

upon the theory of evolution was recognized in England, and in 1862 a translation was published by the Ray Society.³

Hofmeister was born in Leipzig, where he passed through the Realschule, but did not attend the university. He took up a business career as a music dealer. How he accomplished the extraordinary output of scientific work, culminating when he was only twenty-seven in the famous "Vergleichende Untersuchungen" which inaugurated a new era in plant morphology, is a mystery. It would seem that his music business could hardly have been a very flourishing one. It would do no harm if some of our present-day investigators who are wont to complain of lack of time for research could be reminded of the conditions under which Hofmeister's most important work was done.

He was soon recognized as one of the outstanding scientific figures of his time, and in spite of the fact that he had never attended a university, he was later given the doctorate, and in 1863 was appointed to a professorship at Heidelberg. Nine years later he was called to Tübingen as Mohl's successor.

Owing to failing health, he retired from active work some time before his death, which took place at Lindenau near Leipzig, January 12, 1877.

Whatever phase of botany may happen to be the fashion as each new crop of workers comes up, and however often the point of view may change, it is safe to predict that Hofmeister will remain in the front rank of the great masters of botany.

DOUGLAS HOUGHTON CAMPBELL

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

DETAILS of the local arrangements for the Southampton meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which meets from August 26 to September 2, under the presidency of Sir Horace Lamb, are given in *Nature*.

The reception room will be the King Edward VI Grammar School, which is conveniently and centrally situated, facing the open space called the Marlands, on one side of which is the public stance for charabancs, while close behind it is the West Station on the main Southern Railway line from Waterloo to Weymouth, at which most of the visitors to the meeting will alight from their trains. For the convenience of the members it has been arranged with the railway

³ "On the Germination, Development and Fructification of the Higher Cryptogamia, and on the Fructification of the Coniferae." Translated by Frederick Currey, M.A., F.R.S.

authorities for a special train to be run from Waterloo on the day before the opening of the meeting (Tuesday, August 25). Within easy distance of the Grammar School are to be found the shops and restaurants of Above Bar Street, and an agreement has been reached with a firm of local caterers to take for the week of the visit the Coliseum, a hall capable of seating 1,600, and run it as a restaurant at which lunches and teas may be had.

Garden parties have been offered by Lord and Lady Swaythling at Townhill Park; Lord and Lady St. Cyres at Walhampton, near Lymington, and Mr. W. Collins at Westend; while the Cunard and White Star Companies have invited as many members as may care to go to see over one of their ships.

Southampton is remarkable for its fine open spaces, which stretch from the lower part of the town almost without break to the Southampton Common, the latter covering an area of more than 360 acres of virgin land. Its immediate environs include many places of great natural beauty. General excursions are being arranged to visit old Southampton, the Docks, New Forest, Stonehenge and other places of interest in the neighborhood. The full list of excursions, including sectional ones and visits to works, will be given later in detail. While tickets for the general excursions will be obtainable at a counter in the reception room, those for all the sectional excursions may be had from the local sectional secretaries at the various rendezvous of the sections during the week of the visit. The committee of the Royal Yacht Club has very kindly extended hospitality of honorary membership to the visiting members of the British Association.

ANTI-VIVISECTION

WE are permitted to publish the following correspondence between Dr. David Starr Jordan and Mr. Luther Burbank:

STANFORD UNIVERSITY P. O.
CALIFORNIA
June 1, 1925.

Mr. Luther Burbank
Santa Rosa
California.

My dear Burbank:

Will you pardon one of your oldest friends to express sincere regret over your endorsement of the work of an "Anti-vivisectionist Society?"

To my mind, and I have good reason to know it, this movement is based on the same kind of ignorance and prejudice that animates the much less mischievous anti-evolutionist organizations. The progress of sanitation, associated with that of medicine, has been along the very firing line of science for the last fifty years, ever since the discovery of bacteria and their relation to infectious