

familiar to us by Paley. The author begins by referring to the general conviction "from the remotest ages" of the existence of a Supreme Being, a conviction which has expressed itself in very many different forms of religion.

"A sentiment so wide-spread, so well nigh universal, must rest upon some substantial basis." This "substantial basis" is the result of an investigation of the laws of nature. "Nature teems with manifestations of some incomprehensible and Almighty Force, which discovers itself as physical, vegetable, vital, and intellectual. The world, therefore, exhibits signs of order and design, and for the cause of these facts we must rise to the conception of a Great Inventor, an Omnipotent Creator. This, then, is the guiding thread of the argument, which is further supported by a more detailed examination of the mathematical laws brought to light by botany, astronomy, chemistry, etc.

The book may be a help to some who are troubled with atheistic doubts, because it is an acknowledgment of their difficulty, and an attempt at any rate to arrive at a solution. But the author has not risen above the scientific attitude which conscientiously seeks the cause of every event in nature. Science as science is consistent in limiting itself to the finite and refusing to make any ultimate judgment as to the nature of existence. The author of "Atheism and Arithmetic" has, however, made this illegitimate leap which consistent science refuses to make. From finite effects he has concluded to an Infinite Creator. At most the argument from design and mathematical law proves only a finite designer—it does not prove an original Creator.

The secret impulse of all such endeavours to prove the existence of a Supreme Being is the feeling that the finite world does not adequately explain itself, but is in some way bound up with the whole of existence. But this stage of thought has already carried us beyond the strict domain of science which is shut up to the phenomenal world. We have entered now upon a question which involves the very possibility of science and of its world. By this way of thinking we find that the finite is a form of the infinite, and that the existence of God is bound up with the possibility of human knowledge.

It will not do to repeat the watchword of the old theism. It was useful in its day, but it does not solve the difficulty, and if it presumes to do so it is likely to cause more hopeless doubt in the minds of sincere and reflective men.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the College JOURNAL:

IT may interest the readers of the JOURNAL to hear that Dr. Muirhead, of Glasgow, Scotland, left a few years ago £30,000 for the purpose of founding a Women's Medical College. In a small memoir of him by the head trustee, Henry Dyer, Ex-principal of College of Engineering, Japan, now Governor of Technical College, Glasgow, I found a quotation from his letters which amazed me: "On the consideration that I have all my life been very much indebted to the aid of women—to my mother, my wife, my eldest sister Jennie and her maiden daughters; and seeing how small a share of real good solid and scientific education has been accorded to women, I have been induced to bequeath the greater part of my savings for the purpose of erecting and partially endowing an Institution or College for the education of women *by women*, so far as that can practically and judiciously be carried out. I do not wish it to be called Victoria or Queen's (little has either done for poorer sisters), but since all the aforementioned women bore the name of Muirhead, I think it may be fitly named after them.

"I do not wish clergymen to have anything to do with the management of the College, for creeds are the firmest fetters to intellectual progress; and a man who cannot break loose from such himself is not the best hand to help others.

"I have not named any medical men as trustees, because (as yet) their trades-unionism is opposed to women entering the medical profession."

A. C. M.

We regret that owing to a misapprehension the remainder of the biographies of the Medical graduates have not yet been handed to us, but hope that we will be able to present them to our readers next week.