

original etheriform mass of our solar system condensed to cosmical clouds; the solid particles aggregated, forming large rotating bodies like the earth, which continue to enlarge by the addition of cosmical material from without. It is claimed that many meteorites are simply aggregations of meteoric dust; and numerous examples of the precipitation of such matter are described. The suggestion that eruptive rocks may be derived from accumulations of this kind is of special interest, since by some authors meteoric and eruptive rocks are classed together.

NOTES AND NEWS.

IN speaking of the benefit to be expected from the large telescope now building, Professor Asaph Hall recently said that we must not commit the common error of expecting too much from the use of such instruments. Measured by the relative amount of light gathered, the gain seems great; but, when we pass from a fifteen-inch objective to one of thirty inches in diameter, our gain in the visibility of stars is only one and a half magnitudes. It is true that the number of stars brought to view by the larger glass in the shell of our great celestial sphere is very great; but they are of the faintest kind, and the study of these stars is very laborious. And, moreover, all the obvious and striking discoveries of astronomy have been made long since.

—The fifty-fifth annual meeting of the British association, says *Nature*, will commence on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1885, at Aberdeen. The president-elect is Sir Lyon Playfair. The vice-presidents are the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, James Matthews, Professor Sir William Thomson, Alexander Bain, the Very Rev. Principal Pirie, Prof. W. H. Flower; general treasurer, Prof. A. W. Williamson; general secretaries, Capt. Douglas Galton, A. G. Vernon Harcourt; secretary, Prof. T. G. Bonney; local secretaries, J. W. Crombie, Angus Fraser, Prof. G. Pirie; local treasurers, John Findlater, Robert Lumsden. The sectional officers are as follows:—*A. Mathematical and physical science*: president, Prof. G. Chrystal; vice-presidents, Prof. C. Niven, Prof. A. Schuster; secretaries, R. E. Baynes, R. T. Glazebrook, Prof. W. M. Hicks (recorder), Prof. W. Ingram. *B. Chemical science*: president, Prof. H. E. Armstrong; vice-presidents, Prof. A. Crum Brown, Prof. H. McLeod; secretaries, Prof. P. Phillips Bedson (recorder), H. B. Dixon, H. Forster Morley, W. J. Simpson. *C. Geology*: president, Prof. J. W. Judd; vice-presidents, John Evans, Prof. W. C. Williamson; secretaries, C. E. De Rance, J. Horne, J. J. H. Teall, W. Topley (recorder). *D. Biology*: president, Prof. W. C. McIntosh; vice-presidents, Prof. I. Bayley Balfour, Prof. J. S. Burdon Sanderson; secretaries, W. Heape, J. Duncan Matthews, Howard Saunders (recorder), H. Marshall

Ward. *E. Geography*: president, Lieut.-Gen. J. T. Walker; vice-presidents, Professor James Donaldson, John Rae; secretaries, J. S. Keltie, J. S. O'Halloran, E. G. Ravenstein (recorder), Rev. G. A. Smith. *F. Economic science and statistics*: president, Professor Henry Sidgwick; vice-presidents, Prof. R. Adamson, Sir Rawson W. Rawson; secretaries, Rev. W. Cunningham, Prof. H. S. Foxwell (recorder), C. McCombie, M.A., J. F. Moss. *G. Mechanical science*: president, Benjamin Baker; vice-presidents, Prof. W. C. Unwin, Prof. H. C. Fleeming Jenkin; secretaries, A. T. Atchison (recorder), F. G. Ogilvie, E. Rigg, H. T. Wood. *H. Anthropology*: president, Francis Galton; vice-presidents, W. Pengelly, Prof. W. Turner; secretaries, G. W. Bloxam (recorder), J. G. Garson, Walter Hurst, A. MacGregor. The first general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 9, when Lord Rayleigh will resign the chair, and Sir Lyon Playfair, president-elect, will assume the presidency, and deliver an address. On Thursday evening, Sept. 10, there will be a *soirée*; on Friday evening, Sept. 11, a discourse by Prof. W. Grylls Adams; on Monday evening, Sept. 14, a discourse on 'The great ocean-basins,' by John Murray, director of the Challenger expedition commission; on Tuesday evening, Sept. 15, a *soirée*. On Wednesday, Sept. 16, the concluding general meeting will be held. The lecture to workmen will be on the 'Nature of explosions,' by Mr. H. B. Dixon.

—There has just appeared an index to the first thirty volumes of Pflüger's *Archiv für die gesammte physiologie*, the most important physiological periodical of the world. The contributors include a large majority of the well-known professional physiologists of all countries, and number, altogether, in the neighborhood of six hundred. Most of the names are German, but a remarkable proportion are Russian. Among those whose articles are most numerous, we find W. Engelmann, Heidenhain, Hermann, Luchsinger, Pflüger, Valentin, and Worm-Müller. Although the *Archiv* has been edited with little supervision as to the real merit of the papers, and contains therefore an undue proportion of inferior essays, it still remains the most important single repository of modern physiological research; and the index will be of constant value in rendering the stores it contains more accessible. We commit, we hope, no breach of confidence in stating that the index is due to the well-applied skill and patience of an able American physiologist, who was long associated with Professor Pflüger at Bonn.

—A botanical congress will be held during the Antwerp exhibition, dealing principally with the plant kingdom of the Kongo district. With this view, a Belgian *savant* has drawn up a list of questions, and sent them to be answered at the various cultivation stations of the International society.

—The University of Nebraska is to have a new chemical laboratory, which will furnish accommodations for eighty students in the general laboratory, and for thirty-two in the laboratory for qualitative analysis, besides lecture-rooms and minor laboratories for quantitative work, gas analysis, and assaying.