

evolution involving a time element." I used the term "major phylum" to indicate which of these two usages I had in mind. It is a pity, however, that zoologists could not adopt more generally the term "branch," equally good and not equivocal in its meaning.

I have no intention of engaging in a dialectic discussion with Dr. Clark. Any one who is interested can take his article, my criticism and his reply, and judge for himself. Nor will I undertake to accept his instructions as to what I ought to do in order to render service to science. That I must judge for myself. I have spent a good part of the last thirty-odd years in trying to condense scientific facts and conclusions into more or less popular form without being any more vague or misleading than I can help. It is the most difficult kind of scientific writing, and Dr. Clark, somewhat of a newcomer in this field, must not take it amiss if he meets with rather severe critical standards. Their necessity is illustrated by the press treatment of his "new" theories.

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COURSES IN ASTRONOMY IN SOUTH AFRICA

IN the issue of *SCIENCE* for March 29, 1929, there is a note regarding the establishment of courses in astronomy at the Grey University College at Bloemfontein which states that these courses are the first to be established in the Union of South Africa. Courses in astronomy were first offered at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg in 1926. The Union astronomer, Mr. H. E. Wood, is in charge of these courses. Furthermore, at its last graduation ceremony on March 23, 1929, the University of the Witwatersrand conferred the degree of master of science upon a candidate in the department of mathematics whose thesis, done largely under the direction of the writer, discussed an astronomical problem arising in connection with his work as a volunteer assistant at this station.

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QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE IN AFRICA

YESTERDAY afternoon in the City Hall at Cape Town, and in the presence not only of the Governor-General and a brilliant company representing official, scientific and social South Africa, but of many of the leaders of British science, the British Association for the Advancement of Science held the inaugural meeting of its sessions for 1929. When the association was founded, nearly a century ago, little more was contemplated than an annual assemblage of British men of science, with possibly a few foreign guests, who should discuss problems of common interest and make known to the wider public the more recent achievements and the immediate aspirations of science. The new institution rapidly conquered public respect as an organ of utility to science itself and to the nation. But it remained British in the narrower sense for many years, although in the meantime the world, as measured by hours of travel, was contracting, and science was becoming ever more conscious of its international solidarity. Within the British Empire professors and students were being exchanged, and it was becoming plain that it was a duty and a gain to encourage cooperation among those working at research in the outposts of Empire. In a special degree it was felt that it would encourage such scientific teachers and investigators as were missionaries rather than natural products of their environment, if it were shown that they had the respect and sympathy of the colleagues who remained in the relative security of the old country. Accordingly in 1884 the British Association, not without op-

position, took the great step of holding an annual meeting in Montreal. It proved a success, and in 1897 it was followed by a still more successful meeting at Toronto. The principle was thus established; and there followed meetings in South Africa in 1905, in Winnipeg in 1909, in Australia in 1914, in Toronto again in 1924, and now in South Africa in 1929. The Prince of Wales, president at the Oxford meeting in 1926, and himself an extremely competent witness to opinion in the oversea dominions, has assured us of the advantage to science of personal communion among men of science in all parts of the Empire. But the advantage is not merely to science and to material progress—although there is overwhelming evidence that visits of the British Association on the one hand have encouraged local endeavor, and, on the other, have awakened the visitors to a new sense of their duties and opportunities as citizens of a great empire. The trend of political development is definitely towards a distinctive, almost a separative, organization in each of the great Dominions. The greater is the reason for the encouragement of unifying factors, among which there is none greater than the pursuit of knowledge. Whatsoever may be the local needs and the local opportunities which tend to specialize the applications of science, the principles which underlie the effort to increase knowledge for human benefit are the same. All the indications suggest that the meeting in South Africa will be one of the most successful in the long history of the association, successful in the stimulus the visitors will give, and successful in the stimulus they will receive.