

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ON the occasion of the meetings of the Congresses of Zoology and Physiology at Cambridge the University conferred its honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Professor H. P. Bowditch, of Harvard University; on Professor Anton Dohrn, Director of the Zoological Station at Naples; on Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards, Director of the Museum of Natural History at Paris; on Professor Camillo Golgi, professor of general pathology in the University of Pavia; on Dr. Ernst Haeckel, professor of zoology in the University of Jena; on Dr. A. A. W. Hubrecht, professor of zoology in the University of Utrecht; on Dr. Hugo Kronecker, professor of physiology in the University of Berne; on Dr. Willy Kühne, professor of physiology in the University at Heidelberg, and on Professor E. J. Marey, professor of natural history at the Collège de France.

GENERAL SÉBERT has been elected Vice-President of the French Association for the Advancement of Science and, in accordance with the custom of the Association, will be President at the Paris meeting of 1900. M. Brouardel will preside at the meeting next year, which will be held at Boulogne.

DR. W. McM. WOODWORTH has been appointed assistant in charge of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, of Harvard University.

PROFESSOR ROBERT HELMERT, Director of the Geodetic Institute at Potsdam, has been elected a corresponding member of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences.

DR. H. KIEPERT, professor of geography at Berlin, has celebrated his eightieth birthday.

DR. K. GOEBEL, professor of botany at Munich, has gone to Australia for purposes of botanical research.

PROFESSOR ADOLF BASTIAN, of Berlin, has returned from his expedition to southeastern Asia, where, during the last two and a-half years, he has been carrying on important ethnological investigations.

DR. W. F. HUME will, during the coming year, make surveys in the peninsula of Sinai, under the auspices of the Egyptian Geological Survey.

DR. L. A. BAUER, of the University of Cincinnati, was made an honorary member of the Société Scientifique 'Antonio Alzate,' Mexico, at its meeting of July 5, 1898.

M. PILLIET has been appointed Director of the Musée Dupuytren, which contains the anatomical collections of the medical faculty at Paris.

A MONUMENT to Gui Patin, in the middle of the seventeenth century professor of surgery and Dean of the Paris faculty of medicine, was unveiled at d' Hodenc-en-Bray, his native place, on August 22d.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Paul Glan, associate professor of physics in the University at Berlin, at the age of fifty-two years; of Dr. E. J. Bonsdorf, formerly professor of anatomy and physiology in the University of Helsingfors, at the age of eighty-eight years; and of Professor L. von Dittel, formerly professor of surgery at the University of Vienna, at the age of eighty-three years.

THE Nineteenth Congress of French Geographical Societies will meet at Marseilles from the 18th to the 25th of September.

WE learn from *Nature* that a Congress of the Astronomische Gesellschaft will be opened at the Academy of Sciences at Budapest on September 24th. Meetings will also be held on Monday and Tuesday, September 26th and 27th. The Hungarian members of the Society have prepared a cordial reception for the astronomers who attend the Congress, among the hospitable features being a luncheon to be given by the Minister of Public Instruction (Dr. Julius von Wlassitz), a dinner by the town of Budapest, visits to places of interest in the town and neighborhood and excursions to the O'Gyalla Observatory and the Danube Cataracts—the Iron Doors. The Congress will certainly give a prominent place to the discussion of questions concerning the international zone catalogue of the Astronomische Gesellschaft; and the resolutions of the Paris Conference, which have given rise to a large amount of criticism, will also be dealt with. Professor F. Porro will present a preliminary report on the revision of the Piazzini Catalogue of Stars, undertaken by Dr. H. S. Davis and himself.

THE Venice Academy of Science, Letters and Arts offers a prize of \$600 from the Querini-Stampalia Foundation, for an investigation of the water power of the Venetian province, with a view to its increased application. Essays, which may be written in English, must be presented before the end of next year.

THE Dutch Academy of Sciences of Harlem proposes eighteen subjects for essays, offering for each a gold medal or a prize of 500 florins. The details may be obtained from the Secretary of the Academy, Professor J. Bosscha, Harlem.

MME. BRAGAYRACT has bequeathed 50,000 fr. to the Paris Academy of Medicine.

PLANS are being made at Turin for the establishment of a fresh-water aquarium intended to advance the interests of pisciculture.

THE Indian government has decided to send exhibits from the Forest and Geological Department to the Paris Exhibition at a cost of about £3,000.

THERE are now about 350 public libraries in Great Britain. These libraries contain over 5,000,000 volumes, and issue about 27,000,000 books each year. The annual attendance of readers is about 60,000,000. In comparison with these figures the following, recently published, will be interesting: There are 844 public libraries in Australia, with 1,400,000 volumes; 298, with 330,000 volumes, in New Zealand; 100, with 300,000 volumes, in South Africa. In Canada the public libraries contain over 1,500,000 volumes. In 1896 the United States, according to government statistics, possessed 4,026 public and school libraries, containing 33,051,872 volumes.

Nature states that a committee, having upon it many distinguished men of science in Australia, has been formed to secure the establishment of some permanent memorial to commemorate the services rendered by the late Baron von Mueller. This movement is entirely distinct from that which the executors of the late Baron have initiated with the object of obtaining funds for the erection of a tombstone. The object of the Committee of the National Memorial Fund is to secure sufficient funds to allow of the establishment of some permanent memorial which shall worthily perpetuate Baron

von Mueller's name; and whilst it is not possible as yet to state definitely the form which the memorial will take, it is hoped that sufficient funds will be forthcoming to provide for (1) the erection of some form of statue, and (2) the endowment of a medal, prize or scholarship, to be associated with Baron von Mueller's name, and to be awarded from time to time in recognition of distinguished work in the special branches in which he was most deeply interested, and which shall be open to workers throughout the Australasian colonies. Subscriptions to the fund may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, addressed to the College of Pharmacy, Swanston Street, Melbourne, or to the Hon. Secretaries (Mr. W. Wiesbaden and Professor Baldwin Spencer), addressed to the University of Melbourne, and will be duly acknowledged.

CHANCELLOR HOHENLOHE has sent a communication to the German Colonial Society in reply to a request for information as to the official attitude towards Professor Koch's theories on the subject of malaria. He says, as reported in the *New York Evening Post*, that as soon as the Colonial Department of the Foreign Office "had knowledge of the highly important results of the investigations of Dr. Koch, and of the proposals based on them by him, it distributed the information in several directions. Dr. Koch appealed, for instance, to the Prussian Ministry of Medical Affairs, to which he is officially subordinate, that means should be obtained for two great scientific expeditions under his leadership, with a view to completing his investigation of malaria. According to his plan, the first of these expeditions should investigate malaria in Italy and Greece, and the second in the most intense fever foci of East Africa, India and New Guinea. The first is to last three months and the second two years. The Prussian Ministry and the Foreign Office are most keenly interested in this enterprise, and I do not doubt its practicability. * * * In order to render the present results of Dr. Koch's researches concerning the diagnosis treatment and prophylaxis of malaria useful to medical men in the colonial service, suitable training will be given them in the Institute for Infectious Diseases, of which he is the head. This train-

ing is given under Dr. Koch's superintendence, and several medical men are already receiving it. The colonial doctors will also be provided with the scientific apparatus proposed by Dr. Koch. Each of them will thus be enabled to turn the special scientific training received by him for his work in our protectorates to account, furnished with all the means of modern science in exact accordance with Dr. Koch's prescriptions and doctrines."

THE German Arctic expedition of Theodore Lerner, which started in May last to search for Andrée and to carry on scientific investigation, has returned to Hammerfest, Norway, in order to enable the *Helgoland*, to refit prior to starting on another voyage. Herr Lerner could find no trace of Andrée, but secured scientific results of interest especially to geographers. A special representative of the *Berliner Lokalanzeiger*, who accompanied the expedition, has forwarded to that journal a long and detailed account of the voyage, of which an abstract is given in the *London Times*. Horn Sound was reached after some difficulty; owing to the unusual quantity of floe ice, which, breaking off from the glaciers, kept sweeping down with terrific force, anchorage was rendered very difficult and dangerous. Towards the end of July King Charles Islands were reached, where a halt of a few days was made. From scientific observations made they were able to define the exact position of the islands, and they discovered that the English and Norwegian maps were slightly inaccurate. The group consists of three big islands—namely, Swedish Foreland, Jena Island, and a third lying between these two, which they christened August Scherl Island in honor of the promoter of the expedition. There they came upon the breeding grounds of the ivory gull (*larus eburneus*), very few specimens of whose eggs have hitherto been discovered. Two small islands in the southern bay of Jena Island received the names of Tirpitz and Helgoland respectively. Captain Rüdiger took special observations of the exact position of King Charles Islands. An attempt to push on to Franz Josef Land failed owing to bad weather. The *Helgoland* then was able to coast round the island on the northeast and from the south, in spite of the difficulties caused by fog and ice,

thereby proving that it is possible to go northwards notwithstanding the contrary Polar currents. The exact position of the island of Störö is given as being 10' farther north than it is at present indicated on maps. The most northerly point reached was latitude $81^{\circ} 32'$, where the boundary of pack ice was determined. Much hitherto unknown ground was fished with dragnets, especially round the east point of King Charles Islands, and at the extreme end of Spitzbergen in waters of over 1,000 meters deep. A good deal of interesting material was found. No signs of the Andrée expedition were discovered. Many seals and a large number of reindeer were killed, as well as forty-four exceedingly fine polar bears. Four live cubs are being brought back to Germany. Professor Richard Friese, the celebrated animal painter, was able to make some excellent sketches, and many photographs were taken of the hitherto unexplored lands. Among other interesting subjects for future investigation by bacteriologists it is stated that the existence of plankton was established at over 100 hauls of the dragnets. The expedition will start on another voyage of exploration as soon as the ship has been refitted and the necessary stock of victuals been taken on board.

THE program of the forthcoming meeting in Sweden of the Iron and Steel Institute, says the *London Times*, opens up a prospect of an unusually important gathering, not so much from the point of view of the papers to be read—although they are of great interest—as from that of the information which the members of the trade are likely to obtain as to the suitability of the iron-ore resources of that country to their urgent requirements in the near future. The papers include one on the most prominent and characteristic features of Swedish iron-ore mining, by Professor Nordenström, and another on the iron-ore deposits of Swedish Lapland, by Mr. Lundbohm, of the Swedish Geological Survey. These papers, and the discussions on them, will be supplemented by a special excursion to the mines within the Arctic Circle. The ore in that region is of the highest quality—much higher in iron than any other similar deposits in Europe—and it is believed that, when a new railway has been completed to connect

the mines with the Atlantic Ocean, the ore can be delivered in England as cheaply as any supplies now available on a large scale. Another important subject to be discussed is the action of explosives on the tubes of steel guns, as to which Professor Roberts-Austen, C.B., of the Mint, will read a paper based on important recent experiments, while the proper composition of steel rails, which will also be debated, will be of unusual importance, in view of the inquiry by the departmental committee of the Board of Trade. Several other papers of a more highly technical character will be considered, while the hospitality to be offered to the visitors will include a reception by King Oscar at his summer palace, and a banquet by the Association of Swedish Ironmasters. Dr. H. S. Lunn has specially fitted up the steam yacht *Argonaut* to convey the members to Sweden, and she will serve as a floating hotel during their stay.

IN introducing an article on 'The Species, the Sex and the Individual,' by Mr. J. T. Cunningham, the editor of *Natural Science* makes the following remarks: "With reference to this paper Mr. Cunningham has given us the following information, which we have verified. The paper was written at the beginning of 1897, and after some time was submitted to the Zoological Society, but not accepted, even for reading, on the ground that the Society did not usually publish papers of a theoretical and controversial character. The manuscript was then sent to the Linnæan Society, where it was read on May 6th of the present year, and a brief description of it was published in the report of the meeting in the *Athenæum* and in *Nature*. But this Society also refused to publish the complete paper, the alleged reason being the pressure of other papers and illustrations. It is due to Mr. Cunningham that these facts should be known, for on June 7, 1898, there was read before the Zoological Society a paper by Mr. L. W. Wigglesworth, containing conclusions as to sexual dimorphism very similar to those of the present paper. In particular, as published abstracts show, the author maintained that secondary sexual characters in birds were due to the stimulation of parts through use, or external violence, or irritation. So much for

Mr. Cunningham's title to priority. As for the refusal to publish his paper we understand that the Zoological Society has equally refused that favor to Mr. Wigglesworth, although he was more fortunate in having his views placed before a meeting and published in abstract. There is a general feeling among those who hold views opposed to the current strictly Darwinian notions that they cannot get fair play from our learned societies. It is a pity that they should be able to adduce so many facts in support of this opinion, however erroneous the opinion itself may be."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE corporation of Brown University has accepted the resignation of Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews as President, passing resolutions expressing appreciation of his services, and has elected a committee of six to choose his successor. Professor Benjamin F. Clark, A.M., has been made Acting President.

DR. W. WALDEYER, professor of anatomy, has been appointed Rector of the University of Berlin, for the coming year; Dr. von Lonnel, professor of physics, Rector at Munich, and Professor Luigi Luciani, the physiologist, Rector of the University of Rome.

THE vacancies in the fellowships of the Teachers College caused by the resignation of Dr. Cleveland Abbe, Jr., and Mr. E. B. Bryan, have been filled by the appointment of David R. Major, Ph. D. (Cornell), and B. B. Breeze, A. M. (Harvard). Mr. Breeze has been for the past two years assistant in the Harvard Psychological Laboratory.

MISS KATHERINE VON TUSSCHENBROCK has been appointed to a chair of gynæcology in the University of Utrecht. The University of Genoa has given its M.D. to Miss E. Bonomi, which is said to be the first time the degree has been given to a woman by an Italian University.

DR. GEORG KLEBS, professor of botany at Basle, has been called to Halle and is succeeded at Basle by Dr. Wilhelm Schimper, associate professor at Bonn.

THE position of instructor in histology at the Harvard Medical School is vacant. The appointment is an annual one with a salary of