

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### CARUS STERNE'S GREAT WORK ON THE MODERN SCIENTIFIC WORLD-VIEW.

The popular expositor of science *par excellence* of Germany is Carus Sterne. Not only have his works contributed as much as Haeckel's to the spread of Darwinistic views, but unlike Haeckel his literary labors have not been limited to biology, and every science the advancement of which has contributed to the intellectual and religious enfranchisement of mankind has been made the subject of his luminous expositions. With exuberant eloquence and imagination he combines astonishing erudition, and his researches in the field of classical and Northern mythology, for example, rival even those which he has made in the history of science. Nor is Carus Sterne an expositor of science purely; science has become for him first a philosophy and then a religion; and his works have accordingly assumed a deeply ethical and religious tone, which puts them, in spirit at least, quite in harmony with the teachings of *The Open Court*. Several of his essays appeared in the early volumes of *The Open Court*, and last year (July, August, October, November) translations of selections from his book on the history of civilisation were published.

Carus Sterne's greatest work, and that on which his fame chiefly rests, is his well-known *Werden und Vergehen*, or the story of the coming and the passing away of worlds and of life. Having been long exhausted, it has now appeared again in its fourth edition,<sup>1</sup> revised and enlarged, profusely illustrated with cuts, lithographic color-plates, etc., from the entire literature of science, and equipped in every way with the modern paraphernalia of exposition. It has the reputation in Germany of being the finest existing presentation of those results of scientific research which bear upon the great fundamental problems of life, and in its present improved form there is every reason to believe that it will sustain in other countries the credit which it enjoys at home. We can give in so brief a notice but a general idea of the luxuriant wealth of material contained even in the first volume of this work, which now lies before us. The first chapter treats of astronomy and cosmogony and is prefaced by a beautiful reproduction of the photographs of Mars by Schiaparelli. The second is devoted to geology and bears the title "The Diary of the Globe"; it has a fine colored picture of a coral archipelago, a photograph of

<sup>1</sup>*Werden und Vergehen*. Eine Entwicklungsgeschichte des Naturganzen in gemeinverständlicher Fassung. Von Carus Sterne (Dr. Ernst Krause). Vierte neubearbeitete Auflage, mit zahlreichen Abbildungen im Text, vielen Karten und Tafeln in Farbendruck, Holzschnitt, etc. Two volumes, 10 marks each. Berlin: Gebrüder Bornträger.

the Armand cave in the Lozère, and of a lagoon in the Great Barrier reef of Australia. Chapter III. is entitled "The Forms of the Mineral Kingdom" and gives an account of the formation of crystals and precious stones. Chapter IV. treats of the origin and development of terrestrial life (colored plate of siphonophores; photographs of the moon, the Colorado canon). The fifth chapter describes the kingdom of the Protista; the sixth, the "Youth of the Plant-World" (colored plate of mimicry of crustacea; photographs of basalt scenery). Chapter VII. has for its subject "Animal Colonies"; Chapter VIII. is devoted to "The Predecessors of the Higher Animal Forms" (colored lithograph of mimicry in insects); Chapter IX. to the echinoderms, etc.; Chapter X. to the Mollusca, etc., "The First Landlords" (photographs of the carboniferous period, etc.). The title of Chapter XI. is "From the Miltiped to the Quadruped"; of Chapter XII., "The Vesture of the Earth" (beautiful color-plate of the development of the violet, photographs of the fauna and flora of the geologic periods. The volume ends with Chapter XII., and besides 28 plates above indicated contains 396 cuts in the text.

The book, which is dedicated to Ernst Haeckel, contains a notable preface in which the author states his position with respect to the relations between religion and science, the responsibility which rests on every creed of sloughing off its superstitions as these are revealed by growing science, and above all the education of our youth from the point of view of absolute verifiable truth. The picture of the world here so beautifully portrayed by Carus Sterne is the picture that has been revealed by the patient toil of countless investigators extending through many centuries; it is that of science, philosophy, and religion in one; whoever wishes to contemplate the truth about the world in which we live, as that truth is shaped today, will do well to consult its pages, and they will find that their quest has been not in vain and that their efforts have been amply and pleasantly repaid.

---

### ANCIENT CIVILISATION IN EASTERN TURKESTAN.

A great sensation was created at the last international congress of Orientalists at Rome, in 1899, by the exhibition of a magnificent collection belonging to the British government, of antiquities gathered in the western part of Eastern Turkestan, and by a report of the important discoveries made by a Russian expedition in the eastern provinces of the same territory. These discoveries and explorations have acquainted us with the astounding fact that up to nearly one thousand years ago Eastern Turkestan was the seat of a luxuriant and thriving civilisation which reflected in its extraordinarily composite character the influence of the neighboring Chinese, Indian, and Græco-Asiatic civilisations.

The English collection consists of manuscripts and woodcuts, coins and seals, terra cottas and similar sculptures which were found in graves, towers, and other buildings, and dug up from localities covered with driftsand.

The most important find of the Russian expedition (1898) was the discovery of not less than 160 artificial caverns, which in some cases were connected with surface buildings in imitation of the various Buddhistic subterranean cloisters and temples of India. Many of these buildings are decorated with Chinese, Indian, and Turkish inscriptions, and with religious and secular frescoes.

The inscriptions are the most important of all these antiquities, for the reason that they are nearly all written in unknown characters and languages, which have quite unexpectedly placed Oriental research before an astonishing set of problems