something to do with the appearance of the Aurora in certain localities, and in a series of systematic observations now being made in this country and northern Europe, special reports on this point will be given.

It would seem that, notwithstanding the advancement of the present age, the secrets we wrest from nature are the secrets only of what her storehouse contains—causes lie far beneath.

The weight of a molecule of hydrogen, as given by an eminent authority, is approximately 0.000,000,000,000,000,000,000,04 of a gramme; by multiplying this inconceivably small number by fifty-five, the atomic weight of iron, we ascertain the weight of a molecule of iron—0.000,000,000,000,000,000,000,002,2 gramme. In the sulpho-cyanide test we were able to detect the presence of thirty-three ten-millionths of a gramme of iron: dividing this number by the weight of one molecule of iron, we find that this apparently delicate test is unable to indicate to our senses a less number of molecules than 1,500,000,000,000,000,000. When we consider that most of our so-called tests are much less accurate than this, it is evident that in our determinations it is impossible to reach the absolute truth.—*Scientific American.*

ENGLISH POETRY AT MATRICULATION.

To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

Sir—While I agree with much of what Prof. Alexander says in his article in the March number of the MONTHLY on "English in the High Schools," I must emphatically dissent from his implied suggestion, that the prescribed poetry for the matriculation and junior leaving-examination should be limited to selections from Scott, Longfellow, and Tennyson. I have a very high opinion of Tennyson's poetry for this purpose, and though Longfellow's is by no means equal to it, a fairly good selection can be made from his also. Scott's poetry, so far from being, as Prof. Alexander seems to think, pre-eminently suitable, ranks in my judgment comparatively low, certainly far beneath that of Wordsworth, to whom he so strenuously objects.

I have no desire, however, to argue with any one what must after all be largely a question of taste. I have voluntarily spent many hours this year in going over the prescribed selections from Wordsworth with a class that fairly represents the average junior leaving-classes in our high schools. I have done it for the purpose of testing the correctness of my own opinion, strongly and successfully urged when the selections were made some five years ago, and I am now quite sure that no mistake was made in prescribing Wordsworth's poems. I am equally sure that the majority of our English teachers will, after next year's experience agree with me that Wordsworth is to be preferred to Scott for school purposes.

My present object is to direct the attention of high-school teachers to the necessity of making their wishes in this matter known to the Senate of the University of Toronto. That body is by statute clothed with virtual power to dictate what high school work shall be, and it is now asking teachers what they would like. It is to be hoped that the response will be clear and general so that there need be no after fault finding. For this and similar purposes the high school masters have been asked to elect