

by the less careful with a confidence somewhat in inverse proportion to their present probability.

Errors of fact are few. The author says of the amount of radium yet obtained, "as a matter of fact, not much more than a gram exists." This is an understatement. He says of a recent paper by Mendeléeff, "On this hypothesis, Mendeléeff accounts fairly well for the properties of the ether." Mendeléeff himself would scarcely claim to have explained how a gas can convey transverse vibrations; until this is accomplished, the hypothesis in question cannot fairly be said to *begin* to account for the properties of the ether.

The author recognizes that he may be thought somewhat enthusiastic; there are some exuberant expressions, reminding one of a photograph made with a lens of extreme wide angle, and some epigrams on subjects too complex for the combination of epigram with justice, like the first phrase quoted above. Facts are well stated, and the balance between facts and more or less uncertain inferences is held with steady hand, while these inferences, most interesting, although uncertain, are adequately presented. The book ought to be received with much favor, and is heartily commended to all readers of our journal. EDWARD W. MORLEY.

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VACHER, F. Food Inspector's Handbook. 4th edition. 1905. Sanitary Publishing Co. 248 pages. 3/6.

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