

most intimate friends would believe it, and to many the matter is still an enigma. He seemed too great a philosopher to countenance such an act. It is not improbable that temporary insanity shattered his mind. No expert opinion has been published. Although the fact was seldom noticeable, the great chemist was a very nervous man and had for an extended period been under medical treatment, but without great avail. During the previous winter he was forced to reduce the number of his lectures, but he persisted to the last in assuming all the responsibilities that fall upon a director of so large an institution. The strain was too great. For the last four days he was unable to sleep at all, and the man whose face was still as quiet and pleasant as ever was probably distracted by the fear that the physical forces which had served him so well were threatened with destruction. Only those who have suffered as he did can rightly judge the man. Certain it is that the annoying rumors, circulated by irresponsible reporters, are without any foundation. Of the two letters found on his desk, one expressed his love for his family in most endearing terms. The other was a farewell to his close friend, Kuehne, the famous physiologist.

On account of his expressed wish and because the semester had closed, elaborate ceremonies were avoided. As the quiet assemblage, including many famous scholars, stood around the grave, wreath after wreath was laid at its head. The venerable Bunsen, to whom Victor Meyer went at the age of sixteen to learn chemistry, sent a laurel from his home near by. Adolph von Baeyer came from Munich with a wreath 'to his best friend.' The German Chemical Society paid a tribute to its lost President, and the grand-ducal family of Baden sent a token. Among the many other wreaths was one bearing the words, 'Dem grossen Lehrer in Dankbarkeit, Seine Amerikanischen Schüler.' Heidelberg suffers a great loss, not only as a university, but as a city, for Victor Meyer was a citizen, as well as a scientist, and, while he was profoundly versed in every department of chemistry, he found time to encourage the development of the fine arts.

It is fortunate that there remain such splendid representatives of his school as those who have

been his assistant professors. The vacant chair may not be filled for some months. Temporarily the direction of the laboratory is in the hands of Professor Gattermann, who is pushing so rapidly to the front of his science. The other professors, Jannasch, Auwers, Goldschmidt and Knoevenagel are all well-known investigators, and have their own large circles of admiring students.

H. C. COOPER.

HEIDELBERG, August 15, 1897.

#### THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SESSION AT TORONTO.

IT may be worth a few lines in *SCIENCE* to say a word in correction of the many erroneous and even ludicrous newspaper reports of the above meeting which suggest to the memory the famous definition of the crab by the French Academy before it was criticised by Cuvier.

The paleolithic or neolithic age of the New London stone axe was not a subject of discussion, as reported, simply because there was no room for two opinions on the matter. It is beyond all question neolithic, as every archæologist would be ready to assert at a glance.

Nor was any attempt made to prove that American man was older than European man, because again the evidence is so far absolutely conclusive on the other side. The paleoliths of Europe antedate all relics yet known from this continent.

Nor, thirdly, was any attempt made to prove the existence of preglacial man in America. The speakers who claimed the greatest antiquity advocated nothing more than a late glacial date for the oldest traces of human handiwork in this country.

As these three points formed the chief part of many of the reports of the meeting, it is easy to see how far short they fell of correctly representing the speakers.

E. W. CLAYPOLE.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

##### THE GENESIS OF THE DIAMOND.

THERE has recently been published a volume of small size, but of especial interest and importance, in regard to the origin of diamonds.

This is none other than the posthumous issue of the full papers of the late Professor H. Car-