of death, I argue thus:—Since every event (= change of attributes in subjects) has a cause, the death in question had a cause; the only precedent event that was relevant, was the administration of arsenic, therefore the arsenic was in this case the cause of death (this last result is obtained by the Method of Difference—by it we prove cause—i.e. interdependence of successive events). But (by the principle of uniformity) if arsenic is on one occasion cause of death, it is always cause of death; therefore arsenic is always a cause of death.

It will be observed that in this second induction, though not in the first, we make use of one of Mill's "Inductive Methods." The function of these Methods is to prove interdependence between phenomena—whether it be an interdependence of concomitance or of causation. In the case of the Method of Difference we proceed on the assumption that if the introduction of A is followed by the appearance of C, or the removal of A by the disappearance of C, then A and C are causally interdependent. In the Method of Agreement we proceed on the assumption that if A is never found without C, A has a connection of interdependence with C.

We do not use, and do not need, these Methods in mathematical generalizations, because there we see the interdependence upon which generalization to unknown cases is based; it is this actual apprehension of interdependence that both makes the methods unnecessary and gives mathematical generalizations the peculiar certainty which is generally attributed to them. In the case above cited, for instance, we see that equality of angles at the base is self-evidently and necessarily bound up with equality of sides in a triangle. We do not see that there is a self-evident interdependence between the obvious properties of arsenic and poisonousness.

A further interesting point is that our power of predicting that one event, A, will be followed by another event, C, seems to depend wholly upon coexistence of attributes in the subjects concerned. If we have seen one animal dosed with arsenic and subsequently die, and hence conclude that another animal called by the same name, and dosed with an equal amount of arsenic, will die, is not our inference based upon the assumption of a certain constant coinherence of attributes, both in the animal and in the poison—a coinherence of such a kind that when the two subjects are so collocated as to act upon each other, a result similar to that produced in the first case will be produced in the second also? If the properties of this arsenic are different from the other, or if the second animal, though looking like the first, has a different internal constitution, there is no reason why death should result. Hence, laws of succession in events seem to depend upon laws of coexistence of attributes in subjects.

Even those generally unquestioned axioms of logic, the Law of Contradiction and the Law of Excluded Middle, might be appealed to (if it were necessary) in support of the Principle of Interdependence—for the Law of Excluded Middle intimates a thoroughgoing connection (positive or negative) between all nameable things; and the Law of Contradiction asserts a certain definite amount of necessary interdependence of properties in every imaginable case—interdependence, namely, between the presence of any characteristic and the absence of its negative.

Looking at the whole process of inductive reasoning, it appears to be in the application of the "Methods" that the principles used approach nearest to the character of mere assumptions; and this is so only because of the difficulty of applying the Methods precisely—of being sure, e.g. in the case of the arsenic, that the administration of arsenic was the only new antecedent relevant to death.

It may just be noticed that in an argument by analogy we rely upon an interdependence which is inferred from the complexity or amount of interdependence already known or supposed.

If the above account of inductive reasoning is accepted, it appears that the connection between Induction and Deduction is very close—in fact, that the one distinctive feature of logical induction is the element of hypothesis or discovery—the supposition of a given connection—from which every Induction must set out.

Cambridge.

E. E. CONSTANCE JONES.

The Scale for Measurement of Gas Pressures.

I VENTURE to ask you to print the following suggestion. It is one likely enough to have been made before, but I do not remember having met with it.

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We generally measure gaseous pressures in millimetres of mercury, and 760 mm. is adopted as the standard pressure. It would certainly be more convenient if we expressed the measurement in degrees, the degree being of such magnitude that the standard pressure were 273°. All calculations involving change of P, T, and V to or from the standard conditions would be simplified in an obvious way. The equation $PV = RT$ would become $V = R$ at standard pressure and temperature. R being the same constant for all gases under all conditions, if V stand for the molecular volume, it would be convenient to remember it as identical with the well-known number expressing the standard volume of a gramme-molecule. 1°P would correspond to about 2.78 mm. or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of mercury.

ORME MASSON.

The University of Melbourne, June 21.

Luminous Clouds.

BRIGHT luminous clouds were seen here on the night of Sunday the 24th inst., in the north and north-north-east, from 9.35 to 10.35 p.m. As usual they distinctly resembled cirri, having some definite upward curls. The actual cirri, which had after sunset been moving rapidly from east-south-east, now appeared dusky against the twilight glow. The filature of the upper or luminous cirri was, as appears to be usual, west and east, while that of the ordinary cirri was east-south-east and west-north-west.

These luminous clouds, although no doubt simply reflecting solar light, generally appear to the casual observer as incandescent or self-luminous.

They were seen from the summit of Ben Nevis all through the night of the 24th-25th, according to the report in the *Times*.

Lutterworth.

W. CLEMENT LEY.

Whirlwinds in the South Indian Ocean.

THE following account of whirlwinds met with in the South Indian Ocean at the end of last May, which has been supplied to the Meteorological Office by Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., of Liverpool, may be of interest to your readers.

ROBERT H. SCOTT,

July 22.

Secretary, Meteorological Office.

Extract from a Letter received from Capt. S. P. Hearn, Ship "Genista."

"At noon on May 26, lat. 42° 0' S., long. 99° 0' E., wind fresh from N.W.—weather very squally with rain, barometer steady at 29.82 in., thermometer 49° since midnight. A very heavy black squall with rain began to rise in the W. Barometer suddenly fell 0.1 in. As the squall neared the ship it arched up in the centre, showing a very bright blue sky at the back of it; the ends of the squall on either side were quite black and thick with rain. On its nearer approach to the ship I saw two immense whirlwinds, just a little on either side of the centre of the arch and coming direct for the ship, the sea under and near the whirls being carried around and up in great volumes. I thought at first they were two waterspouts forming, but I saw no descending column or clouds from above, as is seen when a waterspout is forming; when these whirls came to within two miles of the ship, the squall seemed to part in the centre of the arch—one half passing to the N.E., the other half to the S.E., one whirl following in rear of each part of the squall, and not where the clouds were heaviest. During the time of the separation of the arch we had the wind very unsteady from N.W. to S.W. There was only a fresh breeze with thick rain in that part of the squall that neared the ship; yet the squall was travelling along at a great rate, the whirls keeping in the rear till out of sight. I shortened sail to topsails as soon as I saw the squall rising. After it passed, the weather looked very fine, bright, and clear, but the sky was a windy one, being a very bright blue. By 3 p.m. the wind shifted to W., and barometer had fallen to 29.67 in., thermometer 48°. At 4 p.m. saw another whirl passing along to windward in the rear of a squall, the clouds above it being twined and twisted every way. During the whole night we had very heavy squalls, sometimes following one another very quick, with little wind between—direction W.S.W. At daylight the weather was much finer. After that, to lat. 40° 22' S., long. 125° E., I had very peculiar