

PUBLIC OPINION.

THE NEW REGIUS PROFESSOR.—Lord Acton, one of the most learned of living Englishmen, who succeeds Sir John Seeley as Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge, is, according to the *Times*, probably the first Roman Catholic who has held high office in either of our national Universities since the days of James II. Lord Acton was a pupil of Cardinal Wiseman and of Professor Dollinger, of Munich, the expounder of the "old Catholic" faith, and has distinguished himself as an ecclesiastical controversialist in assaults upon the doctrine of Papal infallibility. He is an intimate friend of the late Prime Minister—he gave him his peerage—and a Lord-in-Waiting; besides sharing with Mr. Gladstone and Professor Herkomer the distinction of being an honorary Fellow of All Souls. The appointment seemed to come somewhat as a surprise to most people, but, in view of the general belief that both Mr. Lecky and Mr. Gardiner would decline the office, as they have previously refused the Oxford chair, it has been received with very general satisfaction.—*The Educational Times*.

THE EFFECTS OF INTENSE COLD UPON THE MIND.—Extreme cold, as is well known, exerts a benumbing influence upon the mental faculties. Almost every one who has been exposed, for a longer or shorter period, to a very low temperature has noticed a diminution in will power, and often a temporary weakening of the memory. Perhaps the largest scale upon which this action has ever been studied was during the retreat of the French from Moscow. The troops suffered extremely from hunger, fatigue and cold—from the latter perhaps most of all. A German physician who accompanied a detachment of his countrymen, has

left an interesting account of their trials during this retreat. From an abstract of this paper by Dr. Rose, in the *New Yorker Medicinische Monatsschrift*, we find that of the earliest symptoms referable to the cold was a loss of memory. This was noted in the strong as well as those who were already suffering from the effects of the hardships to which they had been exposed.

With the first appearance of a moderately low temperature (about five degrees above zero Fahrenheit), many of the soldiers were found to have forgotten the names of the most ordinary things about them, as well as those of the articles of food for the want of which they were perishing. Many forgot their own names and those of their comrades. Others showed more pronounced systems of mental disturbance, and not a few became incurably insane, the type of their insanity resembling very closely senile dementia. The cold was probably not alone responsible for these effects, for a zero temperature is rather stimulating than paralyzing in its action upon the well-fed and the healthy. These men were half-starved, poorly clad, worn out with long marching, many already weakened by dysentery and other diseases, and all mentally depressed, as an army in defeat always is. It needed, therefore, no very unusual degree of cold to produce the psychic effects observed under other circumstances only as a consequence of exposure to an extreme low temperature.—*New York Medical Record*.

PROF. BLACKIE.—John Stuart Blackie, formerly Professor of Greek at the University of Edinburgh, died there on March 2. He was born at Glasgow in 1809, and educated at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Gottingen,