One of the most interesting and original investigations of the much-mooted subject of personal immortality is Prof. Gustav Theodor Fechner's little book, *On Life After Death*. The English translation by Hugo Wernekke, Head Master of the Realgymnasium at Weimar, first appeared in 1882, and was presented to its venerable author on his eightieth birthday. The book is written in a very popular style, and since the edition has long since been exhausted, the translator has thoroughly revised his work, which The Open Court Publishing Company now deems advisable to re-publish. A discussion of the publisher's position in regard to Professor Fechner's views, is contained elsewhere in this number of *The Monist*.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of The Monist:

In a discussion of the contemporary development of diplomacy in the July number of *The Monist* (Vol. XV, p. 474) the reviewer mentions as "the principle formulated by French kings in the impudent dictum, the ultimate reason of autocracy: *Car tel est notre bon plaisir*" and I regret to find here this trite assertion which is also a gross mistake.

Mr. Funck Brentano, who knows our seventeenth century so thoroughly, alluded to it quite recently in the review *Minerva* with reference to an historical novel by M. Henri De Régnier. "The *bon plaisir*," writes he, "is diplomatically a heresy, a barbarism, as Count Mas-Latrie demonstrated in such a scholarly way in his conclusive article published by *La Bibliothèque des Chartes*. The only formula used in the royal acts is *tel est notre plaisir*, and these words are handed down by tradition from the very distant times when *plaisir* had a far more serious meaning. "At present," writes Froissart, "he (a count of Flanders) is pleased to obey the ordinances and pleasures of the king of France and the French."

The pleasure, or "good pleasure," if the latter be preferred, was the king's verdict pronounced by him as head of the State, after due deliberation with his council, and which could be delivered only after it was countersigned by a secretary of the government. Many facts also show that *bon plaisir* was not more exact in a figurative than in a literal sense.

I thought it of some use to send you this correction for the information of your readers. I have no doubt but you will be glad to be warned against ready made judgments, repeated by partially or ill-informed people.

PARIS, FRANCE.

LUCIEN ARRÉAT.

With the beginning of a new volume, we have decided to change the style of *The Monist* by having the more important essays printed in pica type, which we hope will make the reading of weighty matter easier; and we are especially glad to have secured for this first number of the new year, two articles on the physical constitution of the universe, a subject which is interesting to all speculative minds, and should therefore not be forgotten in philosophy. Both are popular in style so as to give a clear insight into the present status of our knowledge as to the elementary composition of the smallest units of the materials that constitute the universe.