

LITERARY NOTES.

THE BAMPTON LECTURES for 1876 are nearly ready for publication. Their title is "The Witness of the Psalms to Christ and Christianity," and the lecturer was Dr. Alexander, Bishop of Derry.

PREPARATIONS are being made in England to celebrate in a becoming manner the four hundredth anniversary of the printing of the first book in England. It has been shown that the "Booke of ye Chesse," which is dated 1474, was printed in Belgium, when Caxton learned his trade. The first book he printed in England was the "Dietes and Sayings of the Philosophers," in 1477.

THE library of the late celebrated Professor Tischendorf has been purchased by the Free Church College, of Glasgow.

ANOTHER supplementary volume—vol. 8—of Watts' Dictionary of Chemistry will be published this year, bringing up the work to December, 1876.

THE Orientalists have not calmed down even yet after their lively squabble over the Queen's new title—Kaiser-i-Hind, or Empress of India. The title is taken directly from the Persian, which is the Court language of the East, and signifies, as the word Kaiser did when in common use in England, a King paramount, or King of kings. It has the same force in Germany now.

HERR JOACHIM has been made an honorary Mus. Doc. of Cambridge. Sir John Goss and Wm. Arthur Sullivan received their degrees last year. The examination for this degree is very severe at Cambridge. Mus. Docs. and Mus. Bacs. can only be made at Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and Dublin. Besides these universities, the Archbishop of Canterbury alone has the right of bestowing musical degrees. None of the Scotch or Continental universities have musical faculties.

WE have had all kinds of theories regarding the formation of petroleum. Prof. Mendelegiff propounds a new one. He finds that, in Pennsylvania, petroleum occurs in Silurian and Devonian rocks. He then jumps to the conclusion that there was not sufficient organic life at that

period to account for the formation of the hydrocarbon. He then assumes (upon Laplace's hypothesis of the formation of the earth) the existence of great masses of iron and of inorganic carbon in the interior of the earth. Water from the exterior crust, penetrating to the molten metal, would be decomposed. The oxygen, he supposes, went to the iron, which is natural enough, and the hydrogen to the carbon, which is not natural; but then the Professor supposes great pressure and heat. It is hard to say what anything would do if one could suppose heat and pressure enough. But after all, if one has to suppose the metallic iron, and the inorganic carbon and the heat and pressure, the supposing a few more things will not be of much consequence.

DR. BASTIEN, the great advocate of "spontaneous generation," has again failed. Pasteur and Joubert have gone over his experiments, and have come to conclusions contrary to his. Bastien had boldly asserted that spontaneous generation had occurred in a certain fluid from which air germs had been excluded. Pasteur asked for an investigation, which resulted as above stated.

THE recently established Chair of Celtic Languages at Oxford has been filled by the appointment of Mr. John Rhys, formerly Fellow of Merton, and late Inspector of Schools in Wales. He is an enthusiastic scholar of the Celtic tongues, and his appointment gives great satisfaction. The Celtic tongues are fast dying out, and yet their importance, as a leading group in the family of Aryan languages, cannot be overestimated from a philological point of view.

THE first edition of the cheap re-issue of Sale's Koran was taken up on the day of publication. The English people are evidently anxious to acquire information upon Eastern questions; they have set out to study the Koran, and they will find a good deal in it which will do them good if they lay it to heart. Perhaps it may check the trade in cheap "Brummage" idols.

FRANCIS PARKMAN'S new work, "Count Frontenac, and the American Wars of Louis XIV." is in press, but will not be published until the fall.