

Lieutenant, with his vice-regal court, has done everything to give official dignity and sanction to the scene. Processions, speeches, dinners, inauguration odes, and all kinds of pageantry, have marked the occasion. The Earl of Eglington's speech presents an able and interesting view of the history and objects of the Exhibition, and the results expected to flow from it. The *morals* of the whole may be summed up in one of his Lordship's sentences—"If Ireland has been able to do this in three months, what might she not do in three years?" It was only in the month of January of this year that the proposal was first made for an Exhibition at Cork of the industrial products of the Province of Munster. After much loss of time, the idea was extended to that of a National Exhibition, and a committee was formed in Dublin to co-operate with that at Cork. In three months the labours of these committees have prepared an Exhibition highly creditable to Irish genius and industry. . . . The Turkish government has issued a mandate, forbidding the publication of unauthorized books. . . . A scientific exhibition is about to leave England for the exploration of certain portions of the Pacific. It consists of the frigate *Herald* and the steamer *Torch*. Some of the best naturalists and medical men of the country are to go with it, and all the drawings are to be photographic. . . . Dr. Moritz Wagner and Professor Scherzer, of Vienna, have recently arrived at New York, with a view to begin a thorough exploration—scientific, social, political, and statistical—of America.

The Mysteries of Science.—A series of articles are being published in the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, by Baron von Reichenbach, under the title *Odytisch-magnetische Briefe*, (Odytic-magnetic Letters) in which he lays claim to having a new fluid, or rather a new dynamic element in nature. This element he calls "Od," a name whose etymology he has not yet explained; and those who are subject to, and can perceive its influence, he distinguishes as "sensitive." These are the persons who are generally regarded as capricious and whimsical; who cannot bear the colour of yellow, while more than others they love the colour of blue; who hate to look at themselves in a glass; who will not sit on the middle of a bench with others, but insist on having the corner seat; who cannot sleep on the left side, &c. Procure a natural crystal, as large a one as possible, either a gypsum spar, of about eight inches long, or a sulphur spar, or a Gothard rock crystal, of a foot long, and lay it horizontally across the corner of a table, or the arm of a chair, so as to leave the two extremities free. Then bring the sensitive person up to it, with directions to hold the palm of the left hand towards the end of the crystal, at the distance of three, four, or six inches. In the course of a minute he will tell you, that from the apex of the crystal a cool current strikes the hand, but that when the hand is held towards its base, a sensation of lukewarmness is produced. In order to test whether sensitive persons could see something emanate from the crystal, on a dark night, (May, 1844) Reichenbach carried a large rock crystal to the house of a highly-sensitive young lady, Miss Angelina Sturnann; by accident her physician, Professor Lippich, a well-known German Pathologist, was present. They produced perfect darkness in two rooms, in one of which Reichenbach placed the crystal in a place unknown to all but himself. After a brief delay in the other room, in order to accustom the eye to the darkness, they led the young lady into the room where the crystal was. Almost immediately she pointed out the spot where Reichenbach had placed it. She said that the entire body of the crystal was glowing with a delicate light, and that at its apex was in constant waving motion a flame of blue colour and bell shape, as large as one's hand, now and then sparkling and disappearing in a sort of fine mist. At the other, or flat end of the crystal, she saw a slow red and yellow smoke. This experiment has since been followed by thousands of others with crystals, in countless variations, down to the present time. The fact has been demonstrated by a great number of sensitive persons, that the sensations produced by crystals are accompanied by appearances of light, which are blue and red, and yellow, from the opposite poles of the crystals, and are perceived by sensitive persons alone. A number of equally extraordinary phenomena are explained; and the author promises to show, hereafter, that they are inferior either in extent or importance to none that have obtained a place in physical science.

Chemical Appliances to Industry.—Dr. Playfair, speaking of chemical appliances to industry, as a characteristic of advancing civilization, remarks:—European nations, as they increase in wants, examine every material to see if it be adapted to their ministrations; they observe and investigate the phenomena and properties of each body, so as to ascertain how far it may be subservient to their desires. In these investigations, Chemistry offers vital aid: she, like a prudent housewife, economises every scrap. The horse-shoe nails, dropped in the streets during the daily traffic, are carefully collected by her, and reappear in the form of swords and guns. The clippings of the travelling tinker, are mixed with the parings of horses' hoofs from the smithy, or the cast-off woollen garments of the poorest inhabitants of a sister isle, and soon afterwards, in the form of dyes of the brightest blue, grace the dress of courtly dames. The main ingredient of the ink with which I now write was possibly once

part of the broken hoop of an old beer-barrel. The bones of dead animals yield the chief constituent of lucifer matches. The dregs of port-wine, carefully rejected by the port-wine drinker in decanting his favourite beverage, are taken by him in the morning in the form of Seidlitz powders, to remove the effects of his debauch. The oil of the streets and the washings of coal-gas reappear carefully preserved in the lady's smelling-bottle, or are used by her to flavour blancmanges for her friends. This economy of the Chemistry of Art is only in imitation of what we observe in the Chemistry of Nature. Animals live and die: their dead bodies, passing into putridity, escape into the atmosphere, whence plants again mould them into forms of organic life; and these plants, actually consisting of a past generation of ancestors, form our present food."

Electric Phenomena.—At a recent sitting of the French Academy, M. Biot communicated the following interesting account of some very curious electric phenomena in Paris. The circumstances were brought before him by a young gentleman who was the subject of the phenomena, and in whose veracity he has the greatest confidence. "I was walking home," says the latter, "on the evening of the 17th of May, when, an extremely loud thunder clap, occurred. I had not advanced fifty paces when a second thunder-clap, accompanied by lightning and rain, caused me to run. Instantaneously I perceived myself to be enveloped by so powerful a light that my eyes ached considerably, and at the same moment my hat was hurled from my head, although there was not a breath of wind. The pain in my eyes became so great that I was apprehensive of being struck blind; but the rain which now fell in torrents on my head, recovered me very quickly from a state of bewilderment, which may have lasted seven or eight seconds, and I perceived that my eyesight was unimpaired. On going to bed I took out my watch, and I became then aware that the electric fluid had passed through the left pocket of my waistcoat. The chain to which my watch was attached was not damaged, but the swivel was destroyed. A gold ring, confining several trinkets, was severed in five places, and the watch-key, which was made of steel plated with gold, was carried away, but the gold plating remained perfect. A small silver pocket compass had its poles inverted. In the morning, happening to wind up my watch, I found that the works were in order, and that the effect of the electric fluid upon them seemed to be limited to causing the main spring to run down. In the same pocket with his watch were a small medallion, in Berlin iron, circled with gold, and a small gold key; these had disappeared, through the hole in my waistcoat pocket. As for myself, I felt no other inconvenience than a stiffness in my spine, such as might result from severe physical labours, but neither my skin nor my clothes, with the exception of my waistcoat, showed any sign of the electric fluid. During my residence in Spain, I contracted the habit of wearing over my shirt and under my waistcoat, a sash of red silk wound five or six times round my waist. May not this silk sash have acted as an insulator? My money, which was in a purse in my trousers pocket, on the same side as my watch, was untouched."—[Athenæum.

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