

Literary and Scientific.



LOUIS PASTEUR.

In the January number of the *Century*, amongst many other most interesting subjects, are a portrait and brief biographical sketch of Pasteur, who has contributed so much toward the success of preventive medicine. Pasteur worked his own way up. He began as an usher in the lyceum of Besancon, and aimed for the brevet of a University Professor. A pupil lent him a microscope with which he studied plants and insects before he was twenty. The idea that animalcules were the origin of contagious diseases was suggested to him by an apothecary at Dole, who got it from Raspail, a quack of genius. Pasteur won his university gown and obtained a chair in the faculty of Strasburg, where he came in contact with German thinkers, and had almost an European reputation as a geologist and chemist, when he was appointed scientific director of the *École Normale* by the Emperor Napoleon III. He owed his nomination to the head master, Nisard, under whom he studied, and who, being a devout Catholic, liked him for his attachment to his religious principles. Pasteur may be known at the Academy by his absent air, and eyes in which there is, to judge by their look, no visual power. They are too habituated to the microscope

to have any ordinary human focus, and they see as through a fog. He is free from conceit and loves what he thinks is true. He has a rugged temper and a crabbed style as a writer, and is undemonstrative. Perseverance is his dominant quality. He has been freed from the cares of life by his country. The present Chamber of Deputies has doubled the yearly pension of 12,000 francs which the Versailles Assembly granted to him. For the past three or four years he has had placed at his disposal, each year, by the French Minister of Agriculture, 50,000 francs for the purpose of scientific investigation. "The scientist proved that the Lilliputians could, and often did, get the better of Gulliver. In binding him down they took the names of small pox, scarlatina, yellow fever, cholera morbus, tuberculosis, glanders, murrain, hydrophobia, and other fell plagues. Lilliput transformed grape-juice into wine and dough into leavened bread. He then studied the laws of existence of the infinitesimal creatures, and while it is certain that his 'vaccines' are efficacious, it is also to be feared that they break down health and weaken defenses against other morbid agencies."

SCHOOL SCIENCE.—Below are the conclusions of C. F. Lunday, A.M., M.D., prof. of diseases of the eye, ear and throat, Mich., Col. of Med., Detroit, in a lengthy and evidently well considered paper, read at the late meeting in that city, of the American public health association: 1. Avoid the cramming process in education, and the nervous excitement due to the spirit of rivalry; 2. Reduce the number of subjects in the curriculum, and shorten the periods of study; 3. Ventilate the school-rooms in accordance with the most approved methods; 4. Regulate the temperature of the school-room—an atmosphere which is too warm debilitates the