

BENJAMIN JOWETT.

The Rev. Benjamin Jowett, Master of Baliol College, Oxford, died suddenly on Sunday, October 1. Dr. Jowett was born at Camberwell, near London, in 1817. He was a distinguished graduate of Baliol College, and was successively a Fellow, Tutor, and at last, in 1870, Master of the college, which position he retained until his death. In 1882 he was appointed vice-chancellor of Oxford University for the term of four years.

**BENJAMIN JOWETT.**

Dr. Jowett is principally known by his works on Greek and by his masterly translations. Probably the best known of Dr. Jowett's works is his translation of Plato's Dialogues, published in 1871, including "The Republic." He received many honors, including the degree of LL.D. from the University of Leyden, and many other degrees from the great universities. In the death of Dr. Jowett the world has lost a great scholar and Oxford one of the best and most broad-minded of educators. For our portrait we are indebted to the *Outlook*.

A Wonderful Lighthouse.

The lighthouse board has been informed that a lighthouse is to be erected on Penmarch Point, Brittany. It will contain a "lightning flash" light of 40,000,000 candle power, casting a beam which can be seen in clear weather sixty-three miles away and in foggy weather twenty-one miles. This is by far the most powerful, searching and penetrating light known to science. It will cost about \$60,000, and be known as the Eckmuhl lighthouse.

STEAM VALVES, ETC., AT THE FAIR.

An interesting exhibit in Machinery Hall in the way of specialties in steam valves, etc., is that of the Roe Stephens Manufacturing Company, of Detroit, Mich. Among the leading articles in their display is Scott's patent improved straight-way valve, a first-class valve throughout, superior in workmanship and quality of metal. By the peculiar construction of the patent cylindrical wedge and the full circular bearing upon the back of the disk or gate the wear is taken from the face and seat, thus insuring a perfect seating and the impossibility of the disks springing, bending, or getting out of shape. The Scott bevel seat check valve and globe and angle valves with Scott disks are also shown. The Goldsmith throttle and main stop valves, etc., made solely by this company, are quick and easy opening and closing, and the valves and seats are so constructed that uneven wear is prevented, and all parts can be taken from the body and replaced without breaking pipe connections. The Rouse swing check valve has an adjustable valve seat that can be taken out and reground, and the valve is balanced to work like a poppet valve. The Michigan automatic injector, the Crescent ejector, and union elbows for hot water heaters are other specialties shown. The Orme pop safety valve and the Orme water relief valve, of which the company are the sole manufacturers, as well as the Scott pop safety valve and Scott water relief valve, have all received the indorsement of the government Board of Supervising Inspectors of Engineers. The exhibit displays the several specialties to excellent advantage.

A Foreigner's Impression of America.

Mr. Walter Besant, the English novelist, has been traveling in this country, and in an interview with a representative of the *Pall Mall Budget* he relates his impressions of the people and some of the cities he visited. We copy in part:

"What do you think of Chicago?"

"The business part of the city is ugly. It consists of vast blocks of buildings. Three of these blocks—they are contiguous, and each is eighteen stories high—accommodate no fewer than 9,000 people—principals, clerks, storekeepers, warehousemen, and others—every day. This part of the town is empty in the evening and is silent on Sunday; it is, in point of fact, very similar to our own 'City.' Outside the region of business there are beautiful villas forming suburbs like those which encompass London."

"And the inhabitants of this great city—what of them?"

"There is one great point to note in these towns," said Mr. Besant, by way of reply, "and that is the vast number of foreigners. In Buffalo, for example, there are a Polish quarter, a German quarter, an Irish quarter, and a native American quarter."

"But the English—have they no quarter?"

"They generally merge with the Americans. The Irish do not. They keep to themselves and form their own little political caucuses; but it would be an exaggeration to say that they are greatly beloved by the people in whose midst they have condescended to take up their abode. Some day, indeed, the Americans will rise and—but, there, we had better not talk politics."

"And the other races—the Poles, the Germans, and the like?"

"These will merge, like the English, with the Americans. And that very soon, I think. Listen to this little anecdote. While in New Haven, I was asked one day if I would have my boots 'shined.' It was a bright-faced pretty little fellow who accosted me. I asked him his name, and he said that it was Bobolovski, or something of the sort—spell it in your own way—and that he was a Polish Jew. He was only ten years of age, he said, and he got up every morning at six and went out to 'shine.' From nine to twelve he was at school. He 'shined' from twelve until the afternoon, when he went to school again, and in the evening he 'shined' once more. Now this little fellow was, in fact, a perfect American—there can be no question about it—although by birth he was a Polish Jew."

"And now, Mr. Besant, I should like a few of your impressions of America."

"I have not overmuch to say," the novelist replied. "The thing which struck me most was the fact that you have not seen America at all until you have been to Chicago. New York is not America, New York is a cosmopolitan city; Boston is not America, Boston is old; Philadelphia is not America, Philadelphia is asleep. But at Chicago you are in the very heart of the country—you are at the center of everything. Chicago will be to America what Babylon formerly was to Asia. The city and its inhabitants are young. They are rich in resource. They are full of confidence. They do not care what they spend. Consider what sums they have laid out over the Exhibition. 'We do not mind,' that is what they seemed to say, 'let the thing

of the many years that have rolled by since she first became a nation, is still young—young, vigorous, and rich in hope for the future."

PROFESSOR HELMHOLTZ.

Professor Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz, the distinguished German scientist, is now on his way home after visiting the Columbian Exposition and the Electrical Congress. Professor and Mrs. Helmholtz have been well received both in Chicago and New York, where receptions were tendered them in Columbia College and by the Century Club. Dr. Helmholtz delivered an interesting lecture at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, October 3,

**HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ.**

in which he described the ophthalmoscope, the story of its invention and how it was suggested and induced. This lecture was warmly applauded and was attended by many scientists, including Alexander Graham Bell, Seth Low, etc.

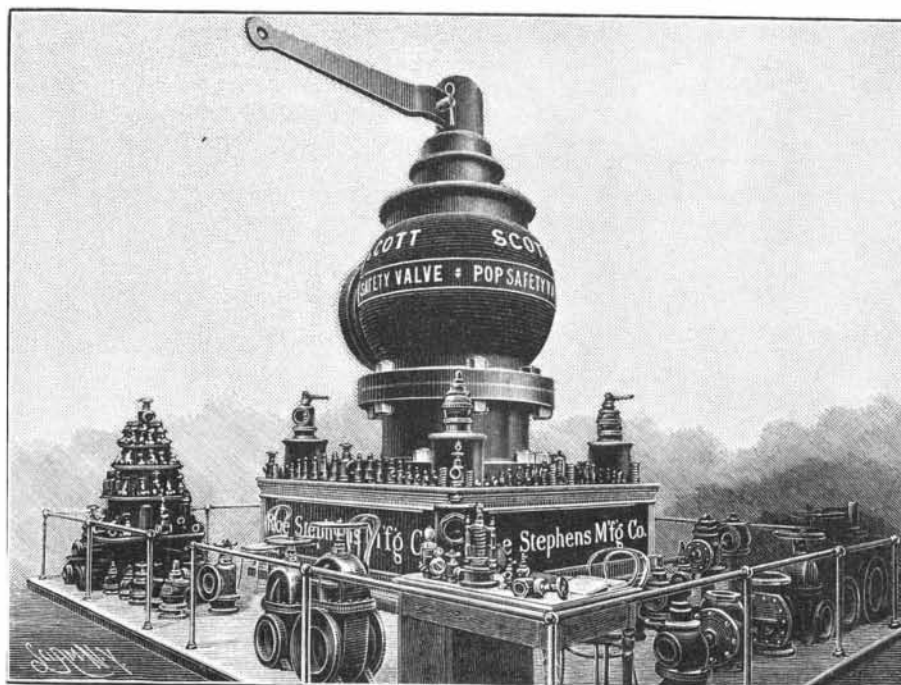
Dr. Helmholtz was born August 31, 1821, at Potsdam, Germany. He studied medicine and early in life made many discoveries in microscopy and fermentation. His discoveries and writings show that he has a deep insight in nearly all branches of science. In the year 1851 Helmholtz astounded the scientific world by his discovery and description of the ophthalmoscope, for examining the retina in the living eye. This invention, which is one of the crowning achievements of medical science in the nineteenth century, has saved the eyesight of thousands. The science of physiological optics owes a deep debt of gratitude to Helmholtz for his researches, which are of inestimable value. Appointed professor of physiology in the University of Heidelberg, he brought out his important book, "Doctrine of Tone Sensations as a Physiological Basis of the Theory of Music." In 1871 he was given the chair of physics in the University of Berlin, where he devoted much time to researches on electricity. Professor Helmholtz was invited in 1887 to preside over the physico-technical institution in Berlin founded chiefly by Dr. Werner Siemens. Professor Helmholtz accepted the call, but still retains the position of professor ordinarius in the university. In 1883 the German Emperor conferred on Herr Helmholtz and his family the honor of hereditary nobility.

An extended notice of the life and scientific services of Dr. Von Helmholtz will be found in the *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN SUPPLEMENT* of October 10, 1891.

Lighting of the Broadway Cable Cars.

The gas used in lighting these cars, as well as all cars using the Pintsch system, is made from crude petroleum, by the Pintsch system, from which a very rich gas of over 70 candle power is obtained, and which will stand a very high degree of compression without materially affecting its illuminating qualities. Coal gas, on the other hand, will not stand high compression, as it is a low candle power gas, and loses 50 per cent under compression, whereas oil gas loses only about 10 per cent. The plant which supplies the gas for the Broadway cars is located at the works of the Consolidated Gas Company, at 42d Street and Eleventh Avenue.

The ordinary folding fan is supposed to have been invented in Japan, in the seventh century, by a native artist, who derived the idea from the way in which the bat closes its wings.

**THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION—EXHIBIT OF THE ROE STEPHENS MANUFACTURING COMPANY.**

be a dead failure if it will; we can get plenty more millions later on.' These good people do not want to save, and they have no desire to endow a family. They give away enormous sums. During 'Commencement' at Harvard University, the president announced the receipt of donations amounting to something like \$750,000. Harvard is, indeed, richer than Cambridge. Yes," said Mr. Besant in conclusion, "America, in spite