

## NOTES AND NEWS.

ALL intending to be present at the meeting at Cleveland of the American Association should write to the Local Committee, 407 Superior St., for a copy of their circular giving full particulars of the course to be pursued in order to benefit by reduced fares. Certain conditions must be fulfilled before reaching the meeting.

— Jean-Charles Houzeau de Lehaie, honorary director of the Royal Observatory at Brussels, died at Schaerbeek, July 12. He was born at Mons on the 7th of October, 1820.

— Courtlandt Palmer died, July 23, at the Lake Dunmore House, Lake Dunmore, near Brandon, Vt., of peritonitis. Mr. Palmer will be remembered as the founder of the Nineteenth Century Club, a debating society devoted to the discussion of social, literary, artistic, theological, and scientific problems in the spirit of the broadest liberality, which has been held together for more than five years by the force of his energy and enthusiasm. Mr. Palmer has always been the president of this organization. Its first meeting was held at his residence, in Gramercy Park, in January, 1883, and for some time afterward the membership of the club was small enough to enable the president to offer to it the hospitality of his home. But the membership increased, and it became the fashion in polite society to attend the club meetings. The rooms of the American Art Association, on Madison Square, were secured, and half a dozen meetings were held every winter. Last season the club changed its meeting place to the handsome assembly rooms of the Metropolitan Opera House. There is no question that the Nineteenth Century Club has done good work. Mr. Palmer's enthusiastic devotion to his society never relaxed. By profession he was a lawyer, and he was born in this city forty-five years ago.

— The July-August number of *The Art Review* begins Vol. III. of the magazine and the new series of bi-monthly issues. The latter mode of publication will not only allow more time and care in the preparation of the 54 art supplements given annually by the magazine (6 etchings, 6 wood-engravings, and 42 full-page photogravures reproducing American scenery, paintings, statuary, architecture), but will also be better adapted to the review character of the articles, — descriptive and critical accounts of the more important exhibitions in New York and elsewhere, of our public art museums and private galleries, of picturesque American scenery, of the art status of leading American cities, of American architecture and industrial art, of American prints, coins, etc., as well as articles on general art topics, embracing both foreign and American art. In conformity with the reduction in the number of issues per annum, the subscription price is reduced from \$10.00 to \$7.50 a year. — Encouraged by the cordial reception given to *The Art Review*, the editor and publisher of the *Review* (Mr. George Forbes Kelly) will begin in September next a new art periodical, entitled *The Art Courier*, issued twice a month, or 24 times a year. This publication will aim to give the art news of the fortnight, presented in readable style, with brief editorial comments. Each number will have, as its art supplement, a photogravure, and these 24 plates will be furnished with the letter-press for the low price of \$4.00 a year. — Of the series of railway articles in *Scribner's Magazine*, the third, entitled 'American Locomotives and Cars,' by M. N. Forney, will appear in the August number, and will be entirely different in subject-matter, treatment, and illustration from the two preceding articles, which dealt with the construction of the road-bed. Mr. Forney will describe the evolution of the modern locomotive from Peter Cooper's engine, which weighed less than a ton, and the typical passenger car from the old stage-coach. — In the August number of the *Atlantic Monthly* two timely and practical contributions, which will be given close attention just now, are Horace E. Scudder's article on 'Literature in the Public Schools,' and a review of the new book of 'Political Essays,' by James Russell Lowell. Another practical contribution is furnished by President Eliot of Harvard under the caption 'Can School Programmes be Shortened and Enriched?' — The new number of Ticknor's admirable Paper Series of original copyright novels is 'The Rise of Silas Lapham,' by W. D. Howells. — *The Popular Science Monthly* is doing splendid service in showing the aspect of the great questions of the day from the scientific standpoint. The August number opens with an article entitled 'The Octroi at Issoire: a City made Rich by Taxa-

tion,' by President Jordan of the University of Indiana, which gives the imaginary history of a French town that sought prosperity through a high tariff. — The article, 'A Rare Fish,' in *Outing* for August deals with the salmon fishing of the Saguenay River. — In the August *Magazine of American History* 'The Conquest of the Mayas' is the fourth and concluding paper in Mrs. Alice D. Le Plongeon's historical sketches of Yucatan.

— The first report of this season's work has been received at the Hydrographic Office from the United States steamship 'Ranger.' The preliminary triangulation of Sebastiano Viscaino Bay, Lower California, has been completed. In order to make this triangulation, a party was left at Lagoon Head, in camp, with a heliostat constructed on board the 'Ranger' by using a state-room mirror. The flash was seen and cut in from Cerros, sixty miles distant, on a remarkably clear day, so that the triangulation was easily connected with a system of well-conditioned triangles to the base line measured at San Bartolomé Bay. The heliostat furnished to the ship is effective for a distance of forty miles, but could not be seen from Cerros. The aggregate length of the sides of the various triangles constructed was about a thousand miles, and the length of coast line surveyed, one hundred and nineteen miles. Ten places were occupied on the coast for the determination of the magnetic declination. The observations at Rosalia Bay show that the point of maximum easterly deviation has passed, and that now the declination is decreasing at that place. The hydrography is completed to Point San Eugenio. The great bay of San Sebastian Viscaino is well sounded out, and the east coast of Cerros Island is finished to within three miles of the north end.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## A Pseudometeorite.

ON JUNE 26 the Minneapolis, Minn., *Tribune* printed a special despatch from Rochester, Minn., stating that a meteorite weighing 203 pounds had fallen on the premises of Mr. A. Sias of that place; that the stone measured 20 inches in length and 12 inches in thickness, and was covered with a black varnish-like coating.

A small piece was kindly sent me by the owner, who also informed me that it was found in a gully which had about eighteen months ago been washed out by a freshet and since then had filled in with limestone. On this pile he found what he believed to be a meteorite.

The fragment sent is red hematite, probably from the Lake Superior region, and not of meteoric origin.

The finders still believe it to be a meteorite, because they cannot see how a mass of hematite could reach there. It is probable that this mass was left in an ore car and thrown out at the limestone quarry where limestone was obtained for flux, and subsequently carted from there with the limestone used in filling up the gully.

GEORGE F. KUNZ.

New York, July 23.

## Professor Loizette's Memory.

I AM glad that in your issue of July 20 you properly characterized 'Professor' Loizette's memory system and methods. I am one who started to become a pupil by 'correspondence,' and ended by becoming a victim. Having received, after the proper payment, the 'secret' lessons, I proceeded according to directions and transmitted a copy of my work for correction as per contract. Did I receive any attention? Not the least. Another letter, enclosing the proper stamps and explaining the first, drew no further response than a duplicate copy of the printed lessons and a pamphlet of useless advertisements. The 'Professor,' who had been so ready to receive my fee, did not deign, in person or by clerk, write a word, and I became conscious that I had been swindled. It is time, as you suggest, that I ought to have known better; but the most cautious are sometimes 'taken in,' and become an illustration of the adage that 'a fool and his money are soon parted.' However, although at considerable cost, I admit that the 'Professor' has improved my memory to that extent, and if I may serve as a warning to others, my experience may not be without its benefits.

CHARLES FLUHRER.

Grand Rapids, Mich., July 23.