

removal of carbonic acid gas. There is also a tendency to congestion of various internal organs, especially of the lungs, whilst the ratio between the number of beats of the heart and the number of respirations becomes nearly the same as in inflammation of the lungs.

The Maharajah of Cashmere is desirous of having several scientific works translated from the English into the Sanscrit language; and as he understands that there are many able scholars in England and Germany, he has placed the matter in the hands of Colonel Nassau Lees, who is to select competent persons for the task. His Highness has had some works already translated in Calcutta. He has requested that, as the first instalment of the European series of translations, Prof. Liebig's work on Chemistry, or some other standard work on the same subject, should be one of the works translated. An undertaking of this kind ought to prove most useful, and cannot fail to exercise a most beneficial effect upon the future of India.

There is one respect in which scientific men—who are sometimes narrow enough in some matters—are more liberal in their views than the community at large, and more especially than either theologians or politicians, namely, in the position which they take up towards a man who has changed opinions which he formerly expressed. Instead of regarding this

either as weakness or as apostacy, they generally regard it as being a very creditable thing, and as showing that the mind is open to all the impressions of truth. In the words of Faraday, "the only man who ought really to be looked upon as contemptible is the man whose ideas are not in a constant state of transition."

Constadt, a well-known chemist, has recently shown that sea-water, in addition to silver, which has long been known to be present, also contains gold in small quantity. The gold is completely dissolved, and appears to be held in solution by iodate of calcium. The proportion is estimated to be less than one grain of gold to the ton of sea-water.

It has been often said that animals are not liable to disease until they are brought into contact with man, and there are many facts to support this view. Prof. Struthers, of Aberdeen, believes, however, that whales are very liable to rheumatism. He states that he has often seen examples of "rheumatic" inflammation of the bones in whales, which is very remarkable when it is considered how little whales are exposed to changes of temperature. It would be difficult, however, to prove that whales suffer from any disease at all comparable to rheumatism in man, and the facts brought forward by Dr. Struthers may admit of a different interpretation.

## LITERARY NOTES.

The action of "*Hepworth Dixon v. The Pall Mall Gazette*," has been decided, after a four days' trial, nominally in favour of Mr. Dixon, for he has been awarded one farthing damages, but virtually in favour of the English newspaper. Criticism may be trenchant but it should not be reckless. While excessively pungent criticism at the same time is impolitic and likely to be undignified, there does seem occasion in these days of outrageous sensationalism to lay on the scourge and to expose the writer who degrades literature from its wholesome and elevating environment to the low level of sensuous indecency. Though there is much, however, that is objectionable in Mr. Dixon's *Spiritual Wives*, particularly in the tone of the work and in the straining after sensation-excitement which well merited the reviewer's censure, yet the decided virulence of the review, and its contemptuous allusions to the author could not be legally or morally justified. Is there not a lesson in this law-suit for our own writers and journalists?

If we have not positive indecency to complain of, it is fast becoming a public duty in Canada to repress the flippancy of the day in reference to sacred things; while, at the same time, the license of the press in its would-be facetious but, in fact, impudent trifling with the reputations of our public men, is a scandal and reproach to us as a people. We should be glad to see public opinion more wholesome and more active in regard to this matter.

The "*Memoirs of Baron Stockmar*" have now been issued from the press. The volumes will be found most important reading, as they are replete with interest on the subject of English and European politics during the early part of the Victorian era. The Baron was an intimate friend and adviser of Her Majesty, and his influence in royal circles and in the political world, during the period referred to, was very great. A cheap re-publication of these memoirs, on this side the Atlantic, will be a great boon to readers of political history, to whom we heartily commend the study of the work.