

call for an exceptional effort of private charity; but workhouse relief has advantages for dealing with the lowest strata of poverty which private persons do not possess; and there need be no scruple about leaving apparently destitute applicants for help, when we can know nothing of their character or real circumstances, to the relieving-officer.

3. Gentlemen of leisure and public spirit may do much service by obtaining a knowledge of our public relief-system, by watching its administration, and by offering themselves for election as guardians of the poor.

4. By far the best way of battling with destitution and misery is to labour in those efforts which are likely to better the condition of the poor. Whatever

institutions and practices have a tendency to educate and encourage the poor, and to promote their self-respect, are more useful agencies "for the relief of distress," than those which may hold out a delusive hope to the improvident. A sober and industrious working man, even of the poorest class, ought to be able to stand against a fortnight's loss of work without running a risk of starvation. We may all remember, for the spring and the summer, the importance of sound efforts to encourage hope, and knowledge, and self-reliance amongst our poorer neighbours; and so, when the dangerous and irregular charity-work of this winter is over, we may be labouring beforehand most effectually to mitigate the sufferings of the next.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR HENSLOW.

HITCHAM, IPSWICH,
January, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR,

The manner in which my name is noticed in a review of Mr. Darwin's work in your number for December, is liable to lead to a misapprehension of my view of Mr. Darwin's "Theory on the Origin of Species." Though I have always expressed the greatest respect for my friend's opinions, I have told himself that I cannot assent to his speculations without seeing stronger proofs than he has yet produced. I send you an extract from a letter I have received from my brother-in-law the Rev. L. Jenyns, the well-known author of "British Vertebrata," as it very nearly expresses the views I at present entertain, in regard to Mr. Darwin's theory—or rather hypothesis, as I should prefer calling it. I have heard his book styled "the book of the day," on more than one occasion by a most eminent naturalist; who is himself opposed to and has written against its conclusions; but who considers it ought not to be attacked with

flippant denunciation, as though it were unworthy consideration. If it be faulty in its general conclusions, it is surely a stumble in the right direction, and not to be refuted by arguments which no naturalist will allow to be really adverse to the speculations it contains.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. HENSLOW.

EXTRACT.

"I see, in *Macmillan's Magazine*, you are arranged with Lyell, Hooker, and others in the list of those who have espoused Darwin's views. I was not aware you had become a convert to his theory, and can hardly suppose you have accepted it as a whole, though, like myself, you may go the length of imagining that many of the smaller groups, both of animals and plants, may at some remote period have had a common parentage. I do not, with some, say that the whole of his theory cannot be true—but, that it is very far from proved; and I doubt its ever being possible to prove it."

ERRATUM.

By a mistake in the article on "DIAMONDS" in the last number (p. 189), the weight of the Koh-i-noor in its cut state was given as $10\frac{1}{4}$ carats, instead of $103\frac{1}{4}$.