

Through the truth-slaying prayer
of the body estranged.
Where's then the Lord righteous
smiting these out of life,
And from license would hurl them?
Mazda, Thine is that Kingdom
where to poor and right-living
Thou dost give, Lord, the best?"

OBITUARY.

PIERRE LAFFITTE.

French newspapers announce the death of the official head of the Positivist religion, M. Pierre Laffitte, a venerable octogenarian. He was installed in his office by the will of Auguste Comte who died in 1857. Since then the Positivist school was split into two parties, one which accepted the religious institutions of their master, the other which repudiated the idea of a positivist religion. The latter saw in Comte's last period of life a mere aberration and recognised only his scientific achievements. They represent the large body of scientists and freethinkers and follow the lead of Émile Littré. The former constitute the Comtists proper, a small sect of worshippers of humanity with peculiar rituals, prayers, and festivals. They hold their meetings in the Rue Monsieur-le-Prince, where their leader gave instructions in philosophy, theoretical and applied ethics, sociology and the history of religion, explaining the doctrines of Moses, Buddha, Confucius, St. Paul, and Mahomet.

M. Laffitte held the chair of a general survey of the sciences at the Sorbonne and leaves behind the following works: *Dictionnaire d'ouverture*.—*Des leçons sur l'histoire générale de l'humanité*.—*Des considérations générales sur l'ensemble de la civilisation chinoise*.—*Les grands types de l'humanité*, and *Cours de philosophie première*.

M. Laffitte still enjoyed the satisfaction that in May, 1902, a bust of his master Auguste Comte, was erected on the Place de la Sorbonne which was solemnly unveiled under the auspices of General André.

JULIUS VICTOR CARUS.

Dr. Julius Victor Carus, Professor in the University of Leipsic, a distant relative of the editor of *The Open Court*, died peacefully at an advanced age, on March 10th last. If he had lived a fortnight and a day longer he would have celebrated on March 25th the 80th anniversary of his birth. He was the editor of the *Bibliotheca Zoologica* and the author of many books, perhaps the most significant among them being his *Geschichte der Zoologie* published in 1872, in which he gives a synopsis of zoölogical development from the standpoint of evolution,—an undertaking which, in spite of the great progress which has been made in this branch of science, still remains unique.

Julius Victor Carus was the son of Ernst August Carus, Professor of Medicine at the University of Leipsic. He was born August 25, 1823, attended the Nicolai School till 1841, then the Universities of Leipsic (1841-1844) and of Dorpat (1844), where his father had been appointed professor of surgery. In 1846 he became the resident physician of the St. George Hospital and in 1849 took his doctor's degree at Leipsic. He filled successive positions at Würzburg, Freiburg-Baden, and Ox-