

Messenger and Visitor.

THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,
VOLUME LXV.

Vol. XIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1903.

{ THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR
VOLUME LIV

No. 26

New Theory as to Matter. A good deal has been appearing of late in the newspapers and magazines in reference to the lately discovered substance called radium. We are told that a study of the qualities of this substance is having a revolutionizing effect in respect to theories heretofore held concerning the constitution of matter. Experiments with radium show, it is said, that it continuously and rapidly disengages heat, rapidly effects photographic plates even through opaque bodies, discharges an electroscopie when merely brought into its vicinity and gives off radiations similar to itself in constant and even violent streams of radiation. The loss by radiation is however so infinitesimal that it is calculated that one square inch of radium surface would lose only one grain in the course of ten thousand million years. On what basis this calculation is made does not appear from all that we have seen in respect to the subject. Nor are we able to explain by what process of experimentation or reasoning certain scientists have reached the conclusion that this radiating quality is a property of all matter, and that accordingly all matter is in a process of disintegration into its original units. It is further said that the theory that the atoms of elements consist of invisible units of matter, has now been definitely discarded. Instead, we are told that each atom is a whole stellar system of infinitely smaller but absolutely identical units, all in orbital motion. The nature or identity of each substance depends upon the number of such units or ions contained in each atom. Thus a hydrogen atom consists of 700 such ions, an oxygen atom of 11,200 ions, and 137,000 of the same ions combined in a single atom would constitute the combination which we call gold. That is to say that all matter is as to its units one and the same. The difference between what we distinguish as different substances is merely a difference of combination of ions. And these ions—what are they? The answer given is that they are electrical. This would seem to resolve all matter into electricity—And what is electricity?

Dr. Lorenz in Montreal. Dr. Lorenz, the German surgeon, famous on account of his successful treatment of hip disease, club feet and other deformities in children by manipulation and without the use of the knife, recently paid a visit to Montreal. Dr. Lorenz is about fifty-five years of age. He is described as being over six feet in height, fresh looking and with strength and youthfulness remarkably preserved. He speaks English, but not fluently and with a foreign accent, has a kindly aspect, a sympathetic voice and a general air of benevolence. The Dr. is withal a remarkably modest man. He is reticent about his work and does not talk of it unless drawn out by direct questions. He does not contend that all cases can be operated upon without the use of the knife. There are cases in which the knifeless treatment does not apply; and for the method itself he does not claim originality. Dr. Lorenz has been somewhat severely criticised in some quarters but does not resent the criticism, nor, apparently trouble himself much about it. While he never intrudes his work or his methods upon the notice of other physicians, he makes no secret of his methods and is said to be more than willing to assist other physicians in their efforts to understand his art. In the presence of a large number of physicians and surgeons of Montreal and its environs, Dr. Lorenz performed two operations in the operating room of the General Hospital. The two selections were made from a large number of deformed children who had been brought in in the hope that they might receive treatment at the hands of the eminent physician. The first case was one of congenital hip

disease in the treatment of which Dr. Lorenz has been uniformly successful. After the patient, a girl of five years, had been put under ether, the doctor proceeded with his work, at the same time explaining every step of the way. He advised that, except in rare cases, no child should be operated on after five years of age. At a later stage of growth there was a hardening of the muscles and tendons which rendered them unsusceptible to surgical treatment. "The doctor proceeded with the work of manipulation. There was no large degree of force used. At the same time there was a sort of calm firmness which would not be denied. There was a steady manipulation to break down resistance of the bone and tendons, which had acquired a certain form—a form which would become permanent without the intervention of the great scientist. Slowly but surely the resistance was overcome, the bone yielded, and then one heard the distinct clicking sound which indicated that the bone had been put back into the cavity, which should have been its natural resting place, a cavity which had become small through the disease and non-use. This stage indicated that the operation had been successful. The bone was pressed down into the cavity, and then the thigh bone was placed at right angles to the body, in which place it will remain. There was, after this, careful dressing—that is to say, there were layers of flannel and fine cloth, and over all a mask of plaster of Paris, which will remain for six months. At the same time it is fully expected that the child will be able to limp about in the course of a few days." The second case was that of a boy of five with a club foot, which was also successfully treated. At the conclusion of the operation Dr. Lorenz received a vote of thanks from his audience and personal congratulations from many who had witnessed the operation.

"Spoiled Child." Senator Chauncey Depew of New York, at a speech made at the first annual banquet of the Pilgrim Club in London, alluded to Canada as "the spoiled child of the Empire." "This child," Mr. Depew said, "was a very good fellow in his way, but like all pampered children, he was inclined to shake his fist in his older brother's face, knowing that his mother was behind him. But the disputed matter had been referred to an arbitration and the decision must be awaited. Meanwhile the child would grow up and the difficulties would disappear." Such a remark, mingled with the pleasantry of an after-dinner speech, might be permitted to pass unchallenged and unnoticed, if it were not for the fact that it is but an echo of what is being frequently said in quite a serious way by public men and leading newspapers of the United States. As everybody knows, there is a difference of contention between the Government of Great Britain and that of the United States as to the position of the true boundary line between Alaska and the British possession in North America. Naturally it is of importance to Canada that the British claims shall not be sacrificed unless shown to be untenable. All that the Government or the people of this country have asked for in this connection is a fair arbitration of the matter under dispute, in accordance with a principle which the United States Government professes to be especially desirous that the nations of the world should adopt as a method of settling their contentions. But the United States positively declines to settle this question of the Alaska boundary by arbitration, except, under conditions which leaves the decision entirely in its own hands, and when Canada objects to this burlesque of arbitration, she is superciliously told by leaders of political opinion in the United States that she is a "spoiled child of the Empire" and should be subject to maternal discipline for daring to present any claims or express any opinion on such a subject. If the claims of the United States are as valid, and as invincible by argument, as the politicians and newspapers of that country are so fond of reiterating, why should the Government at Washington hesitate to submit those claims to impartial arbitration. The fact patent to the world is that the United States is determined neither to remit nor in any real sense to arbitrate its territorial claims in Alaska, and the cry of "spoiled child" in this connection does nothing to make the course of the "older brother" appear more honorable.

M Plehve and the Kishineff Massacre. A good deal of evidence has been published to show that M. Plehve, the Russian Minister of the Interior, was not without knowledge and responsibility, in connection with the Kishineff massacre which so horrified the civilized world a few weeks ago. The report of the correspondent of a Vienna paper, who was sent to investigate the cause of the outbreak against the Jews and who endeavored to secure his information from non-Jewish quarters, strongly confirms the evidence against M. Plehve. The correspondent, we are told, went first to St. Petersburg, where he learned from positive and authentic information that the outbreak had been long preparing, and that M. Plehve not only had full knowledge of the preparations, but was in reality the stage manager of the drama. It is further represented that the Russian Minister had taken means to influence Governor Raaber, the governor of the province where the outbreak occurred, to favor the massacre, and then, when the atrocities occurred and a scapegoat was required, Raaber was ruthlessly sacrificed by Plehve. The purpose which the butchery was expected to serve, it is said, was to deter the Czar from carrying out reforms intended for the whole empire. At Kishineff the Vienna correspondent found that the reports as to the premeditated and ruthless character of the massacre had not been exaggerated. All the horrible details were confirmed by the burgo-master who said that neither the military nor the police had done anything to stop the outbreak. The mob was well organized and the Bessarabetz had distributed leaflets stating that the Czar had ordered the extermination of the Jews. Of 700 rioters arrested, 500 have been liberated and 100 have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from a fortnight to two months.

The Grand Trunk Pacific. A good deal of attention is being given in the Dominion Parliament to the Bill providing for a charter to the prospective Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. The whole subject of transcontinental roads, as well as of the G. T. P. project in particular, should certainly receive the most careful consideration at the hands of our legislators. The companies which are seeking to secure the rights and the conditions necessary to the building of the railway lines will doubtless look keenly to their own interests, and it is the business of Parliament to see that the interests of the country are not sacrificed to those of any private corporations. One of the questions in connection with the granting of the franchise which is being sought on behalf of the Grand Trunk Pacific has reference to its eastern terminus. No doubt the Grand Trunk with its transcontinental extension would prefer to make its Atlantic terminus at Portland as at present. But this probably will not satisfy Parliament, and the demand for an all Canadian line and a Canadian seaport will be very emphatic on the part especially of the Maritime Provinces. It is understood that the G. T. people are willing to make Moncton the eastern terminus, but this does not settle anything in reference to a winter shipping port for the projected road. The G. T. Pacific scheme will not probably be undertaken without Government assistance in one form or another. The method of assistance which is said to be regarded with most favor in Parliament is to guarantee the bonds of the company rather than giving subsidies in land or money. It is said, however, that some members of the Government are disposed to consider the construction of a trans continental railway, or at least a part of it, as a Government work. The Toronto Globe appears also to favor this idea. While recognizing the difficulties attending this mode of construction, inasmuch as work undertaken by Governments cost half as much more as those conducted by capable and efficient private enterprise, the Globe still questions whether the public always gets the benefit of the energy, knowledge and zeal of the expert railway builder, and whether in the end the work constructed by private enterprise does not have to earn dividends on at least as large a capitalization and indebtedness as if it had been constructed as a Government work. Further, it is argued that by employing a strong commission in the construction of such a work, it should be possible to avoid the undue expense which usually attends building operations by Government contracts. When the work was done the Government and the public would know just what it had cost and what mileage rates would be necessary to constitute a fair return on the money invested.