

tice of some writers of referring everything unknown to electricity; just as was formerly done to chance formation, or to the nerves, for the cause of unknown diseases.

Well then does the Athenæum observe, "that there is more of poetry than philosophy, in this idea of Humboldt, that electro magnetic electricity is the cause of the light and heat of the sun". The very fact that the immense number of the comets, (being according to Lardner and Arago's astronomy upwards of seven millions existing in the universal space), all of which when visible to us make for and go round the sun, this very fact I say, would seem to account for the mode of supply of the sun's waste in the most natural manner; in fact precisely, as the lamps of our cities are supplied with fuel, with hydrogen from the gas house, and oxygen from the atmosphere. Accordingly, the light and Heat from the sun, comes to us with the most genial and vivifying powers, bringing forth the bud and leaves and blossoms of the spring, the beautiful flowers of the summer, the nutritious pulse and delightful fields of autumn, and cheering and reviving the vital powers of mankind, whereas when we know and often feel the deadly effects of electric storms in the heavens, what terrific effects would we be justified in expecting, if the vast body of the sun were an electric mass.

I cannot then but consider that our theory of the sun rests upon more tangible facts and basis, and I wait with anxious expectation to learn that future discoveries of Lord Ross's telescope, when directed to the vast luminary, will give still more confirmation to our theory.*

* In Tait's Magazine for March, 1848, under the head "Popular Lectures," page 147, "Nichol, on the contrary, seems to point to the