

Literary and Scientific.

IS THERE A GOD?

(Dr. C. S. Stockton in *Items of Interest*.)

Go to Newton whose imperishable name looms gigantic in the annals of science and philosophy, and ask him. We see him—this Columbus of the skies—as he spreads his sails to navigate the broad ether, moor his bark now to the moon and then steering boldly for far distant planets and satellites, touching even the fixed stars and the outermost rim of space in his sublime course. As he returns we imagine him surrounded by an eager and curious throng, in whose hearts there throbs only one emotion—on whose lips there trembles only one all important question: "O thou who hast discovered the secrets of hoary space, thou who hast rounded great heaven's mighty cape, thou who hast passed the pillars of Hercules, thou who hast safely buffeted with the billows of immensity—tell us—what tidings hast thou? In all thy voyage hast thou found a God? What answer falls from his lips? Not the dismal language of the atheist, or of the agnostic. He builds no altar to some foolish goddess of chance. Entering into the temple of the true Jehovah, he lays down the treasures of his celestial expedition, and rising he proclaims: All the universe has one voice—sun and moon, planets and comets, mightiest stars and nebulae,

"Forever singing as they shine,
The hand that made us is Divine,"—

all join in one magnificent anthem; Hallelujah*, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.

IN THE *TORONTO WEEK*, Bystander writes, "Public benefit must have precedence over individual right" are the words, if the report may be trusted, of a prominent advocate of the Scott Act. This is language which cannot safely be allowed to pass unchallenged while so many theories of public rapine are afloat. We delude ourselves, like the school philosophers of old, with abstract terms which are taken for realities. We are always talking of the State as though it were a personage of itself, with rights and duties of its own apart from and above the individual citizens who compose it. "The Public Good" is another phrase of the same kind, and liable, in like manner, to perversion. It becomes enthroned in the imagination as something entirely distinct from the good of individuals, and infinitely more sacred, so sacred as to afford a warrant for that which would otherwise be iniquity. But as the State is nothing but the aggregate of individual citizens, so that the Public Good is nothing but the aggregate of individual interests, for the preservation of which every community is formed. Wrong is not less wrong, when it is done by a majority to a minority or even by all the other members of the community to one man.

Book Notices.

A MANUAL OF DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND NOSE, by Morell Mackenzie, M.D., Consulting Phys. Hospital for diseases of the Throat, Lect. on diseases of Throat, &c., at London Hosp., Med. Col., &c., &c. Vol. II.—Diseases of the Oesophagus, Nose, and Naso-Pharynx. 8vo, pp. 400, 93 illustrations. American Edition. Wm. Wood & Co., New York, Aug., 1884.

This is the long expected second volume of Dr. Mackenzie's comprehensive and valuable work. Dr. Mackenzie is well known as excellent authority, and he writes in an easy graceful style, such as makes the reading of his books a pleasure. The work should be in the library of every physician.

A TEXT BOOK OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY AND PATHOGENESIS, by Ernest Zeigler, Prof. Patholog. Anat., University Tubingen. Translated by D. McAlister, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.P., &c., &c. Part II.—Sept., 1884. Cloth, pp. 365. New York, Wm. Wood & Co. Sold only by subscription to the library for the present year.

This corresponds in general character with the first part of the work. The facts stated correspond closely with the very latest investigations, and are given in few words but with clearness and accuracy. This volume treats of the following: Blood and lymph; vascular mechanism; spleen and lymphatic glands; the serous membrane; the skin; mucous membranes; the alimentary tract; liver and pancreas. A large number of good illustrations add greatly to its value. The third part will be looked for with interest, and the three will form a very valuable work.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.—Attempts are being made in Montreal and in Boston to organize societies for psychical research, *i.e.*, for the study of mind reading, spiritualism, mesmerism, etc. Similar societies exist in New York city and in London.

In Chicago there is one doctor to every 548 inhabitants, in St. Louis one to every 475, in Denver one to every 260, in Idaho one to every 51, in Wyoming Territory one to every 30, in Toronto one to about every 500 and in Ottawa one to every 1,000, showing Ottawa is a healthy city.

IT IS ASSERTED (*Pharm. Rec.*) that if bees are kept in any locality where aconite grows, and collect the sweets from its flowers, such honey will exhibit the poisonous quality of that drug.

LIEUT. GREELY observed that when the tide was flowing out from the North Pole the water was warmer than when flowing in the opposite direction—a wonderfully interesting phenomena.