

measures are promptly taken to remove them, the disease will be less likely to attack a community so prepared, and, if attacked, such a community will be better able to cope with the disease and to reduce its ravages to a minimum.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION.—The American Public Health Association will hold its fifteenth annual meeting at Memphis, Tenn., on Nov. 8, 9, 10, and 11. The following topics have been selected by the executive committee for consideration at the meeting: 1. The pollution of water-supplies; 2. The disposal of refuse matter of cities; 3. The disposal of refuse matter of villages, summer-resorts, and isolated tenements; 4. Animal diseases dangerous to man. The president, Dr. George M. Sternberg, will in his address refer to the results of his investigation of yellow-fever in Brazil and Mexico. In view of the possible existence of this disease at Tampa, Fla., referred to elsewhere, this subject will be of absorbing interest. The committee on disinfectants will present a report embodying the researches and experimental work of that committee during the past year. Clergymen, teachers, engineers, architects, builders, and all interested in the practical work of the association, are cordially invited to be present.

EXPLORATION AND TRAVEL.

Manchuria.

IN *Science* of May 6, 1887, we mentioned the journey of three enterprising Englishmen through Manchuria. In a lecture delivered before the Royal Geographical Society of London, Mr. James, one of the travellers, gave a sketch of the country they traversed, from which we take the following notes: The most interesting part of the journey was that in the Chang Pai Shan (the 'Long White Mountains'). These were supposed to be more than 10,000 feet high, but the measurements of the travellers show that the loftiest peak is not more than 8,025 feet high. They are supposed to be sacred to the ancestors of the reigning dynasty of China, and it is sacrilege to trespass on them. Nevertheless the country has been rapidly settled in recent times. The colonists have formed themselves into associations or guilds for protecting their life and property against robbers, who infest all parts of Manchuria; and in this they have been so successful that their territory is the only one enjoying perfect security. Here the travellers learned that the highest peak of the mountains is the Lao Pai Shan (or 'Old White Mountain'). The road to this point led through thick forests and over bogs which were absolutely impassable for any beast of burden whatsoever: therefore they had to leave their mules behind, and continue their march by foot. The peak rises from a grassy plateau dotted with trees, through which subterranean streams make their way. The ascent to the summit was not very difficult; and here a crater 350 feet deep was found, at the bottom of which there was a beautiful blue lake, from which, according to the legend, the Manchurians sprang. The white color of the mountain is due to the color of the disintegrated pumice of which it consists. The principal rivers of Manchuria have their source in the Chang Pai Shan.

THE WELLE.—We may expect that the problem of the Welle, which has baffled geographers for a long time, will soon be solved. *Le Mouvement Geographique* says that the government of the Kongo Free State has charged Captain Van Gèle with the exploration of this river. The results of Van Gèle's ascent of the Obangi in the 'Henry Reed' are shown in the sketch-map in *Science*, No. 233. As the rapids of this river hindered his further progress, another route had to be adopted, and Van Gèle has decided to take that of the Itimbiri (Lubi). The sketch-map shows that the rapids of the Lubi are only about thirty miles distant from the Welle, and that Junker's Alikobo, the most western point reached by him, is only a few days' march from that point. Van Gèle's expedition started on July 1, in the 'Henry Reed' and 'A. I. A.', to ascend the Lubi, and proposed to cross the country in a north-westerly direction. Having reached the Welle, he intended to follow it to its mouth, and thus to ascertain whether it is identical with the Obangi or not.

DELAGOA BAY.—Consul H. E. O'Neill gives some interesting information on the state of affairs in Delagoa Bay in the August number of the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society. As

two important routes to the mining districts of Transvaal start from Delagoa Bay, the latter place has gained considerable importance. Though it belongs to the Portuguese, British trade is rapidly extending over this part of the coast. Upon the roads from Lorenzo Marques, which is situated on Delagoa Bay, to the interior, Englishmen are establishing themselves, and begin to monopolize the trade with the Swazi country. Over the inner frontier English gold-diggers are advancing into Portuguese territory, and many claims have already been registered in the secretariat of the government of Lorenzo Marques. The natives form one of the chief channels for the spread of English influences throughout this district. They work for a number of years in the English colonies, and then return with what money they have earned. Thus English money has become the currency of the country. The Portuguese are working on a railway from Lorenzo Marques to Barberton; but the work is advancing very slowly, and it will probably be a long time before it will be completed. Delagoa Bay is the first point at which actual contact has taken place between the British and Portuguese in South Africa; and it will be interesting to see how the latter, who have confined themselves for more than three centuries to the shores of the bay, will resist, or adapt themselves to, the vigorous life that characterizes the former.

THE SAMOA ISLANDS.—It will be remembered that in 1886 the United States, England, and Germany sent special commissioners to the Samoa Islands in order to settle the troubles that had arisen from the lively competition of these nations. It was proposed to submit the report of this commission to a conference. The Samoan troubles date from the attempt of the German Government to grant a subvention to a German firm which had plantations in Samoa. At that time the Americans, particularly Colonel Steinberger, made strenuous efforts to give a firm basis to the American influence on the islands, and made a treaty with King Malietoa. The Germans made a treaty with the same king in 1884, while the British consul tried to bring about an annexation of the islands by the colony of New Zealand. In course of time King Malietoa began to favor the Americans, and therefore the Germans supported his adversary, Tamasese. A short time ago the Germans, while the work of the commissioners was still going on, sent four men-of-war to Apia in order to demand compensation for certain plunderings. As Malietoa refused to pay, five hundred men were landed, and Tamasese was declared king of Samoa. Malietoa, who first intended to resist, followed the advice of the American and British consul, and submitted. It has been said that it is proposed to divide the islands among the three powers, but this seems improbable. The islands are at the present time of great importance, but this will be still more the case when the canal through the American isthmus is open, as they form an important station between Australia and America.

BOOK-REVIEWS.

The Social Question. BY J. H. OERTER. New York, E. Glaeser.

DR. OERTER has produced a small volume on the social question, which is all the more interesting because it is from the hand of a theologian. It does not derive any special authority from this fact, but it is indicative of what that profession is beginning to realize in its capacity of public teaching. It signifies the ultimate, although perhaps gradual, emancipation from traditional speculations that have no relation to the present sphere of human conduct and duty. Theological speculation, like poetry, may have a place in our fancies and ideals; it may even exercise a very wholesome influence in stimulating thought and action upon higher planes: but it must not set itself up for fact, nor ignore the existence of facts. No class of teachers needs a knowledge of social questions, facts, and forces more than the ministry, and we are glad to know that the number is increasing of those who find time and interest for studies vital to the moral growth of the future. Dr. Oerter's book is one of a number which enable us to measure the possibilities of the ministerial profession in forwarding the cool consideration of scientific facts. Dr. Strong's 'Our Country,' although a missionary appeal, and Heber Newton's 'Study of Social Questions,' form a kind of companion issue with this in point of general thought. They are not large and thorough treatises from men who have