

stance, there is a line in the green part of the spectrum of the outermost solar envelope, the corona, which is thought to represent a gas much lighter than hydrogen. The substance itself is called "coronium." Nothing of the sort has been found on the earth. Again, when the spectroscopists examine the chromosphere, the layer of gas next below the corona, but lying above the luminous cloud-shell of the sun, they discover in the yellow a brilliant line. No line could be perceived at this point in the spectrum of any terrestrial substance, and hence the element thus signified was, like coronium, regarded as peculiar to the sun. Indeed, such a supposition is embodied in its name, "helium." Since the first discovery of the latter line, however, it has been recognized in the spectra of a few stars, which are also suns, but many million times as far

away from us as our own. And now comes the report that Lord Rayleigh has just found helium in a rare mineral from Norway.

This famous chemist was testing a rock specimen, according to a brief cable dispatch to the *New York Sun*, with sulphuric acid. Such tests of that particular mineral have been made before, and they always yielded a gas. Heretofore the latter has been believed to be nitrogen merely. But Lord Rayleigh perceived that it was argon; and, what is more, that some other gas was combined with it. His further investigation led him to identify it with helium.—*New York Tribune*.

Let your own discretion be your tutor; suit the action to the word, the word to the action.—*Hamlet, iii. 2*.

PUBLIC OPINION.

PROF. BLACKIE.—Since the death of Carlyle, Professor Blackie was by far the most picturesque if not powerful of Scotsmen. In influence, in genius, in accomplished work, the Professor is not to be compared with the author of "Sartor," but Blackie had talent and courage enough to give him a unique place. His originality and independence were not always appreciated, and students preparing for an examination often found him quixotical. None the less he was a potent and stimulating influence in the life of the young. An enthusiast, he knew not how to do things by halves. He did much for Celtic literature, and, indeed, for literature in general. But was as a patriot that he especially appealed to the hearts of his countrymen. He loved Burns as much as he

loved Homer; and the old Scots ballads he had by heart.—*The Publisher's Circular*.

REAL EDUCATION.

After saying that education was a subject not ordinarily prominent on a political platform, Mr. Balfour said that the common opinion about the meaning of the word and the thing was generally much too narrow. In his opinion, "education includes, and ought to include, every one of those forces, be they the forces of family affection, be they the forces of scholastic education, be they the forces of religious education, which mould the future citizen and the future man." All this is apt to be forgotten, and, in common parlance, those concerned with education are supposed to have