

to his standard, from their graves, at his call of "Bonaparty!"—ceased to respond when "Ivan-angel," in the guise of a mortally wounded young Russian soldier, asked the Conqueror: "Tell me, please, what have you killed me for?" and so set in motion a train of thought which speedily softened the heart of stone. The young soldier's arguments on the subject of war in general could not be improved upon.

We commend the little story to the attention of both the warlike and the peacefully inclined who have not had the good fortune to make acquaintance with it in the pages of the *Outlook*. The translation is as racy as the original, and that is the highest compliment which can be paid. The sole defect is a lack of footnotes. For students of folk-lore, they would have been especially valuable. There are exceedingly curious traces of the Epic Songs (which are famous for having been handed down for hundreds of years by word of mouth only), intermingled with historical facts in the most telling manner. For example: Napoleon is said, in epic style, to have "desolated the whole Mohammedan kingdom" before he finally marches on a Christian country, Holy Russia. An amusing touch is the reason assigned for Alexander I. being called "the Blessed"—because he now "stands on the top of the column in Petersburg-town, and blesses the people with a cross"; the fact being that the figure on the Alexander column in the Winter Palace Square is an angel. The Emperor Alexander is then represented as leading his army to "the field of Kulikova," where he waited for "the miscreant Napoleonder," and a battle ensued. The Russian army then flees "from Kulikova-field to Pultava-field; from Pultava-field to the famous still-water Don; and from the peaceful Don to the field of Borodino, under the very walls of Mother Moscow." As in an earlier reference to "the great fighter, Anika," of the "Cycle of the Elder Heroes" and "the Island of Buan, in the middle of the ocean-sea," "Kulikova-field" (which reappears, under another title, in "the peaceful Don") is an echo of the "imperial or Moscow Cycle" of the Epic Songs, and refers to the famous battle fought in 1370, which broke the Tatar domination; while "Pultava-field" represents the famous battle between Charles XII. of Sweden and Peter I. in 1709; and the field of Borodino is far from being in the immediate neighborhood of Moscow. All three were fateful battles for Russia, as each annihilated a foreign Power, and the combination is capital. The statement, also, that Tsar Alexander had Napoleon put into an iron cage, and carried round and exhibited to the people at country fairs for the space of thirty years, is derived from the legends and epic ballads about the popular Kazak brigand, Stenko Razin, who was executed in 1671, and of Pugatcheff, the pretended Peter III., about a century later.

*Studies in Physiological Chemistry*, Sheffield Scientific School. Edited by R. H. Chittenden. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901. 8vo, pp. 424.

*Qualitative Chemical Analysis*. By Albert B. Prescott and Otis C. Johnson. 5th ed. entirely rewritten. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co. 1901. 8vo, pp. 420.

*Victor von Richter's Organic Chemistry*. Edited by R. Anschütz. Translated by

Edgar F. Smith. 3d American from 8th German ed. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Sons & Co. 2 vols., 8vo, pp. 625, 671.

*The Elements of Physical Chemistry*. By Harry C. Jones. Macmillan Co. 1902. 8vo, pp. 565.

Our readers would be far from curious to see minute dissections of technical books performed before their eyes. The volume from the Laboratory of Physiological Chemistry of the Sheffield Scientific School contains some two dozen experimental researches into different points of that science, well sustaining the high character of their home. They are preceded by an interesting catalogue of all the publications of the Laboratory since its institution in 1875.

The 'Qualitative Analysis' of Profs. Prescott and Johnson is a handbook every way modern, distinguished by its completeness. An introduction of 26 pages sets forth concisely the principles of the art, including sections on dissociation, the periodic system, etc. All the rare metals, excepting only such things as Polonium and Radium, are included; and the selection of acids treated is large. The authors, it is plain to see, have searched the "literature" of the subject exhaustively, and have not neglected experimental verification, wherever it was possible. Sufficient details are given as to precautions to be observed, and there are useful explanations of why peculiar phenomena are as they are. Earlier editions are well known; but this present work is largely new and a great improvement. In every respect, it will be most serviceable, especially to the accomplished chemist.

Von Richter's 'Organic Chemistry' has been so often rewritten that one might begin to fear effects of new wine in old bottles. Nothing of the sort appears. With what ingenuity a vast ocean of facts is packed away into these few, thirteen hundred pages, can be learned only by personal inspection. The digest is so uniform that one knows precisely what one may expect to find and where to look for it. The exposition is so luminous that a student who has once acquired the chemical memory can, with a reasonable amount of study, bring away all the outlines and many of the details. The first volume is chiefly given over to the fat-allied bodies; but, after they have been treated, room remains in the same volume for the carbohydrates, the albuminoids, and all that is beyond the ken of chemical theory to-day. That leaves the second volume for bodies of so-called cyclical constitution exclusively. This second volume carries authority as to fact beyond what one would have a right to demand of a compilation. Not only has it been executed with great general chemical judgment, but special parts have been revised by men specially acquainted with special groups of substances. The German editor's skill in exposition gains in this second volume, too; and the American translator manipulates his own language with more accomplished neatness. This work may be recommended as quite the most suitable that exists for almost every person who may desire to undertake almost any kind of study of organic chemistry. Common sense will set certain limits to this statement; and there are no others. If every person whom the description fits were provided with a copy of these vol-

umes, the sales would run up into quite modern numbers.

As to the subject of Professor Jones's book, one can go further. Every man of education would like to know something of organic chemistry; but every such man needs to know the principles of physical chemistry in about the measure in which Professor Jones's volume sets them forth. There are really two departments of science which join hands in this volume; first, the new Physical Chemistry, which takes account of the time of reaction, of dissociation, of the influence of mass; second, that somewhat ill-defined congeries of studies which used to be called Chemical Physics. Why should not these two phrases be allowed to stand, each in the peculiar sense in which it is usually employed? The newer subject captivates by its unexpected and prompt explanations of most important facts for which one had not seen any reason. It looms large from the viewpoint of to-day's science. Professor Jones's exposition of this branch is in almost every point excellent, and in the most important parts is everywhere more than excellent—often admirable. The older subject, the knowledge of which is fully as valuable, although at the present time it is not so active a factor in the metabolism of science, evidently does not interest the author so keenly. This is unfortunate, because this division is naturally placed first, and among the students of this work there will be some who, though somewhat at sea in chemistry, have pretty distinct and tolerably accurate notions of what good logic is and what bad. If a Clerk Maxwell could have been found to perform this more perfunctory part of Professor Jones's task, what a masterpiece might the two have made of it!

*Tribal Custom in Anglo-Saxon Law: Being an Essay Supplemental to (1) 'The English Village Community,' (2) 'The Tribal System in Wales.'* By Frederic Seebohm. Longmans. 1902. 8vo, pp. xvi, 538.

In this volume Mr. Seebohm tries to throw light on the division of classes in Anglo-Saxon society and the character of their holdings by investigating the subject from the point of view of tribal custom, whereas in his 'English Village Community' his chief purpose was to trace the origin of the manorial system by a careful study of the open-field system of agriculture. His main clue to an understanding of the division of classes is the amount of the wergelds or death-fines which were paid in lieu of the feud between kindreds, and his treatment of this subject leads to some long digressions concerning the currencies in which the death-fines were paid. He concludes "that there was a general correspondence in the amount of the wergelds tenaciously adhered to by the tribes of Western Europe, whether remaining in their old homes or settled in newly conquered countries." About half of the book is occupied with an examination of the tribal customs and monetary systems of the Welsh, Irish, Scots, Scandinavians, Burgundians, Visigoths, Franks, Saxons, and other Germanic tribes, so that the work might properly have been called 'Tribal Custom in the Early Laws of Western Europe.' The comparative method of historical study, when applied to early institutions, requires

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