

The Fortnightly Review contains a formidable array of contents, no less than fifteen articles making up this month's number. Mr. W. S. Lilly contributes the first of these fifteen, and tries to convince Liberals that modern Liberalism is illiberal, arguing that its essence is the tyranny of the majority—which, of course, is included in the very idea of representative constitutions. The writer suggests some needed reforms, but fails to give any personal opinion as to how these reforms can be put into practice. Mr. L. M. Roberts writes about the correspondence which was carried on between the poet Burns and Mrs. Dunlop. Concerning this correspondence the poet's biographers are unanimously of the opinion that it does the greatest credit both to his head and heart. Mr. Roberts gives the reader some extracts from unpublished letters of the poet. Professor Karl Pearson makes a criticism of "Sectarian Criticism," confining himself especially to Mr. St. George Mivart. Vamadeo Shastri gives a Hindu's views of Mr. Balfour's "Foundations of Belief," arguing that Mr. Balfour's opinions are really as noxious and deadening to theology as the views of the naturalists. Mr. E. Kay Robinson, in writing "The Afghan Alliance," shows that the Amir's object is to be independent of the Government of India. Professor James Sully contributes an able paper on "Child-Study," a study which has been of recent years attracting more and more attention. "The quite commonplace child has a mind which is well worth depicting if only the artist's hand is directed by a perfect knowledge of his subject," is the concluding statement of a most interesting and readable paper. There is a peculiarly entertaining article by Madame Colmache, who tells the story of the way Cuba might have belonged to France in 1837. The writer narrates fully the way in which such a transaction was proposed, and states that it came to nothing owing to Louis Philippe's unconquerable desire to drive a good bargain. One of the most interesting papers in the number is the concluding one by Mr. Richard Davey, who writes about "The Sultan and his Harem," endeavouring to correct certain current errors concerning the Turkish Sultan and his court.

Mr. C. M. Aikman, in the Scottish Review, presents a most interesting paper on Argon, the constituent in the composition of air which has been but recently discovered, the discovery of which won for Lord Rayleigh and Professor William Ramsay the first of the Hodgkins Fund Prizes offered by the Smithsonian Institute for scientific discoveries. Mr. Aikman, starting from the views held by the ancient Greek philosophers, traces briefly the discoveries made from time to time in regard to the constituents of the atmosphere, and then deals at length with the new discovery, sketching the manner in which Lord Rayleigh developed his discovery. Mr. Aikman discusses the question as to whether or not Argon may be merely a more condensed form of nitrogen, but arrives at the conclusion that Argon is probably really a new element. "Granting this," says the writer, "the question which naturally first occurs to the ordinary mind is—what is it good for? We must, however, be content to wait a little longer for an answer to this question. Indeed, if we judge by the analogy of nitrogen, it may be a very long time before we discover what functions Argon performs in the terrestrial economy." In conclusion the writer mentions the discovery of Helium as a result of the discovery of Argon, and seems to think that a third discovery is sure to follow, "since examination of the Spectra of Argon and Helium suggests the presence of an unknown constituent gas, common to both, which, however, yet awaits isolation." Professor Herkless, LL.B., deals with "The Legal Position of a Chairman." The writer discusses the question as to the ground of the authority in general exercised by the chairman as seen in the three principal classes of meetings, public meetings, party meetings, and meetings of continuing bodies. Professor Herkless writes: "A chairman who has the qualities that fit a man for the position can usually show some reason for his ruling, so that in most cases of its being disputed he is able by a few words of explanation to remove objection, or at any rate to satisfy the meeting as a whole. . . . Having stated and recommended his view, he is not concerned, in

his character of chairman, to uphold that view against the will of the meeting. No censure is involved in the meeting's disagreeing with his ruling." There is a most readable article on Pierre Loti; the writer who has distinctly shown the sea's formative power on human character. The article deals with the influence of the sea both upon the man himself and upon his writings. The three books, *La Roman d'un Enfant*, *Pêcheur d'Islande*, and *Mon Frère Yves*, all keep unceasingly before us the influence, the "personality" of the sea. Loti is one of the writers who most distinctly show the influence of environment on the character. Other articles in the Scottish are contributed by Col. T. Pilkington White, Wm. S. Douglas, T. A. Archer, W. Anderson Smith, and a Scottish Conservative, who contributes an able résumé of the Scottish elections of 1895.

* * * DEVELOPING.

The control of the bulk of the clothing trade is doubtless in the hands of firms manufacturing Prepared Clothing. It would not be prudent to state that a large element of our gentlemen "order" their clothing, or that they are comfortably fitted. It would be truthful to state, however, that many order the suit and are rarely suited. When "Oak Hall" made reply to the inquiry of last week regarding the Prepared Clothing it did not mean to convey the impression that you can not buy a well fitting garment from the respectable tailor. There is an abundance of good and reliable gentlemen in this land who will fit your form as a glove can be fitted. Yes, even better. But still the fact remains that the "Prepared Clothing manufactured by Sanford, of Hamilton, will fit any figure," not out of sorts, equally as well as the merchant tailor. The tailor, that is the practical tailor, the one who is qualified to measure, cut and fit, is the tailor who enjoys the position of designing and fixing patterns for the great manufacturing houses. The results of years of careful labour and watchfulness have made "Oak Hall" the leading Prepared Clothing house of the Dominion. Mr. Pirie, the Toronto manager, states that his trade has developed in a good encouraging order.

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* * *
Sir Henry Ponsonby, for many years the Queen's Private Secretary, is dead. He was a faithful servant of Her Majesty, who reposed the utmost confidence in him, and was guided in a thousand and one matters by his judgment and long experience. The Queen is fond of her old servants, and Sir Henry's death will be severely felt by her. United States newspapers have scoffed at her sorrow for old John Brown, but people whose

hearts are in the right place will prefer Her Majesty's way of dealing with her subordinates to that of some rich Americans, who turn their wornout servants out on the street, without giving a thought as to what becomes of them.

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