

*THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.*

DR. J. W. GREGORY, who was appointed scientific leader of the British Antarctic Expedition and as such recently contributed to *Nature* a plan of the scientific work, has now stated that he cannot accept service under the regulations laid down. This resignation, for so it has been regarded by the committee, is a very severe blow to the prospects of the expedition, or at least to the scientific results that might have been expected. Some, perhaps, prophesied failure when they saw the attempt that was made from the first to place the expedition under admiralty control and naval discipline. Friction and consequent heat became inevitable when the committee proceeded to appoint two leaders—a naval and a scientific—without defining their powers from the outset. It is well known that the meetings of this committee have been a series of fights between the geographers and naval men as opposed to the purely scientific men; and Dr. Gregory has over and over again been on the point of resigning. We understand that the ultimate dispute was over the question of landing, which Dr. Gregory wished to have fixed as a main object of the expedition, and not left entirely to the discretion of an unscientific commander. But the actual cause of rupture is immaterial. The position, thanks to the naval manoeuvres, has always been an impossible one for the scientific men. While Dr. Gregory's absence in Australia has placed him at a disadvantage. Sir Clements Markham may be congratulated; but the committee will have a difficulty in finding a head for the scientific staff with half the competence of Dr. Gregory. The only satisfactory feature of the affair is that there has been no unpleasantness between members of the scientific staff, though doubtless some of them would be glad to follow Dr. Gregory's example.

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

DR. FREDERICK PETERSON, of Columbia University, has been appointed by Governor Odell the medical member of the State Lunacy Commission. Dr. Peterson's appointment at the present time is especially fortunate, owing to the complications in connection with the State Pathological Institute, which will doubtless be settled with regard to the best interests of science and the care of the insane in the State hospitals.

At a meeting of convocation on April 20th, McGill University conferred on Dr. Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey of Canada, the degree of Doctor of Science.

DR. JACOB ERIKSSON, professor of plant physiology at the Agricultural Station, Stockholm, has been elected a member of the Stockholm Academy of Sciences.

DR. ERNST KOKEN, professor of mineralogy and geology in the University at Tübingen, has been elected a corresponding member of the Geological Society of London.

THE Geographical Society of Paris has awarded the Henri Duveyrier gold medal to Dr. Cureau and the Alexandre Boutroue silver medal to Dr. F. Weisgerber.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of D.Sc. upon Professor A. H. Church, F.R.S., in recognition of his contributions to chemical and mineralogical science.

A. S. HITCHCOCK, of the Kansas Agricultural Station, has been appointed assistant agrostologist in the United States Department of Agriculture.

DR. CLAYTON H. SHARP, instructor in physics at Cornell University, has resigned this position to become testing officer of the Lamp Testing Bureau. This bureau is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, which has hitherto been engaged solely in testing incandescent lamps, but which is in the near future to establish a laboratory in New York City for testing and standardizing not only electric lamps, but also all kinds of electrical apparatus and instruments.