

chemists into new channels, and opened an extensive field for future research.

Can this scheme of evolution be extended beyond the limits of the recognized elements? Before hydrogen one might conceive of elements, but after Thorium and Uranium, the heaviest elements we know of, we are unlikely to find anything to extend the series. But instead of new elements of increasing complexity being formed as the temperature fell, some of the earlier formed elements with strong affinities must have begun to combine, thus giving rise to compounds whose decomposition is not beyond the powers of forces at our command. Hydrogen and oxygen, for example, probably early united to form water.

This far-reaching evolutionary scheme, which we have but roughly sketched, would not be confined to our solar system alone, but would find an analogue in every centre of celestial energy represented to us as a fixed star. In concluding his paper Crookes says: "We cannot, indeed, venture to assert positively that our so-called elements have been evolved from one primordial matter; but we may contend that the balance of evidence fairly weighs in its favor."

Obituary.

—Dr. Alexander Dyce Davidson, Professor of *Materia Medica* in the University of Aberdeen, died very suddenly on the 22nd of October. While engaged in delivering the second lecture of his course he was struck almost instantaneously by an apoplectic attack, and died an hour afterwards. Dr. Davidson was also Lecturer on Ophthalmology in the University of Aberdeen. He was the author of numerous works devoted chiefly to his specialty. His loss is severely felt by the profession throughout the north of Scotland.

—Dr. Paul Bert, the famous French statesman and physician, died in Tonquin in the early part of November from typhoid fever. He first achieved a great reputation by his interesting physiological researches, especially by his bold experiments for ascertaining the conditions of human existence at different altitudes. He risked his life in several balloon voyages. His work on *Anæsthetics* is a valuable contribution to scientific pharmacology.