

every conceivable if readable matter, while the lecturer thinks he can fairly employ every thing speakable. It may here be asked, How is this tolerated? Why is the subject so popular? In answer, we simply refer to the well-known fact that the majority of readers and hearers of scientific subjects treated in a popular way, are delighted to wade in waters beyond their depth, and this occasions no alarm, because they have always sufficient floating power to keep them at the surface."

He concludes his remarks by apologizing for the somewhat decided tone in which they are expressed, which he was led to adopt because, in a long experience, he had found persons eager to study Mineralogy before they had attended to Chemistry—to study rocks before they knew simple minerals—and to become acquainted with Paleontology before they had begun to study recent plants and animals.

I confess I was pleased to meet with the paper from which I have just quoted, because the ideas there expressed coincided with my own on these subjects, and confirmed me in continuing the plan I had sketched out for my own course. This has been to devote the first portions of time given to my department, entirely to Chemistry and Mineralogy, and after this to consider the principles of animal and vegetable Physiology and Structure, and finally to take up Geology as a grouping together of previously acquired knowledge, with a view of learning by what agencies the present state of our globe has been produced.

If, now, we leave these perhaps too arid details of names descriptive of certain studies, and turn to the things to which they refer, in order to see of what direct use a knowledge of them is in the active concerns of man's life, we are met by a mass of facts which render it unnecessary for us to deal in vague generalities.

In the first place, man carries so many chemical operations about with him, and is so unceasingly dependent, upon chemical processes for the continuance of his life, that, from the first hour in which he was placed upon the earth till now, he has had necessarily to resort to the practice of Chemistry, in the earliest ages pursued in total ignorance of its principles, in order to sustain his existence. The constant dealing with material objects, and the continual witnessing of changes the effect of his operations, could not fail to awaken his instinctive curiosity as to what would be the effect of modifications of these processes, and their application to things less commonly met with than those which subserved his daily purposes of common life.

Of these first attempts no record has descended to us, and it is not among their results, therefore that we are to hope to find the origin of Chemistry even as an art, but the striking effects of the doubtless few operations carried on of old furnished illustrations which were not lost sight of by observers, for SOLOMON tells us that, "As vinegar upon nitre, so is he that sings songs to