

and the legislation which had taken place in relation to the trade. It is impossible to avoid feeling, however, that the interest of such a complete statement is much reduced by the events which have occurred since the year to which it relates. All industrial improvement in France must be greatly retarded, if not converted into retrogression, for some time to come. The remarks on the subject of strikes form perhaps the most interesting part of the volume. England is the birth-place of trades' unions, and our capitalists feel their influence severely; but it is among an unstable and disaffected population, like that of the French manufacturing and mining districts, that they produce really evil effects. M. Burat gives emphatic testimony to the high character of British workmen, wholly uneducated as they often are. He says (p. 135), "Once again, in traversing the coal fields of England, we have been struck with their superiority, due not only to the special conditions of the coal basins, but to the aptitudes and the discipline of their working population."

W. S. J.

Jahresbericht über die Fortschritte der Chemie, und verwandter Theile anderer Wissenschaften. Herausgegeben von Adolph Strecker, für 1868. (Giessen, 1870. London: Williams and Norgate.)

THE *Jahresbericht* is too well known as a trustworthy book of reference, both for chemists and physicists, to need commendation; and the care and judgment with which it is compiled have made it almost indispensable to those interested in science. In these days, when the amount of work done—both useful and useless—is so great, it is no slight convenience to have the year's labour carefully sifted and preserved for reference in a single volume. The present volume, under the editorship of Herr Adolph Strecker, is arranged with all the care which has characterised previous numbers, and contains numerous papers of unusual importance. Among the most important of these may be noted Becquerel's researches on electro-chemical action, Graham's experiments on the occlusion of hydrogen by palladium, and the existence of the metal hydrogenium. Rammelsberg's researches on the periodates are given at considerable length, and also Bunsen's process for separating the platinum metals found in the residues of the Russian mint. In the organic section of the book very important papers are given on the constitution and derivation of benzol, toluol, and naphthalin, and Gräbe and Liebermann's valuable researches on the preparation of alizarin from anthracene are fully described. Perhaps the success of the *Jahresbericht* has caused the Chemical Society to make the changes in their journal which, we understand, are in contemplation. We believe that it is intended to reproduce in the pages of the new journal all important researches made in this country and abroad, so that it will become to us what the *Jahresbericht* already is to Germany. If the same care is bestowed on its production that has always characterised its German contemporary, we anticipate for it a similar and deserved success.

F. J.

Notes or Fottings about Aldeburgh, Suffo'k. Relating to Matters Historical, Antiquarian, Ornithological, and Entomological. By Nicholas Fenwick Hele, Surgeon. 8vo, pp. 198. (London, 1870.)

IT is no disparagement to Mr. Hele to say that he is not a Gilbert White, and the reviewers who have compared this book with the "Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne" have certainly done its author a wrong, while they have shown their own want of discrimination. Gilbert White was in the front rank of the naturalists and antiquarians of his day; as an outdoor observer he had no equal, and perhaps never will have one. Add to this the charming and delicate simplicity of his ideas, rendered all the more striking by the slight shade of pedantry which

not ungracefully tinges his style; for the old pupil of Warton never forgot his scholarly breeding, and what wonder is there that "Selborne" is an English classic? If ever there was a naturalist in whom the poetic faculty was developed, if ever there was one who wittingly or unwittingly possessed the scientific use of the imagination, Gilbert White was the man. Now, there is nothing to show that Mr. Hele is a closer observer than (happily) many of his fellows, and what he has to say he says in very plain, straightforward language. It is clear that he keeps his eyes open whenever he takes his walks abroad, but he favours us with few inferences from his own experience. Still we must particularly praise the absence of any attempt at fine writing, and the consequence is a little volume of a kind of which we should be glad to see many more. The "matters historical and antiquarian" of which he treats are, of course, beside the path of Nature, though the old boat found in company with flint-flakes deserves the attention of the Anthropological Institute; but the topographical, ornithological, and entomological notes include much that is of interest, exception being taken perhaps to a few of the statements. However, Mr. Hele's opening assertion that "Aldeburgh, as a place of resort for the naturalist, may be fairly classed as one of the most attractive localities in the east of England," is undoubtedly true, and his sketch of the neighbourhood shows that he appreciates its advantages. We have derived great pleasure from this unpretending little volume, and are sure most of our readers will do the same.

Mineralogie der Vulcane. Von G. Landgrebe. (Cassel and Leipzig, 1870. London: Williams and Norgate.)

THIS is not a very satisfactory book. It consists of an alphabetical arrangement of minerals with a brief description of each species, the species selected being those which the author regards as volcanic minerals. In spite of his title of "member of several learned societies," we take leave to doubt whether he has any clear idea of what a volcanic mineral is. A great part of his book is devoted to minerals which, like the zeolites, are not original volcanic products, but the result of subsequent changes. Any mineral which he can discover to have been ever found in an eruptive rock, he sets down in his pages as one of the "minerals of volcanoes." There is no critical faculty shown in discriminating between the primary and secondary ingredients in volcanic rocks. A good work on volcanic minerals properly so called, with a minute and exhaustive examination of their microscopic structure, and a philosophic induction therefrom as to some of the conditions under which volcanic action must take place, would be a great boon to science. But it is not to Dr. Landgrebe that we must look for such a treatise. He tells us that perhaps he might have delayed the publication of his volume until he could take advantage of the results which the new development of mineralogy through the application of the microscope promises to furnish; but as he found the delay might prove a tedious one, he decided not to wait any longer, but to present his labour of "Lust und Liebe" to the indulgent criticism of the public. Even so; such is the history of too many books in the scientific as well as in other branches of literature.

A. G.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his Correspondents. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

The Science College at Newcastle

PERMIT me to rectify a misapprehension which appears, not through any fault or oversight on your part, in your appreciative article upon the College of Physical Science, which the University of Durham, with the co-operation of the scientific men