combinations as a continuous history. All of this daring proposal leads, of course, to a scientific revolution similar to that accomplished by Lamarck, Darwin, and Haeckel in biology. And this, we have to keep recalling, is not the work of a tyro, but of a savant recognized and honored as such in the front rank of physicists the world over. We grant that only those in that rank, and gifted also with rare powers of generalization, can competently weigh the evidence and appreciate the theory which the industry of a long life has presented in these volumes. It is a theory which certainly must wait for final completion; but as a working hypothesis, in the absence of any other, it is a unitizing, completing scheme of nature, invaluable as a suggesting power, and as a centre around which the results of scientific observation and experiment may be intelligently gathered, and then held as parts of one mighty world drama. It may be further said, that, however the author may come short of present sufficient evidence of his hypothesis, he has rendered very dubious, if not wholly untenable, the old notions of matter, and of all chemistry based upon the atomic hypothesis. Hereafter we are to have neither an atom nor a vacuum, but a continuous world of continuous matter, with all of its world creative changes and combinations accounted for by a continuous law formulated in a nomenclature expressive of that unity. The realization of this dream of Newton, Huygens, Young, and their many patient followers, of whom our author is one, would certainly be the crowning glory of our race. To date the solution of both the vital and the material worlds in the same century

would seem to be pressing Father Time too rashly of late; and he may properly leave us to evolve through another century before we reach the sufficient evidences of the true theory of ether and matter, suns and worlds. T. B. WAKEMAN.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

A COMPREHENSIVE life of Gen. Sherman is about to be published and sold through agents by Hubbard Brothers of Philadelphia.

- John Wiley & Sons announce as in preparation "Ordnance and Gunnery," by Capt. Henry Metcalfe, U.S.A.

— Macmillan & Co. have just published "The Fossil Insects of North America, with Notes on some European Species," by Dr. Samuel H. Scudder. The work is in two volumes, with sixtythree plates and numerous illustrations in the text. These volumes, of which only one hundred copies are issued, form the most extensive work of the kind ever published. Over eight hundred and fifty species are described, most of them being figured on the lithographic plates. The descriptions include, with two or three exceptions, all the fossil insects ever described from North America, besides a large number now first published. Besides the merely descriptive matter, the general student will find essays on the classification, distribution, and geological sequence of the different groups. The term "insects" has been used in a broad sense to include myriapods and arachnids, as well as hexapods, or true insects.

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- E. & F. N. Spon of this city have issued their catalogue for 1891, of books relating to civil and mechanical engineering, arts, trades, and manufactures. It contains 118 pages, and is illustrated.

- Every person interested in the higher education would be interested in the article on "The Growth of New England Colleges," by Professor Arthur M. Comey of Tufts College, which appears in the Educational Review for March. It appears to revolutionize the discussion regarding the shortening of the college course, for it contradicts by statistics one basis of the affirmative argument; viz., that college attendance in New England has not kept pace with population. Other articles are one on "The Primary School in the Middle Ages," by Brother Azarias of De



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- The principal topics discussed in Babyhood for March are "Size and Weight of Infants" (illustrated); "The Ideal Nursery;" " Intestinal Worms," a description of the symptoms which characterize their presence, and the treatment; and "Defects that can be Remedied or Prevented.

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