

ties. The protest against the measures taken by the Prussian police authorities has been signed by most men of science in Cracow and Lemberg, and forwarded to the Polish members of the Austrian Parliament.

Nature states that efforts are being made to secure for the Maidstone Museum and Public Library the collection of prehistoric flint implements formed during the past thirty-four years by Mr. Benjamin Harrison, and illustrating important periods in the early history of man in Great Britain and elsewhere. It is proposed to select, from the specimens in Mr. Harrison's collection, the type series chosen from the chalk plateau implements by Sir Joseph Prestwich to illustrate his monographs upon the subject of plateau or eolithic implements, and other type implements which have been figured and described by other writers; a series to show variety of form and the probable uses to which these implements have been put; a collection of paleolithic implements from gravels in the West Kent district; and type series of neolithic implements found in Kent. The Maidstone Museum is situated in the immediate vicinity of the district in which they were discovered. An appeal for subscriptions to purchase the collection, signed by the Mayor of Maidstone, has been issued by the Museum Committee and nearly £100 have been subscribed.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that during the first few years after the foundation of the Anticharbon Institute at Turin the number of tubes of anticharbon vaccine sent out was only 4,000 to 5,000 a year. Professor Pagliani, then Director of the Public Health, decided that the Laboratory, which had been founded at Turin by Perroncito, should be removed to Rome. Immediately after this the production of vaccine greatly increased, as it was found possible to reduce its price. In the disorganization which overtook the Department of Public Health two years ago this laboratory came to grief; fortunately, however, its work was taken up by the Sero-therapeutic Institute of Milan, from which the vaccine continues to be sent out under the supervision of Professor Airoidi, a former assistant of Perroncito. Now the

yearly output of anticharbon vaccine amounts to 165,000 tubes. From May 1, 1897, to April 30, 1898, sufficient vaccine was sent out to inoculate 33,734 bovine and 98,792 ovine animals. Anthrax has greatly diminished in Italy in recent years; but, in spite of the large amount of anticharbon serum supplied, a good many cases still occur, both among animals and among men, in different parts of the country.

THE Committee appointed by the Board of Trade, a year ago, to consider and advise upon the means of obtaining and publishing information as to opportunities for the introduction and development of British home trades in the various districts in which we have official representatives have adopted their reports. According to *Nature* it is suggested that the most economical course would be to send out experts periodically to make inquiries and to report upon the progress and the direction of trade. The Committee recommend the establishment of an office whose function it shall be to meet the constantly-increasing demand for prompt and accurate information on commercial matters, so far as it can be met by government action. Amongst the duties of this new office would be: (1) To collect and focus existing information upon any subjects of commercial interest, whether derived from official or from unofficial sources, and whether relating to British colonies or dependencies or to foreign countries. (2) To reply to inquiries which can be answered by a short note or by word of mouth, or by reference to published commercial data and statistics. (3) To direct inquirers who want special information to the proper quarter, *e. g.*, to the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office, the office of a particular colony, Chamber of Commerce, the Imperial Institute, and so forth. The proposed office would also bring together all the information contained in the diplomatic and consular reports bearing upon particular industries and the state of the market for particular classes of goods.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

DR. WILLIAM P. GRAHAM has been appointed associate professor of electrical engineering in Syracuse University.

At the Leland Stanford, Jr., University Mr. F. Atheling has been appointed assistant in mathematics and Mr. F. B. Baum assistant in electrical engineering.

THE corporation of Brown University will hold its annual meeting on September 8th. A successor to President Andrews will probably not be selected, but a committee will be appointed to consider the question. The report now goes that the Rev. Edward Judson, pastor of a Baptist church in New York city, is likely to be selected. The President of Brown University must be a Baptist.

MR. J. A. JOHNSTON has been appointed professor of physics and mechanics at the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

DRS. LENK AND FLEISCHMANN, associate professors of mineralogy and zoology, respectively, at Erlangen, have been promoted to full professorships. Dr. Heim has been appointed professor of botany in the Agricultural College at Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

BASIL VALENTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The very interesting article by Mr. C. S. Pierce in your issue of August 12th reminds me that several years ago I bought, in Brentford, England, a Latin edition of the 'Triumph-Wagen des Antimonii,' published in 1646. As Mr. Pierce makes no mention of this edition, it may possibly be worth while to call attention to it. The title-page reads as follows:

"CURRUS TRIUMPHALIS ANTIMONII: FRATRIS BASILII VALENTINI Monachi Benedictini. OPUS *Antiquioris Medicinæ & Philosophiæ Hermeticæ studiosis dicatum.* E Germanico in Latinum Versum opera, studio & sumptibus Petri Joannis Fabri Doctoris Medici Mompeliensis. *Et notis perpetuis ad Marginem appositis ab eodem illustratum.* TOLOSÆ. Apud PETRUM BOSC, M.DC.XLVI."

Dr. Faber dedicates the book to the 'illustrissimo ac reverendissimo D.D. Carolo de Montchal, Archiepiscopo Tolosano Regis Christianissimi Consiliano Meritissimo.' He also contributes an introduction. "The book was the

property of one Samuel Whitlock, who has made numerous marginal notes.

"The existence of this edition, while proving nothing, appears to show that about forty years after the original publication no doubt was entertained as to the authorship of the work."

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

MESILLA PARK, NEW MEXICO, August 16th.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Fossil Plants for Students of Botany and Geology.

By A. C. SEWARD, M.A., F.G.S. With Illustrations. Vol. I. Cambridge. 1898. Pp. xviii + 452. Cambridge Natural Science Manuals. Biological Series.

There has been for many years an increasing demand for a work on fossil plants that shall be at once comprehensive, scientific, and sufficiently popular for the lay student. Balfour's 'Introduction to the Study of Palæontological Botany,' Edinburgh, 1872, was too elementary, and was restricted to British material. Saporta's 'Monde des plantes avant l'apparition de l'homme,' Paris, 1879, comes nearer to the ideal, but it is now old and out of date in view of the rapid advance of the science. 'L'évolution du règne végétal,' by Saporta and Marion, in three small volumes, 1881-1885, is much more special and somewhat popular and an exceedingly suggestive work. Count Solms-Laubach's 'Einleitung in die Paläophytologie,' Leipzig, 1887, is the work of a specialist, and proceeding professedly from the botanical standpoint does not claim to cover the whole field, and is really a series of special investigations, largely confined to internal structure, and arranged in no systematic order (*e. g.*, the 'Cycadeæ' are treated before the ferns, and the Calamariæ before the Lepidophytes). The English translation of this work, published four years after the German edition, contained no revision, although there had been great advance during this interval in solving the problems discussed.* Sir William Dawson's 'Geological History of Plants,' New York, International Scientific Series, 1888, is little more than the geological history of the Devonian of Canada, although a pleasant book. The second part of Zittel's

* See SCIENCE, Vol. XVIII., No. 464, New York, December 25, 1891, pp. 360-361.