

HUXLEY.—No. 53 of the "Humboldt Library of Science" is a collection of some essays by this celebrated English scientist, embracing, among others, Animal Automatism, Science and Culture, Universities: Actual and Ideal. Though we cannot agree with all of his conclusions, we must admire the beauty and clearness of his language, respect his independence and earnestness of investigation. By many the modern scientists are all classed as atheistic or agnostic, and, without investigation, Huxley is very frequently spoken of as an atheist. A paragraph in his first essay may be interesting to some of our readers, as giving his own views. "But, as I have endeavored to explain on other occasions, I really have no claim to rank myself among fatalistic, materialistic, or atheistic philosophers. Not among fatalists, for I take the conception of necessity to have a logical and not a physical foundation; not among materialists, for I am utterly incapable of considering the existence of matter if there is no mind in which to picture that existence; not among atheists, for the problem of the ultimate cause of existence is one which seems to me to be hopelessly out of reach of my poor powers. Of all the senseless babble I have ever had occasion to read, the demonstrations of these philosophers who undertake to tell us all about the nature of God would be the worst, if they were not surpassed by the still greater absurdities of the philosophers who try to prove that there is no God." He closes his interesting essays by a short translation from Goethe, as follows:

"Would'st shape a noble life? Then cast
No backward glances toward the past:
And though somewhat be lost and gone,
Yet do thou act as one new-born.
What each day needs, that shalt thou ask;
Each day will set its proper task.
Give other's work just share of praise;
Not of thine own the merits raise.
Beware no fellow-man thou hate:
And so in God's hands leave thy fate."