

man, Professor Henslow, Darwin's life-long friend. Twenty-one years after the publication of the work that raised such a storm, Huxley wrote an article on "The Coming of Age of the 'Origin of Species.'" It showed the steps by which the prejudices aroused in the public mind by indiscreet denunciation had been succeeded by acceptance on the part of some, and by an attitude of tolerant expectancy on the part of others. Of the men of science a few like Agassiz, Owen and Dawson remained hostile to the last, while others, like Lyell and Gray, were converted; of none were the views unaffected. A comparison of the earlier with the later works of Sir William Dawson will disclose a considerable modification of opinion. Indeed, the theory had indirect results which in some cases were almost on a par with the direct.

The doctrine of the correlation and conservation of forces and the molecular or new atomic theory, though recognized before, were not interpreted and demonstrated till after our half century had begun. The new chemistry, the new astronomy, biology (in its more comprehensive sense as including all the sciences that deal with vitality and its phenomena), physiology, human and comparative; geology, palæontology, and as instruments of research, the spectroscope (Kirchhoff, 1860), photography and electricity (in its marvellous adaptations and applications)—these and more have ripened for man's need during the half century just closing. In medicine and surgery the gains have been signal, especially in the use of anæsthetics, in the application of principles, drawn from researches in bacteriology (the Lester system of treating wounds, etc.), in the conduct of delicate operations, in a more scientific pathology and in the expert work of specialists in relation to various parts of the human frame. The use of the X-ray to discover bullets and other substances lodged in the body and otherwise inaccessible is the latest evidence of the solidarity of science and the brotherhood of research. Hygiene

has received an attention which, if governments availed themselves of the labours of sanitarians, would bear fruit that eventually might abolish epidemics due to bad drainage and other removable causes. The discovery by bacteriologists of prophylactics (mainly by inoculation) for some dreaded diseases is another triumph of medical science. The management of hospitals, many of which have been founded by philanthropists for special or general objects during the last fifty years, is another noteworthy advance, with which may be associated the training of nurses, a movement (apart from the Church) entirely within our half century. Before it the sick were at the mercy of the Gamp Harris monster. Provision for the sick poor by countless friendly societies (Odd Fellows, Foresters, etc.), as well as the trades unions, may also be indicated among these gains. The admission of women to the study and practice of medicine was not won without a struggle. Last year Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake retired from practice after a career full of adventure at the outset and most fruitful of good to thousands. Sister of the present Dean of Wells, formerly headmaster of Rugby (the first Rugby boy to hold that position), Miss Jex-Blake determined to study medicine, and failing to find opportunities in Great Britain, she crossed the Atlantic and became a pupil of Dr. Lucy Sewall, in Boston. In 1869 she matriculated at Edinburgh University; but not being allowed to complete her studies, she (with others) took action against the University authorities. Lord Gifford's decision in her favour was reversed on appeal by the Court of Session. Miss Jex-Blake left Edinburgh and founded the London School of Medicine for Women. She took her degree (M.D.) at Berne, in 1877, and laboured incessantly, planning, administering, practising, writing, until last year when she gave up practice and retired for rest to her native Sussex.

This is only one instance, though a remarkable one, of the courageous efforts by which that enlargement of