The next paper is a learned one on the policy of the great Cardinal Richelieu, by Lady Dilke. Lady Dilke is the newly-married wife of the English Radical leader in Parliament, Sir Charles Dilke, and widow of the learned scholar Mark Pattison, of Oxford. Here is a sentence which contains a good deal of the philosophy of history: "Every great political and social system which has given a new aspect to history, and constituted itself a power among men, has necessarily had for the very principle of its existence the consent of some great moral truth. In the affirmation of this truth has lain the source of strength, but also of weakness; for in pushing it to extreme conclusions, the negation has been reached of other truths, opposite in character, but equal in value, which have in their turn asserted their existence, and put to confusion those who had ignored their force."

It is odd to see in an English magazine a paper following, entitled, "Is the Caucus a Necessity?" Caucus is a Boston word, and the thing has heretofore been American; but the writer concludes that it is a necessity of party government in England too.

"Vamadeva Shastin," who professes to be "a Hindu with somewhat conservative and old-fashioned Brahmanic ideas," and who writes on progress in India, is no less a person than Sir Alfred Lyall, author of that extremely valuable and interesting volume entitled "Asiatic Studies." He does not take a very hopeful view. "Nothing depresses me more, as I survey the triumphant advance of material prosperity, than the gradual discovery that the English, while they are involuntarily undermining the whole fabric of our religious convictions, have nothing to offer that is likely to be accepted by the coming generation in India to replace that which is passing away." Let us hope that this view is too pessimistic.

Mr. Theo. Child writes very amusingly on the American newspaper press, whose gigantic proportions seem to strike him with amazement. His conclusion is expressed as follows: "Judging the American press as a whole, and from impressions formed not at a distance, but in the very country where it is written and read, I should characterize it generally as trivial, sensational, and essentially vulgar;" and there is more truth in this condemnation than an American quite likes to acknowledge. Here, is a curious item: "There are some 600 papers published in the German language, half a score in French, as many in Spanish, and others in Dutch, Italian, Portuguese, Welsh, Irish, Hungarian, Chinese, and Cherokee;" and he might have added Hebrew. There is a paper on the Bulgarian Imbroglio, and another on the Irish Problem.

The chemists are advised to read the leading editorial in Nature for November 26th, on "The Whole Duty of a Chemist." It is a vigorous review of a recent address by Prof. Odling, by one who evidently believes that man should not live by bread alone.

The American Journal of Science for October contained an interesting article by Prof. Mabery, on the reduction of boron, silicon, and aluminum, from their oxides, by means of a recently devised electrical furnace.

The Winter Games.

The Athletic Club held a winter meeting at the gymnasium Saturday, Dec. 19th. The various contests were close and interesting, and the tug-of-war for the class championship was very exciting. The attendance was small, though many ladies were present; and this may be in part accounted for by the fact that there were no sparring events.

There were five entries for the fence vault. G. L. Billings, '87, and G. A. Armington, '87, dropped out at 6 feet 2 inches. J. H. Mirrlees, '87, and W. L. Dearborn, '88, were the next to fail. H. F. Hill, '87, continued until he had vaulted 6 feet 9½ inches, but the handicaps allowed made Mirrlees and Dearborn a tie for first place, and Dearborn finally won by vaulting 6 feet 8 inches to Mirrlees 6 feet 7 inches. P. R. Fletcher, '87, put the shot (16 lbs.) 34 ft., and won the event; his sole opponent, F. R. Young, '86, making a put of but 31 ft. 6 in.

The first heat of the tug-of-war was between '88 and '89. The teams were as follows: '88, W. L. Dearborn (anchor), H. W. Clement, E. S. Daniels, and E. S. Jones; 89, A. Amory (anchor), G. D. Marcy, F. L. Pierce, and C. Cheney. The Freshmen held the slight advantage they had obtained in the drop until the last few seconds, when the Sophomores, by a well-timed heave, won the pull by half an inch. The result was unexpected, as '89 was represented by a strong team, and '88 had been unfortunate in one or two particulars.