

may be formed, the duties of public health officers made easier of performance and such local and State legislation as may be requisite called into existence.

That this Congress is of opinion that a permanent national committee should be appointed (*a*) to collect evidence and report on the measures that have been adopted for the prevention of tuberculosis in different countries; (*b*) to publish a popular statement of these measures; (*c*) to keep and publish periodically a record of scientific research in relation to tuberculosis; and (*d*) to consider and recommend measures of prevention. This Congress is further of opinion that such a committee should consist of representatives to be elected by the great national societies formed for the suppression of tuberculosis and also representatives nominated by the various governments. It is further of opinion that all international committees and great national societies whose object is the prevention of tuberculosis should be invited to cooperate.

That, in the opinion of this Congress, overcrowding, defective ventilation, damp, and general unsanitary conditions in the houses of the working classes diminish the chance of curing consumption and aid in predisposing to and spreading the disease.

That while recognizing the great importance of sanatoria in combating tuberculosis in every country the attention of governments should be directed towards informing charitable and philanthropic individuals and societies of the necessity for anti-tuberculous dispensaries as the best means of checking tuberculous disease amongst the industrial and indigent classes.

That the following question be submitted to the consideration of the next Congress: The constitutional conditions of the individual which predispose to tuberculosis and the means whereby they can be modified.

GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT PIKERMI.*

THE geological excavations which the Trustees of the British Museum have (by the kind permission of Mr. Skousés, the owner of the ground) been carrying on at the Pliocene deposits of Pikermi, near Athens, since the early spring, have now been brought to a conclusion for the season. Judging from the preliminary reports which have been received from Dr. A. Smith Woodward, who was sent out by the Museum to superintend the excavations, the results from a scientific and pecuniary point of view have well justified the trustees in their decision to undertake this important piece of

geological research. We believe that the initiative in the matter is due to Sir Edwin Egerton, H. M. Minister at Athens, who was also mainly instrumental in obtaining the necessary permit to excavate from Mr. Skousés, formerly Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs. The willing cooperation of the University of Athens in the person of Professor Skuphos, the accomplished paleontologist of the University Museum, was easily secured, and his help and advice have been invaluable throughout the whole period of the work. The most cordial relations have existed between Professor Skuphos and Dr. A. S. Woodward, and the division of the specimens which have been discovered has, it is understood, been amicably arranged by the British Museum and the University of Athens. It is said to be extremely doubtful whether there is any Greek law assimilating fossils to works of art; but, however that may be, we are happy in knowing that both the institutions concerned are satisfied with the agreement which has been arrived at as regards the portion of the collections which each is to retain.

Pikermi, where the fossils are found, is near the Marathon road, about 12 miles from Athens; and the specimens are usually found at a considerable depth below the bed of a mountain torrent. This is, of course, not the first time that excavations have been made in these deposits. In the early fifties Professor Albert Gaudry, the eminent French geologist, conducted some explorations which resulted in a great find of Tertiary mammalia, identical with those of Léberon, Samos and Maragah. Most of the specimens obtained by Gaudry are in the Paris Museum. Later, the Vienna Academy made a collection on a smaller scale from the same place; and about 1885 the Duke of Orleans was allowed to dig there, but he remained only a short time and found nothing of importance. Before the present occasion no Englishman had made any geological research at Pikermi, and the British Museum contained no collection from these beds. This deficiency in our great national storehouse has now been made good in a splendid manner, as may be judged from the fact that 47 large cases containing the Museum's share of the fossils found are at the present moment on their way to England.

* From the *London Times*.

Among the principal finds recorded may be mentioned remains of a huge proboscidean, including two femurs each over a meter in length, a fine series of excellently preserved skulls and other bones of rhinoceros; *Mesopithecus*, an old-world monkey, remains of which are rarely met with in any part of the globe as fossils; several almost complete skulls of *Mastodon*; skulls, teeth, and bones of *Machærodus*, the great saber-toothed tiger, remarkable for the great development of the canine teeth, and also for its wide geographical distribution. Remains of this animal have been met with in England in Kent's Cavern, Torquay, in Creswell Crag Caves, Derbyshire, and in the Norfolk forest-bed. Dr. Woodward also reports the discovery of innumerable bones of *Hipparion*, the three-toed and most immediate predecessor of the horse of the present day, hyæna and other carnivores, antelopes, giraffe with limb-bones very long and slender; *Helladotherium*, a short-necked giraffe allied to the *Okapi*, the new ruminant mammal recently brought home by Sir Harry Johnston from the Semliki forest in the Congo State; and *Samootherium*, a large ruminant, first discovered, it is believed, by Dr. Forsyth Major in the lower Pliocene beds of the Island of Samos, off Asia Minor, and said to connect *Helladotherium* and the giraffe with some of the ancient aberrant antelopes of Pikermi. Traces of *Chalonians* were abundant and include, as one of the prizes of the explorations, remains of perhaps the largest tortoise ever found in Europe. Very few bones of rodents were met with, and birds do not seem to have been numerous; but a considerable collection of land shells was obtained. It is curious that no traces of plant life were observed.

The bones occur on definite horizons in immense numbers, and the marly material is quite soft until it is dried, when it hardens. In places the remains are so jammed together that it is difficult to extract or to separate them. The carcasses appear to have been buried entire, with the flesh and integument, in vast numbers, probably by torrential action, a great number having had their limbs sharply broken, evidently at the time of death. It is worthy of note that the extinct animals found in this

late Tertiary deposit at Pikermi mostly relate to the present African fauna.

Dr. A. S. Woodward, it will be seen, has carried out the official mission entrusted to him in a most creditable manner. By his exertions and careful superintendence the national collection of paleontology at South Kensington will be immensely enriched. Before returning home Dr. Woodward, at the request of Sir Edwin Egerton, has arranged to inspect another ossiferous deposit on the island of Eubœa.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE permanent secretary of the American Association, Dr. L. O. Howard, asks us to state that those who have responded to his invitation to send in their names and dates for special Association Pullman accommodation are so divided in their choice of route that it will be impossible for him to arrange to bring parties together on the journey in the way proposed. The Pennsylvania limited, which leaves New York at 9:55 A. M. and Philadelphia at 12:20 P. M., reaching Chicago at 8:55 A. M., was not included in the time-tables published recently in this journal. Neither were there given time-tables of the trains on the New York Central road, though for those living in New York and New England this is probably the most convenient route, as it is cooler than those further to the south. We may take occasion to call attention to the excursion to the Grand Canyon of Arizona arranged to follow the meeting, of which an advertisement will be found in this issue of SCIENCE. We are also requested to state that the meeting of the Council will be held at 3 o'clock on Saturday, August 24, instead of at 12.

THE seventy-third meeting of German Men of Science and Physicians will, as we have already stated, be held at Hamburg, from the twenty-second to the twenty-eighth of September. Professor R. Hertwig, of Munich, is president of the meeting, while Professor van't Hoff is president of the scientific sections and Professor Naunyn of the medical sections. There are in all twenty-seven sections for the medical sciences and eleven in the natural and exact sciences. The latter sections correspond in general with