

demonstrated by the microscopist's taking a slice with a razor off his hand and putting it on a slide. The reporter was surprised to find that the pores were very scarce indeed, appearing to be about a fiftieth of an inch apart.

THE human species may be divided into those who do and those who do not worship Browning. The term worship is no exaggeration. Societies, as is well known, have been formed for the purpose of mutual help and invigoration in interpreting the sacred volume and bringing to light the boundless treasures which are supposed to lie hidden beneath its inspired but enigmatic language. Dante had a chair founded to interpret him immediately after his death; but Browning has received a similar honor in his lifetime. The sceptical are in the habit of remarking that it is singular that people should be tasking their brains in concert to discover Browning's meaning when the living oracle himself is there and might, if appealed to, at once resolve their doubts. But the exploration of the mysterious is an intellectual luxury in itself, and nobody wants the propounder of the riddle to tell him the answer at the same time. Besides mystery is a wholesome exercise of faith. Why cannot Browning be as intelligible as Æschylus, Goethe, and Shelley, who are just as subjective and just as deep as he is? This is the question which the despairing student of "Gordello" or "Paracelsus" asks himself; and perhaps he begins to suspect that the age of poetry must be past and that the age of science must have fully come if the great poet of the day can be the most brain-cracking of metaphysicians. The difference between the Browning-worshipper and the non-Browning-worshipper, we take it, is the work of Nature and congenital, so that to turn one into the other by reasoning or intellectual appliance of any kind is impossible. But if conversion were possible, it would be wrought by the fervid faith, the rich language and the impressive delivery of Archdeacon Farrar. There are some who would rather listen to the commentator than read the text.

—*The Week.*