

for it. Any scheme that is workable may do well enough for the mere purposes of an international congress. But he would have us or, at any rate, the literary audience to which he addresses his exposition, believe that he has at last solved one of the great philosophical riddles. "The real interest," he says, "lies in the logic of the arrangement. The logical problem how to bring order into the wilderness of scientific efforts has fascinated philosophers from Aristotle and Bacon to Comte and Spencer. The way in which a time groups its efforts toward truth becomes, therefore, also a most significant expression of the deeper energies of its civilization, and not the least claim which our coming congress will make is that the program of its work stands out as a realization of principles which characterize the deepest strivings and the inmost energies of our own time as over against the popular classifications of the nineteenth century." Thus does the new scheme triumph over all difficulties!

If this were true, or even in part true, the scheme would be very important to men of science. Unfortunately, however, a glance at the divisions and subdivisions of the scheme seems to reveal only another of the numerous systems of *à priori* philosophy carried to the extremes which border on absurdity.

It is needless to discuss in detail a scheme at once so pretentious and so vulnerable. One should see a copy of the 'Program,' or read the exposition of it in the *Atlantic Monthly*. I will only add, Mr. Editor, that while we may not go out of our way to oppose philosophers and literary folks who indulge in such extravagances, it is our duty to repudiate them when they appear in the public press in the guise of science; for they tend only to make science and scientific men ridiculous.

R. S. WOODWARD.

ANTARCTICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: If Dr. Mill will look anew through 'Antarctica,' he will be unable to find one line criticizing him. I spoke of him necessarily in my letter (SCIENCE, July 10), because he happened to review the mono-

graph. I can assure him I am most pleased with his review and his letter (SCIENCE, August 7) for they help in forcing the facts about antarctic exploration to the notice of scientists. Gradually the truth will be recognized.

That some English geographers persist in ignoring American antarctic explorers is once more demonstrated in the July *Geographical Journal*. In the sketch map of the National Antarctic Expedition, on which the ink is hardly dry, the name of Wilkes Land is omitted as usual. Clarie Land appears once more, regardless of the fact that there is no Clarie Land. D'Urville called some ice cliffs Côte Clarie but he did not see the land behind them, which was discovered, however, a few days later by Wilkes, and which he named Cape Carr. The name of Graham Land is applied again to the land massif which was known as Palmer's Land for about ten years before Biscoe's voyage. I suggested that the name West Antarctica be given to that region, partly in the hope of reconciling international prejudices.

The final suggestion of Dr. Mill deserves unqualified approval. Would it not be possible to send an American expedition, either private or governmental, to reexplore the coast of Wilkes Land? A steamship like the *Bear*, commanded by naval officers, should be able, in the course of one southern summer, to bring back fresh data about the land discovered by Americans in East Antarctica.

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

YORK HARBOR,
August 10, 1903.

SHORTER ARTICLES.

KUNZITE, A NEW GEM.

DURING an extended investigation on certain optical properties of the Tiffany-Morgan Gem and Bement Mineral Collections in the American Museum of Natural History it has been my privilege to examine the new lilac-colored transparent spodumene described by Dr. Geo. F. Kunz in SCIENCE, August 28.

Mineral spodumene is usually obtained in large opaque whitish crystals, but from time to time small specimens, often richly colored