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THE PRAYER OF SOCRATES.

Grant, O Olympian gods supreme,
Not my wish, and not my dream ;
Grant me neither gold that shines,
Nor ruddy copper in the mines,
Nor power to wield the tyrant's rod
And be a fool and seem a god,
Nor precious robe with jewelled fringe
Splendid with sea-born purple tinge,
Nor silken vest on downy pillow,
Nor hammock hard on heaving billow ;
But give all goodly things that be
Good for the whole and best for me.
My thoughts are foolish, blind and crude ;
Thou only knowest what is good.

—JOHN STUART BLACKIE.

NOTES.

In the year 1817 Berzelius discovered a new element, whose weight is about four times that of water, its color reddish brown, changing on exposure to a leaden gray. To this element, which is found associated with sulphur, has been given the name Selenium. It possesses metallic lustre, and is brittle, though easily cut or scratched. About ten years ago a peculiar