler Survey, vol. 1, Geog. Report; also vol. 6, Botany; Production of gold and silver in the United States, 1880, '1, '2, '3, '5; Selfridge Isthmus of Darien. Will sell at very low prices. J. F. James, 1443 Corcoran St., Washington, D. C.

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ready been sold. The regular edition, in two volumes, will be ready on the 26th.

—J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, recently issued "The Tannins," by Henry Trimble. The author is professor of analytical chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. It is now about one hundred years since tannin first became recognized as a distinct substance. About twelve years ago the author commenced to collect the literature of the subject, especially that referring to the astringent value of certain tannin-bearing materials, with the methods involved in their estimation. As is always the case with one thoroughly interested in his subject, the work grew on Professor Trimble's hands till he thought best to give to the public a work on the general subject, with gallotannic acid, and an index to the literature, leaving for a subsequent volume the remaining individual tannins. It has been the author's constant endeavor to make the book more than a mere compilation, and

the results of much of his own experience have, therefore, been incorporated. It is the author's hope that the present publication may lead others to aid in bringing together information on his subject.

—The American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago, has recently issued a "Laboratory Manual of Chemistry," by James E. Armstrong and James H. Norton. Mr. Armstrong is principal of Lake High School, Chicago; and Mr. Norton is principal of Lake View High School of the same city. The purpose of the manual is to aid the student in his laboratory work in such experiments as he can conduct himself, the experimental work to be supplemented by a course in some good text-book. We do not recall any other manual for use in chemical work in school laboratories which at all compares with the one now before us, and it seems to show that the interest in the best methods of scientific training in schools is making great progress.

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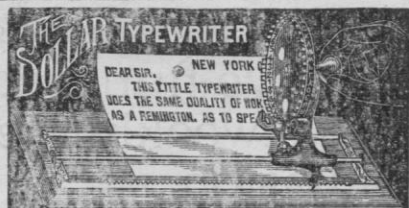
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