his great discovery in regard to light. This discovery is the result of a full quarter of a century of study and fruitful experiment, but not until recently have more than vague hints of its character been given to the world. In November last, Hendricksen was induced by some of his intimate friends to publish an account of his researches. It was with great difficulty that he was persuaded to do so. For united to what perhaps may properly be termed his constitutional timidity, was the hesitancy induced in him through the results which followed the announcements of the discoveries of Pasteur and Koch. He was, however, prevailed upon to give a sketch of the development of his discovery and to trace the various steps he had taken. This important and intensely interesting paper was given before the Philosophical Society of his university. His discovery is still to a great extent incomplete, and the expectation which his remarkable announcement naturally causes, exceeds, without doubt, the present developments. He has succeeded in reproducing rays of various parts of the solar spectrum which on analysis by the spectroscope have been shown to be of the same wave length and intensity. His explanation did not extend beyond this, and he did not enter into many details of the mechanism employed in his experiments. He is still patiently working out his discovery and hopes within the coming year to lay his results more fully before the scientific world.

But the discoveries already announced leave little or no doubt as to the rapid development of practical applications such as followed a similar stage in the development of magnetism and electricity.

The prospect may well cause astonishment; the imagination may well run riot in contemplating what the discovery means, and yet not exceed the realities of the early future.

To-day we can know every tone of a voice whose vibrations are transmitted for hundreds of miles and reproduced as clearly as if the speaker were in the adjoining room. We hear the conversation taking place in a distant apartment, we can even detect the puffing sound that a person close to the telephone may make with his cigar. We can listen to the service in the distant church: we can distinguish the voices in a chorus rendered hundreds of miles away: we can follow the tones of the actors in a distant theatre. But Hendricksen's discovery promises to enhance immensely the gains already made toward the practical annihilation of time and space. The speakers at the ends of the telephone wire may see each other as they speak. Emigration may be shorn of most of its saddest associations, for the mother and son separated perhaps for life by a wide waste of ocean may not only speak, but see each other whenever they will, and as he in his new home gathers around him a family of his own he can put them one by one on familiar terms with the delighted grandmother across the sea. The theatre may be made to extend over an area a million fold greater than the floors of its pit and galleries, for by means of the wire the spectator in a distant town may not only hear the voices of the players, and hear the thunders of applause that greet the favorite actors, but see the stage itself and its shifting scenes quite as well as he were present in body within the narrow confines of the theatre walls. The witness in a case before a court might be sworn and examined, and his personality verified to judge and jury, though he might be as far from the scene of the trial as Vancouver is from Halifax. Parliamentary bodies might have the advantage of the voice and apparent presence of a distinguished statesmen though he were far away from legislative halls. He might even be made, visibly to a whole chamber, to