

the premonitory symptom of pneumonia, which, in less than four-days ended the life of the best of men.

Now rests from its work the hand which wielded the hammer with strength, and with exquisite delicacy drew the finest lines of crystal figures; and from their work rest the eyes which saw the snowy summits of the Altai, and distinguished the "matt" and the "glänzend" on the surfaces of rock-crystals. Peace to his ashes! Blessed are the peacemakers!—*Am. Jour. Science.* \*

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#### ATHENÆUM SCRAPS.

A large mass of meteoric iron has been discovered, by Herr B. Schreiber, at Neuntmannsdorf, in Saxony. The iron contains 5.31 per cent. of nickel. This interesting specimen has been acquired by the Royal Mineralogical Museum in Dresden.

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The conditions necessary for the formation of azurite, or blue carbonate of copper, have been carefully studied by Dr. Wibel, of Hamburg. His experiments show that azurite is formed from malachite, or the green carbonate, by abstraction of water, and addition of carbonic acid; a change which may be effected at ordinary temperatures, by the action of carbonic acid in the presence of a water-abstracting agent.

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An improved method of gilding on iron and similar metals has been introduced by Herr W. Kirchmann. The surface of the metal, even when oxidized, may be prepared by treatment with sodium-amalgam; chloride of gold is then poured over the amalgamated surface, and, by application of heat, the mercury may be expelled, leaving an uniform film of gold capable of receiving a polish.

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The supply of lithographic stone from Germany has been gradually falling off—hence it is important to notice the discovery of two sources of supply in Italy, one near the French frontier and the other on the coast of the Gulf of Genoa. It is said that the stones are of superior quality.

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\* From the German of Prof. Vom Rath, of Bonn.