

rare survivor of the postglacial flora, is preserved and protected in the vicinity of Hamburg. A considerable area of forest near Münster is protected because of its profusion in certain rare species of lichens. In Schleswig a great glacial boulder resting on a low knoll has been set aside, the ground immediately about it acquired and a road laid out to it. In Brandenburg a little lake with its swamp, the Plage, has been reserved on account of its botanic interest and in Marienwerder a bit of lake and woods where rare water birds nest. A local society in Gotha has acquired a small pond and swamp and has transferred to it rare plants threatened with extinction and has also introduced new plants foreign to the region, such as our common *Sarracenia* or Pitcher-plant. Such results as these have been attained largely through the activity of local societies and are the outcome of local pride and intelligent appreciation, but Prussia has an official duly appointed by the Cultus Minister as State Commissioner for the Care of Natural Monuments, Dr. H. Conwentz, director of the Provincial Museum at Danzig, and through his activity aided by the official forestry organization, much has been possible which would be more difficult here without such aid. The methods employed by Dr. Conwentz have enlisted a more than local interest and the Cambridge Press has recently published his address on his work delivered by request before the British Association last year.

It is not likely that any American state will very soon accord recognition to this movement by following the example of Prussia in designating an official as its apostle to arouse local loyalty and supervise such conservation but the whole matter, it would seem, might with entire propriety be embraced within the scope of the national conservation movement whose official support could be so enlisted and so delegated as to efficiently enforce the subject on public and local attention and even on private munificence. I am not aware that the functions of the National Conservation Commission are so restricted as to restrain it from

taking cognizance of this growing favorable sentiment toward such conservation as I have indicated and if such authority may properly be assumed by it, it would be no difficult matter to find some active spirit in each state to whom the moral and official support of the commission might be given in the furtherance of so laudable an undertaking.

JOHN M. CLARKE,
Director, Science Division

ALBANY, N. Y.,
June 16, 1909

THE DARWIN CENTENARY AT CAMBRIDGE¹

THE Darwin celebration, which began on June 22, is a remarkable event in university annals. Commemorative festivals, held at one or other ancient seat of learning, have been frequent in recent years; but their object has been to celebrate the foundation of some famous institution in the distant past. And there have been festivals of a different kind in honor of one or other of the great names on the roll of intellectual achievement, whose glory has been established and consecrated by the long lapse of time. But no such academic tribute as the present festival has ever been paid to the memory of an individual within so short a time of his own life.

The great and ancient University of Cambridge is devoting three days to it, and the whole learned world from Chile to Japan is joining in homage to the memory of an Englishman who was with us but the other day. Some of those who will be present were his comrades, most of them have been in some measure his working contemporaries. Two hundred and thirty-five universities, academies and learned bodies at home and abroad have nominated delegates to represent them; and of these 167 are situated in foreign countries and British dominions outside the United Kingdom. Thirty of the most famous institutions in Germany, thirty in the United States, fourteen in France, ten in Austria-Hungary, eight in Italy, as many in Sweden, seven in Russia and lesser numbers in seven other foreign countries have honored the occasion by naming some of their most distin-

¹ From the *London Times*.

guished members to take part in it. The distant seats of learning in the younger British countries have responded with not less cordiality; seven in Canada, seven in Australia, five in New Zealand and the same number in South Africa have appointed delegates; India and Ceylon are represented by eight. Within the United Kingdom 68 universities and societies are lending their support; and, in addition to the appointed delegates, there are some 200 invited guests, who include men eminent in every walk of life.

A share in evoking this extraordinary manifestation of world-wide respect belongs, of course, to the prestige of Cambridge University, which is acting as host; but Cambridge could not have planned a festival on this scale or sent out the invitations in honor of a lesser man. Other great men were born in the famous year 1809, and one at least was at Cambridge; but it is impossible to conceive a pious pilgrimage of this sort to celebrate their birth. It helps us to realize the immense space on the intellectual horizon of the world filled by the figure of the great observer and generalizer. His achievement has, in a sense, become so familiar, its indirect influence has so closely interpenetrated the general consciousness of mankind that we can hardly see it plain or measure its proportions. It is not a matter for the learned only, but for all of us. To no other man has it been given to effect a revolution in human thought so large, so pervading, so sudden, and yet so enduring. Darwin taught mankind to see all things in a new light, not only the operations of nature, great and small, the mysteries of existence and the innumerable objects of research, but the common things of every-day life.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

YALE UNIVERSITY has given its doctorate of science to Dr. E. W. Morley, emeritus professor of chemistry at Western Reserve University; to Dr. Wm. T. Sedgwick, professor of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School, and to Dr. E. H. Moore, professor of mathematics of the University of

Chicago, a graduate in arts and philosophy at Yale University.

DR. S. F. EMMONS, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has received the doctorate of science from Harvard University.

WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON COLLEGE has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Dr. C. H. Townsend, of the New York Aquarium.

THE delegates to the Darwin commemoration on whom the degree of doctor of science was conferred by the University of Cambridge are: Édouard van Beneden, professor of zoology at Liège; Prince Roland Bonaparte, Paris; Geheimrat Bütschli, professor of zoology and paleontology at Heidelberg; Robert Chodat, professor of botany at Geneva; Francis Darwin, F.R.S., honorary fellow of Christ's College, and formerly reader in botany; Karl F. Goebel, professor of botany at Munich; Ludwig von Graff, professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at the University of Graz and president-elect of the International Zoological Congress which meets at Graz next year; Richard Hertwig, professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at Munich; Harold Höffding, professor of philosophy at Copenhagen; Jacques Loeb, professor of physiology in the University of California; Edmond Perrier, director of the Natural History Museum of Paris; Gustav Albert Schwalbe, professor of anatomy at Strassburg; Hermann Graf zu Solms-Laubach, professor of botany at Strassburg; Clement Timiriazeff, professor of botany in Moscow; Frantisek Vejdosky, professor of zoology in the Bohemian University of Prague; Max Verworn, professor of physiology at Göttingen; Hermann Vöchting, professor of botany at Tübingen; Hugo de Vries, professor of botany at Amsterdam; Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington; E. B. Wilson, professor of zoology in Columbia University, New York; and Charles René Zeiller, professor of paleobotany in the École des Mines, Paris.

At the commencement of Harvard University on June 30 the degrees of doctor of laws