

James Dewar, Sir Archibald Geikie, Professor H. A. Miers, Sir Henry Roscoe and Dr. Selater. The coordination of the work of the various local committees had been carried out under the direction of the central organizing committee for South Africa, sitting at Cape Town, consisting of Sir David Gill (chairman) and Dr. J. D. F. Gilchrist (secretary). An additional expenses fund having been opened to supplement the subvention of £6,000 from the South African colonies, contributions amounting to £3,100 had been received.

The following agreement has been made between the British Association and the South African Association in the matter of financial arrangements respecting the annual meeting in 1905: (1) That all members (but not associates) of the South African Association shall be entitled to associates' tickets at the meeting of the British Association in South Africa in 1905; (2) that the South African Association shall pay a contribution of £500 to the funds of the British Association; (3) the South African Association guarantees the purchase of a thousand copies at least of the annual volume, the copies to be sent direct to the members of the South African Association on payment to the British Association by the South African Association of the sum of 8s. per copy.

A committee of the council, consisting of Professor G. H. Darwin, Sir A. Geikie, the general secretaries and the general treasurer, was authorized to consider the appointment of an assistant secretary, in succession to Dr. Garson, resigned, with the result that Mr. A. Silva White was unanimously appointed to fill that office.

The books and other publications presented to or received in exchange by the association, with the exception of the publications of the corresponding societies of the association and the annual volumes of reports of the various Associations for the Advancement of Science, have been transferred to the Library of University College, Gower Street, the council of University College having undertaken to give the same facilities to members of the British Association for the use of University College

Library as were granted under similar circumstances by the University of London.

The council also reported on a plan for dealing with the meteorology of the British colonies and the relation of the association to corresponding societies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Anthropological Association is meeting this week at San Francisco under the presidency of Dr. Frederic Ward Putnam, of Harvard University and the University of California. The preliminary program contains the titles of thirty-nine papers, which proves that the anthropologists at least can hold an unusually successful meeting in the summer and on the Pacific Coast. We hope to print subsequently abstracts of the papers.

MR. W. R. DUNSTAN, F.R.S., director of the scientific and technical department of the Imperial Institute; Mr. F. W. Dyson, F.R.S., chief assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., director of the National Physical Laboratory, have been elected members of the council of the British Association.

THE regents of the University of California have granted a year's leave of absence to Professor Wm. E. Ritter, of the department of zoology, for research at the San Diego Marine Biological Station and travel abroad. Associate Professor Charles A. Kofoed will have charge of the department in his absence. Mr. C. O. Esterly, Mr. L. Griggs and Dr. Alice Robertson have been appointed assistants in zoology.

MR. GEORGE K. CHERRIE, of the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute, has just returned from South America, where he has been collecting for that institution. He obtained about 800 bird skins representing very fairly the avifauna of the region about Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela. These include a fine series of the Hoatzin, together with nests and eggs of that bird; skins and skeletons of the Guacharo bird, and skins of a number of species of South American herons. From the observations of Mr. Cherrie, it seems probable that the breeding of the hoatzin is largely influenced

by the condition of the water, and inland, away from the influence of tide water, they do not breed until the ground beneath their nests is flooded. For this reason, although Mr. Cherrie stayed until June, he only obtained eggs of this bird. Eggs of a number of other species of birds were also obtained, many of which are but little known.

MR. EDWARD W. BERRY, the paleobotanist and secretary of the Torrey Botanical Club, is engaged in studying the fossil flora of Maryland for the Geological Survey of that state. Correspondents are requested to address him after September 1, in care of the Maryland Geological Survey, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

MR. GERALD DUDGEON has been appointed by the secretary of state for the British colonies to examine and report upon questions relating to the development of the agricultural resources of British West Africa.

DR. OLIVER E. GLENN, acting professor of mathematics at Drury College, has been appointed a member of the editorial staff of the *American Mathematical Monthly*, succeeding Dr. Saul Epstein, who has been called to the University of Colorado.

PROFESSOR J. VOLHARD, professor of chemistry at Halle, celebrated on August 6 the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate.

THE trustees of the British National Portrait Gallery have purchased a portrait of Tiberius Cavallo, 1746-1809, one of the earliest students of electrical science.

WE learn from the New York *Evening Post* that the city of Nuremberg, in conjunction with the Society of German Clockmakers, has erected a monument by way of commemorating Peter Henlein, who, four hundred years ago, substituted springs for weights in clocks, and thus made watches a possibility. The statue was made by the Berlin sculptor Meissner. It represents Henlein at work in his shop.

IN connection with the indication by the council of houses in London which have been the residences of distinguished individuals, a memorial tablet was on August 14 erected on

No. 34, Gloucester Square, Hyde Park, where Robert Stephenson, the great engineer, resided at one time. The tablet is of encaustic ware and terra-cotta in color.

DR. OTTO HERZ, the entomologist of St. Petersburg, has died at the age of fifty-six years. The deaths are announced of the Rev. Dr. J. Keith, of Scotland, who took an active interest in natural history, and of Mr. W. E. Langdon, a past president of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers.

WE recorded last week the death of Professor Leo Errera. A correspondent writes in regard to him: "Errera was one of the comparatively few rich men who work as hard at science as do those who earn their living by teaching and research. A multi-millionaire, he earned the rather hard degree of Docteur Agrégé, and since his student days has been an important factor in the class-room and research work in botany at Brussels. His most notable work as an investigator, perhaps, was his demonstration that fungi store food reserves in the form of glycogen, like animals, and the contributions from his laboratory have been chiefly along physiological and ecological lines. Notwithstanding this limit to the field of his more active contributions, however, he was interested in all branches of botany, and at the recent International Congress at Vienna, where he secured a decision to hold the next quinquennial session at Brussels, he was one of the most constant and interested attendants at the arduous—and perhaps thankless—nomenclature sessions.

THE correspondent of the London *Times* in Cape Town cabled on August 18 that the first boat, conveying a portion of the visiting members of the British Association to Durban, and marking the conclusion of the business program in Cape Town, would leave that night. It was obvious at the outset that a rivalry was established between the purely pedagogic portion of the program and that part which makes for first-hand knowledge of South Africa. Fortunately there is no tendency to gauge the success of the 1905 meeting by the attendance at the lectures. So far the attendance has not been striking, but it is felt that

that has been more than made up by the keenness of the members to see all that can be seen of the country, and to profit by a closer acquaintance with its problems, which is essential to the proper understanding of them in England. South Africa, while paying a tribute to the high standard of the papers read, will endorse whole-heartedly the policy adopted by the members.

THE Committee of the British Association on Zoology Organization has reported that a register of zoologists has been established, and that fifty-seven zoologists have accepted the invitation of the committee to place their names upon the register. The committee has obtained by correspondence the opinion of a large number of the zoologists of the country upon the question of the importance of the grant applied for by the committee of Section D to enable a committee to send a competent investigator to the Zoological Station in Naples. Other matters affecting the interests of zoologists in the country have engaged the attention of the committee during the year. A meeting of the committee was held in London on May 11. A meeting of zoologists summoned by the committee to consider the question of the teaching of natural history in schools was held in the Zoological Gardens, London, on the same date.

At the last monthly meeting of the Zoological Society of London it was stated that the additions to the society's menagerie during that month had amounted to 274, amongst which special attention was called to a leopard (*Felix pardus*), from near Hong-kong, presented by Mr. J. A. Bullin; to the three Californian sea lions (*Otaria gillespii*), from Santa Barbara, purchased; to a white-tailed gnu (*Connochaetes gnu*), born in the menagerie; and to a male Somali ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*), purchased.

It is expected that within a year wireless telegraph communication will be established between New Zealand and Australia.

THE *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that, at the request of the medical directors of the City Hospital, the board of public service adopted a resolution that hereafter the professor of pathology of the Cin-

cinnati University shall be the head of the pathologic department of the hospital. The directors stated that they had been made convinced of the fact that a professorship of pathology would soon be added to the university staff.

THE Sanitary Inspectors' Association met in London on August 18. In the course of his presidential address, as reported in the *London Times*, Sir J. Crichton-Browne dealt with the housing problem, and pointed out the advantages from a health point of view of country life as compared with town life. That the townsman was shorter-lived than the countryman was, he said, incontrovertible. Professor Karl Pearson, a thoughtful and cautious anthropologist, had told us that decadence of character and of intelligent leadership was to be noted alike in the British merchant, the professional man and the workman, and this he attributed to the fact that the intellectual classes were not reproducing their numbers as they did 50 or 100 years ago. In this view Professor Pearson was supported by the prime minister, who said at Cambridge last year that in the case of every man who left the laboring class and became a member of the middle or wealthier classes his progeny were likely to be diminished owing to the fact that marriages were later in that class. He was inclined to think, however, that intellectual decadence, if it be upon us, was not altogether due to the causes assigned by Professor Pearson and Mr. Balfour, and was not necessarily destined to deepen as time went on. In a people like our own there was always outside the actually intellectual class a still larger class potentially intellectual with abilities incompletely evolved, because never called forth, but capable under stress of circumstances of the higher development. Many of our finest intellects had sprung from the un-intellectual class, and genius was generally more or less of a sport. His own view was that any dearth of ability from which we might be suffering was to be ascribed not so much to the infertility of the cultivated classes as to the artificial production of stupidity in various ways, and to the incessant drainage from the country—which was the fit and

proper breeding place and rearing ground of intellect—of the best elements of our people to be swallowed up or deteriorated in our big towns. Not less untenable than the notion that the agricultural laborer was dull of intellect was the idea that the city urchin was cleverer and better endowed mentally than the little yokel. The rule seemed to be that the mental development of children was hastened by city life, but soon stopped short. Up till thirteen or fourteen years of age they were precocious and then came to a standstill. City life at its best was bad for children, involving, as it did, early puberty, exciting distraction, superficiality of knowledge, insufficient repose and the want of soothing influences that the country afforded; and at its worst, when it meant a tight squeeze in squalid dwellings, poor food, foul air, contact with vice and manifold temptations, it was utterly demoralizing. It seemed obvious that, if the city went on growing at the nineteenth century rate, and under nineteenth century conditions, it would dry up the reservoirs of strength in the population and leave an immense proletariat of inferior quality and without commanders.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MOSES A. DROPSIE, of Philadelphia, formerly president of Gratz College, has bequeathed about \$600,000, for the endowment of a college for the study of Hebrew literature and Rabbinical learning in that city. There are to be no restrictions in admission as to creed, sex or color.

THE Department of Chemistry of Washington and Lee University is being reequipped this summer in new quarters. In all fourteen rooms will be occupied, nearly the whole of the old main building of the university being given over to the departments of chemistry, geology and biology.

LOGAN HALL, containing the anatomical and surgical departments of the University of Pennsylvania, was burned on August 14, en-

tailing a loss of about forty thousand dollars. Many microscopes were destroyed.

WE learn from *Nature* that probate has been granted of the will of Mr. John Innes, of Merton, Surrey, who died on August 8, 1904, leaving the sum of about £200,000 for public and charitable purposes. Among other bequests he left his house, the Manor Farm, Merton, and two acres of ground, "to establish thereon a school of horticulture or such other technical or industrial institution as the law will allow, to give technical instruction in the principles of the science and art of horticulture and the necessary physical and mental training incidental thereto; to erect suitable buildings and furnish them, and to provide workshops, tools, plant, scientific apparatus, libraries, reading-rooms, lecture and drill halls, a swimming bath and gymnasium. If this may not be legally carried out, then to establish in these buildings a public museum for the exhibition of collections of paintings and similar works of art, objects of natural history, or of mechanical or philosophic inventions, and to lay out land for a park."

THE Draper's Company has made a further grant of £5,000 for an extension of the premises of the East London Technical College.

THE University of Melbourne has received a largely increased endowment from the government of Victoria on condition of instituting a course for a degree in agriculture. The necessary arrangements for such a course have now been made, and the university is inviting applications in England and America for a professorship of botany and a lectureship in biochemistry in connection with the school of agriculture. A new professor of anatomy is also to be appointed for the medical school.

MR. S. HERBERT COX has been appointed to the professorship of mining at the Royal School of Mines, South Kensington, vacant on the death of Sir Clement le Neve Foster.

MR. EDWARD WARD, who has held the professorship of surgery in Leeds for the past six years, has resigned and will be succeeded by Mr. Harry Littlewood.

DR. RICHARD WILLSTÄTER, associate professor of chemistry at Munich, has resigned.