

met. So it is that many institutions have been put upon a more suitable footing, and a more liberal view of things generally has tended to prevail. Still, great is the inertia of long lived error and accumulated misconception, and there must be very much more improvement before man can be said to live all his life in almost any country, and in many lands, alas! before he can be said to live any considerable amount of his complete existence. It is interesting in the meantime, even if sad, to watch the futile efforts of obstructives to arrest the progress of advancing thought with all its ameliorating tendencies.

As it is beyond dispute that man is now more of one family than he ever was, since the time he greatly multiplied, that the barriers of national, sectional, and local exclusiveness have been partially removed, and that there is a community of feeling among the best portions of all divisions of people which did not exist till recently, it is certain that this happy result has been brought about to a great extent by the ever increasing freedom of intercourse only possible of late years. We have come for the most part to bear with more equanimity than our forefathers did the differences which must ever exist, and to work together as a matter of course on the broad platform of philanthropy, and this because people have been able to meet and talk together.

If the intermingling of individuals has made social life less angular, and not seldom turned bitterness into sweetness, how much have the meetings of nations not done to advance the well-being of mankind. It may be that these meetings of the nations in Exhibitions by means of representative objects collected by their thinkers and workers, the native products of their countries and manifold proofs of skill and industry, have been the natural outcome of widespread activity in the Arts and Sciences. It is a fact that they have given an immense impulse to all those applications of science which minister to the progress of civilization. Who that was fitted by education to understand, even moderately well, the meaning of one of those Exhibitions could fail, as he looked upon such a gathering, to muse upon the benefits derived from scientific knowledge. He could not question, of course, the fact of existence being much more agreeable to those living among the chosen products in view, and capable of the enjoyment and appreciation of their excellence, than to those less privileged, nor could he be unaware that gradually the good effects of improvements would spread on all sides from their birthplace, but he would, as I suppose, wonder without measure at the practical answers everywhere visible to the question *cui bono* as put to the student of pure science. To take but one example, I can imagine him looking at the series of varied and exquisite colours produced from coal tar—the practical consequence of the purely scientific experiments of Faraday as supplemented by those of my old master in practical chemistry, Hofmann. Millions of money yearly put in motion by those who knew how to apply accurate chemical acquaintance with a few of the things in coal tar! What that means, anyone who cares that people should be usefully employed will allow to be a sufficient answer to the question,—what is the good of spending the time and thought of an intelligent man on such a stuff as coal tar.

How carefully should we preserve the characteristics of those people who still persist in asking what is the use of studying science, for they are the lingering types of beings prevailing in the pre-modern period. These curious creatures may ask this question now across the oceans and receive an ans-