

oned that over a million trees have been cut down to supply timber for the diamond mines, and the whole country within a radius of 100 miles has been denuded of wood, with the most injurious effects on the climate, as is generally believed there. The absence of trees to break the force of the wind and temper the heat of the sun, combined with the extreme dryness of the air, is thought to account for the dust storms so frequent in that region in summer.

ACCLIMATIZATION OF THE ENGLISH IN CEYLON.

In connection with the acclimatization of Europeans in the tropics, to which reference was recently made in these Notes, a statement made by a recent writer on Ceylon, who was for many years Judge of the Ceylon Supreme Court, may be of interest. The quotation, which is from an article in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* for April, is as follows: "When all is said, in a tropical climate, even of the best, we live, as it were, on sufferance, and the climate tells on the next generation. For every one of us who has his livelihood in Ceylon there comes the inevitable day when he must part from his children and send them home. This stern necessity has been styled a price which we must pay our Eastern possessions; and a heavy price it is." The pathetic strain of such a statement serves to emphasize anew the lesson that complete acclimatization of northern Europeans in the tropics is impossible.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

- F. H. BIGELOW: *Storms, Storm Tracks and Weather Forecasting*. Bulletin No. 20. United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau, 8 vo., Washington, 1896. Pp. 87. Charts 20.
- I. H. CLINE: *Influence of Climatic Conditions and Weather Changes on the Functions of the Skin*. Reprinted from Proc. Texas State Medical Association, 1896. Pp. 8. Chart

showing the pathological distribution of climate in the United States.

R. DE C. WARD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE University of Toronto has conferred the degree of LL.D. on Sir John Evans, President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; on Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and on three of the most distinguished English men of science, who are expected to attend the Toronto meeting of the British Association: Lord Lister, Lord Kelvin and Lord Rayleigh.

THE third annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America will be held in Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 17th and 18th, 1897, under the presidency of Dr. John M. Coulter. The Council will meet at 1 p. m. on Tuesday, and the first session of the Society will begin at 3 p. m. The address of the retiring President, Dr. Charles E. Bessey, will be given on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. The British Association for the Advancement of Science will meet in Toronto, August 18th to 25th. The opening address is to be given on Wednesday evening, August 18th. A fairly large contingent of British botanists and some Continental botanists of note are expected. This meeting will, therefore, probably give unusual opportunities for renewing or forming acquaintances. All foreign botanists present will be invited to sit as associate members of the Society and to read papers. This invitation will be addressed personally to all whose intention to come to Toronto is known, and will also be made known through the scientific papers.

MISS CATHERINE W. BRUCE, of New York City, has again shown her great interest in astronomy by sending Professor J. K. Rees, Director of the Columbia University Observatory, a check for fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500). The money is to be used in publishing the observations and reductions for 'Variation of Latitude and the Constant of Aberration,' made by Professors Rees and Jacoby and Dr. Davis. To this fund for publication there had been

contributed previously a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100) by Mrs. Esther Herrman, of New York City. Mrs. Herrman's interest in scientific matters has been evidenced by many generous gifts to the New York Botanical Gardens, the New York Academy of Sciences, etc. The intelligent interest of women in all original work in science has been exhibited abundantly in the past few years, and astronomy especially has been generously aided by the contributions of such women.

HENRY G. BRYANT, of Philadelphia, accompanied by S. J. Entrikin and E. B. Latham, has started for Alaska for the purpose of climbing Mt. St. Elias and making explorations in the adjacent region. Mr. Bryant, as is well known, has had experience in exploration in Labrador, and has made summer trips to Greenland. Mr. Entrikin was with Peary in Greenland and made an expedition over the inland ice. Mr. Latham is a member of the U. S. Coast Survey, and goes equipped for geographical work. The party will be increased by three or four camp hands in Seattle, and will establish a base camp on the west shore of Yakutat Bay early in June. Their plan is to cross the Malaspina glacier to the Samovar Hills; from there ascend the Agassiz glacier, and thence up the Newton glacier to the divide between Mt. Newton and Mt. St. Elias. A camp will be established on the divide, elevation about 13,000 feet, from which the ascent to the summit of Mt. St. Elias will be made. On returning to the Samovar Hills the explorations will be continued westward through an entirely unknown region until a pass is discovered which will enable the explorers to cross the St. Elias Mountains and gain one of the branches of Copper River. The return to the coast will be by way of Copper River. The party is well equipped and has every prospect of success.

DR. E. J. STONE, F.R.S., the well-known astronomer, Radcliffe Observer, at Oxford, died on May 9th. Mr. A. D. Bartlett, Superintendent of the London Zoological Society's Gardens, died on May 7th at the age of 85. He had contributed many valuable papers to the meetings of the Society. Mr. Legrand Des Cloizeau, formerly professor of mineralogy at

the Paris Museum of Natural History, member of the Section of Mineralogy of the Paris Academy, died on May 8th, aged 79 years. Mr. Theodore Bent, known for archæological and geographical explorations, died on May 5th from the effects of malarial fever, contracted while carrying out explorations in Arabia.

AMONG the deaths at the fire in the Paris Charity Bazaar was that of Dr. Feulard, a well known student of dermatology. He had taken his wife out of the building and was killed while returning to rescue others.

MR. F. D. GOODMAN, F.R.S., has been elected President of the British Ornithologists' Union.

THE custodianship of the Great Serpent Mound in Adams county, Ohio, has been transferred by the Peabody Museum of Harvard University to the Ferris Memorial Library of Madisonville.

THROUGH the influence of President David Starr Jordan arrangements have been made for the establishment of zoological gardens in San Francisco.

THE report of the committee of the National Academy of Sciences on a forestry policy for the United States was ready on May 1st, but has been delayed in printing. It is now expected, however, that the complete report will be sent at once to Congress by President McKinley.

THE twenty-sixth Congress of the German Surgical Society was held at Berlin from the 21st to the 24th of April. It appears from the account in *Die Natur* that special attention was given to the applications of X-rays to surgery.

IN addition to the Section of Nervous and Mental Diseases of the International Medical Congress at Moscow, there is to be held an International Congress of Neurology, Psychiatry and Medical Electricity and Hypnotism, from the 16th to the 19th of September, in connection with the Brussels International Exposition. The English program for this Congress is sufficiently curious to deserve quotation. Among the questions submitted for special discussion are: 'Influence of the Delivery on the Nervous and Mental Diseases presented later by Children,' and 'The Question of Criminal Suggestions: its Origins and Actual State.' Among

items given under 'Advice' are "The personal communication may not dure longer as twenty minutes unless the President finds that the duration may be prolonged," and "Independently of the questions treated by the reporters, members are authorized to do personal communications."

IN connection with the International Medical Congress at Moscow a two weeks' excursion has been arranged to the Caucasus, visiting the celebrated mineral baths of which Kislovodsk is the center and traversing the region notable for its fine scenery. The members of the Congress will be charged only thirty dollars for transportation and for sleeping accommodation on the trains and steamboats.

AT the Child-study Conference held recently at Chicago a North American Child-study Association was formed with the object of establishing State Societies and promoting the interests of the work.

MRS. ELLEN B. FRENCH has bequeathed \$5,000 to Beloit College on condition that no vivisection shall ever be practiced there. Should this condition not be accepted the money goes to the American Humane Society of Boston.

THE last of the public lectures of the present year before the New York Academy of Sciences will be delivered this evening by Dr. Harwood Huntington, his subject being 'The Technology of Cotton Cloth.'

THE Swiss Zoological Society, founded in 1894, has undertaken to prepare a *Fauna Helvetica*. Preliminary studies are being encouraged with this end in view and are published in the *Revue Suisse de zoologie*, edited by Dr. Bedot.

THERE is to be held, in conjunction with the Brunswick meeting of German men of science and physicians, an exhibition of scientific objects and instruments. It is expected to make the exhibit in scientific photography especially complete, this year being the first in which that subject is represented by a special section.

It has been the custom at the annual meetings of the British Medical Association to have an exhibition of pathological and anatomical specimens, and of apparatus more especially

connected with the teaching and demonstration of anatomy, physiology and pathology. This year the Museum will be held in the dissecting room at McGill University, where ample accommodation and light is afforded to demonstrate the specimens to every advantage, while, to further aid the exhibition, a special grant has been obtained from the general committee. It is suggested that a special feature of the year's exhibit should be a collection of photographs and micro-photographs, illustrating interesting abnormalities of any kind whatsoever.

AN observatory is to be established at Odessa as a branch of the observatory at Pulkowa.

THE lenses for the great telescope of the Yerkes Observatory were shipped from Cambridge on May 17th on a special parlor car, in the care of Mr. Alvan G. Clark and two assistants.

THE Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland will hold its annual summer meeting on June 10th and 11th. An evening address will be given by Professor His, of Leipzig.

Nature states that the Geological Commission of Cape Colony has published a bibliography of South African geology, containing a list of nearly 600 papers.

THE Berlin Academy of Sciences has granted Professor Paschen, of Hanover, M. 1,100 for experiments on the energy of the spectra of dark bodies, and M. 1,000 to Dr. Hertz for the reduction of observations from the Kuffner Observatory.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Committee of the Puffin Island Biological Station have decided to offer facilities to students and others for the pursuit of scientific research at the Station during the summer months. The island is well situated for the study of both marine zoology and ornithology, and the Station is provided with sleeping accommodation in addition to the usual laboratories. Those wishing to avail themselves of the present opportunity should communicate with the Director, Professor P. J. White, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

THE Italian correspondent of *The Lancet*

writes of the destruction of Captain Bóttego while engaged in exploring the basins of the Gava and of the Omo, the regions between the Nile and Lake Rodolfo. Captain Bóttego left Brava in the Benadir on October 12, 1895; reached Lug on November 18th, founded the station, started on December 27th with 180 men along the Ganane and the Gava, and kept the Geographical Society informed of his successes till April 22, 1896, when it forwarded him news of the disasters in Abyssinia. The bearer of this reached Lug in May and started in quest of the expedition. Meanwhile indirect news of Captain Bóttego and his column as late as October last represented him as having gained the south shore of Lake Rodolfo on his return journey, and further tidings reached London that he was making for the coast of the Indian Ocean, till on April 23d King Menelik received a despatch announcing that on the Ethiopian frontier towards Baro Captain Bóttego had come into conflict with a native tribe and had been killed, that two other Italians were made prisoners, and that the fourth Italian member of the expedition had not been heard of. Whether this is the medical officer, Professor Maurizio Sacchi, an able naturalist, is not yet known.

WE have already called attention to the International Congress of Mathematicians to be held at Zurich. According to the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society* the local committee announces the following general program: Meetings of the entire Congress will be held on Monday, August 9th, and Wednesday, August 11th, at which questions of a more general character will be discussed. Papers dealing with special subjects will be presented before the various sections on Tuesday, August 10th. The Congress will direct its attention not only to purely scientific questions, but also to matters of an executive and business nature, such as questions of bibliography, lexicography, terminology, cooperative scientific undertakings, including historical investigations, comprehensive reports, the publication of treatises, the holding of expositions, etc.

AN article in a recent issue of the *London Times* advocates the renewal of Antarctic ex-

ploration under the auspices of the British government. Belgium will send out an expedition next September to the neighborhood of the Antarctic, but it will be a small one and will devote itself mainly to oceanographic work in the vicinity of Graham's Land. There has been some talk of a German expedition, but the collection of the necessary funds seems to be making slow progress. It is estimated that the cost of an expedition need not exceed £50,000. The writer of the article says that there is reason to hope that, if the Government decides not to intervene, the Royal Geographical Society is prepared to attempt to organize an expedition to the Antarctic and so save the credit of England. It was primarily at the instigation of this Society that Ross's expedition was sent out over half a century ago, and many other expeditions hardly less formidable have been equipped under the auspices, and partly or wholly at the expense, of this Society. Obviously in this case, however, the funds required are beyond its means. But there can be little doubt that, if the Society is in earnest about an Antarctic expedition, there are men able and, if appealed to in the right way, willing to follow the brilliant example set by Mr. Harmsworth. Under its present able, energetic and enthusiastic President, Sir Clements Markham, the Society need not hesitate to enter upon this enterprise. Moreover, it is impossible not to believe that the Government, if once the enterprise were fairly started, would lend its aid in one shape or another.

THE May number of the *Engineering Magazine* contains an account taken from French technical journals of the *Société des Ingénieurs Civils de France*, and its new building. The Society was organized in 1848 with a membership of 134. The membership now reaches a total of 2,724, and the Society stands as one of the leading professional organizations of Europe. Its monthly transactions, '*Memoires et compte rendu des travaux de la Société des Ingénieurs Civils de France*,' are everywhere recognized as the record of the best work of French engineers, and membership in the Society is an acknowledged mark of professional eminence. A new building has been recently constructed for the

use of the Society in Paris, the dedication ceremonies having taken place on January 14th, President Faure assisting. The cost of the building alone was \$100,000, to which must be added the cost of the ground, \$80,000. On the ground floor is the large meeting room, which, including the communicating conversation room, measures 72x49 feet, and is of interest because of the peculiar construction of the floor, whereby it may be mechanically lowered at the platform end and thus in a few minutes be converted into a sloping hall for meetings. The upper floors, in addition to offices, committee rooms, etc., contain ample room for the valuable library, a laboratory, a photographic room and the residence of the General Secretary. The building was constructed in the short space of nine months from designs by Professor Delman, in the style of architecture of Louis XIV.

It is stated in the *British Medical Journal* that a professor of the Paris Natural History Museum accidentally discovered an entrance into subterranean passages running underneath the Jardin des Plantes and a part of the Boulevard Saint-Marcel. The archives of the Museum furnish proof that these galleries were constructed by the Romans; in the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries they were repaired and consolidated, and are now in perfect order. Nothing is known as to the purpose they served. M. Armand Viré, a corresponding member of the Museum, asked for permission to use the passages as a laboratory for researches on animal life inhabiting caverns, and studying the successive phases in the transformation of these degenerate forms of life, and the laboratory was inaugurated a few days ago. M. Viré, followed by fifty invited guests, bareheaded and stooping, each carrying a candle, traversed the labyrinth of galleries until they reached a round hall, the roof of which is supported by a stone column. This is the principal laboratory. It contains stone tables with perfectly flat surfaces. The water supply is assured by a good system of pipes. Seine water was in the first instance used, but the animals died. They were replaced by others, which were given spring water and are in a flourishing condition.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY rejected, on May 21st, the proposal to confer degrees upon women by a vote of 1,713 to 662.

A COMMITTEE of the Board of Trustees of the College of the City of New York has recommended that eight assistants be appointed to assistant professorships, with salaries from \$2,500 to \$3,500, according to term of service. The promotions are expected to include Charles A. Doremus, chemistry and physics; Ivan Sickles, natural history; and Gustave Legras, J. R. Sim and C. R. Smith, mathematics.

MISS MARY CLOYD BURNLEY, of Swarthmore, Penn., who will receive the degree of B.A. from the Woman's College of Baltimore in June, has received the fellowship in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College for next year. Miss Burnley also receives a summer scholarship in biology at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, Mass., from the Woman's College.

DR. FRECH has been promoted to a full professorship of geology in the University of Breslau, Dr. Carl Paal to a full professorship of pharmaceutical and applied chemistry in the University of Erlangen, and Dr. Raphael Freiherr v. Erlanger and Dr. Paul Samassa to associate professorships of zoology in the University of Heidelberg. Dr. Bredt, of Bonn, has been made full professor of chemistry in the Polytechnic Institute at Aix, and Professor Franz Meyer, docent in mathematics in the School of Mines at Clausthal, has been called to the University of Königsburg.

A SPECIAL course in paleontologic geology will be given by Mr. Stuart Weller at the University of Chicago during the summer quarter beginning July 1st. The course will be devoted to the laboratory study of fossil invertebrates. Its aim will be to give instruction and training in the identification of fossils and in the interpretation of fossil faunas. The work will be entirely individual in its character and will be adapted to the special wants and needs of each student. The offering of the course is experimental and its repetition will depend upon the demand which may be found for it. There will accompany this a class-room course