

## CHARLES WILLIAM BAILLIE.

WE regret to have to announce the sudden death, at Broadstairs, on June 24, at the age of fifty-five years, of Naval Lieutenant Charles William Baillie, Marine Superintendent of the Meteorological Office, a post which he had held for eleven years.

Mr. Baillie was perhaps best known by his sounding machine, which he invented while on the North American Station about 1871, and which is still in use. It is a modification of the apparatus known as the "Hydra" machine. It was used in the *Challenger* expedition, and is described in Sir W. Thomson's book, "The Voyage of the *Challenger*." Lieut. Baillie was much employed in surveying, and while in the *Sylvia*, under Captain (now Vice-Admiral) St. John, on the China Station, he was selected by the Admiralty to be Director of Nautical Studies at the Imperial Naval College at Tokio, Japan. The results of his teaching are to be seen in the condition of the Japanese Navy at the present day.

After several years of duty in this important post he returned to England on half-pay. In October 1879 he joined the Meteorological Office, so that he had nearly completed twenty years of service in that institution.

The principal works which he has carried out there have been the charts of sea surface temperature, of barometrical pressure, and of currents for all oceans.

The discussion of the meteorology of the South Indian Ocean, from the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand, which is shortly about to appear, has been carried out under Lieut. Baillie's superintendence, while he had laid down the lines of inquiry to be pursued in the work now in hand at the office—the "Meteorology of the South Atlantic and of the Coasts of South America." Lieut. Baillie was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical and the Royal Astronomical Societies. He married Miss Conyers, of Bermuda, and leaves a numerous family.

## NOTES.

PROF. W. C. BRÖGGER, of the University of Christiania, has accepted an invitation to deliver the second course of the George Huntington Williams memorial lectures at the Johns Hopkins University, in April 1900. He has selected as his subject "Modern deductions regarding the origin of igneous rocks."

DR. G. AGAMENNONE has been selected to succeed the late Prof. M. S. de Rossi as director of the important Geodynamic Observatory at Rocca di Papa, near Rome. Dr. Agamennone, who is well known by his numerous seismological papers, has for several years been assistant at the Central Office of Meteorology and Geodynamics at Rome; and, during the years 1895-96, was in charge of the seismic department of the Meteorological Observatory at Constantinople.

NEWS has been received of the death of Mr. John Whitehead while on a scientific mission in the Island of Hainan. Mr. Whitehead left England in the autumn of last year for the purpose of exploring the less known islands of the Philippine group and obtaining a collection of their fauna for the British Museum (Natural History).

WE learn from *Science* that President McKinley has appointed a Commission to determine the best route for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama or Nicaragua. The sum of 1,000,000 dollars has been appropriated for the expenses of the Commission, and a number of surveyors will accompany the party which will shortly leave for Colon.

DR. D. G. BRINTON, Professor of American Archæology and Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania, has presented to

the University his entire collection of books and manuscript relating to the aboriginal languages of North and South America, representing the work of twenty five years, and embracing about 2000 titles.

AN excursion to Derbyshire, extending from August 3 to August 9, has been arranged by the Geologists' Association. The directors of the excursion are Mr. H. H. Arnold-Bemrose, Dr. Wheelton Hind, Mr. J. Shipman, and Mr. J. Barnes. A sketch of the geology of the Lower Carboniferous rocks of Derbyshire will be given by Mr. Arnold-Bemrose at a meeting of the Association on July 7.

THE preliminary programme of the thirteenth International Medical Congress, to be held in Paris from August 2 to August 9, 1900, has just been issued from the central offices in the Rue de l'École de Médecine. M. Lannelongue is president of the Congress, and Dr. Chauffard is the secretary-general. National Committees have been formed in each country to further the work of the Congress. The president of the Committee for Great Britain is Sir William MacCormac, Bart., K.C.V.O., and the hon. secretaries are Dr. Garrod, Dr. Keser, and Mr. D'Arcy Power.

THE second trade exhibition of photographic and scientific apparatus and sundries will be held in the Portman Rooms, on April 27 to May 5 next year. Intending exhibitors should communicate with the Secretary of the Exhibition, 15 Harp Alley, Farringdon Street, E.C.

To celebrate the centenary of the granting of the charter to the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1800, the Council propose to apply for a supplementary charter. It is proposed to obtain powers to confer the Fellowship of the College on persons of distinction who are not members. A memorial has been drawn up, suggesting to the Council that a favourable opportunity now presents itself for the satisfaction of that desire which has at various periods during the century, and especially during the last fifteen years, been expressed by a large number of the members of the College—viz. that they should be represented on the Council. It is submitted that "it would be both equitable and politic that the members should have a voice in the conduct of a Corporation of which they are, and always have been, numerically and financially the mainstay." At every annual meeting of Fellows and members (instituted in 1884) this or some similar proposal has been carried practically unanimously, and a petition in its favour was signed by nearly 5000 members and presented to the Privy Council. The Council have twice taken a poll of the Fellows on the question, but on neither occasion has an absolute majority voted against the proposal, though many were in its favour.

THE *Academy* invited its readers to compose an inscription, of not more than forty words, suitable to be engraved upon the statue of Charles Darwin, just unveiled at Oxford. The best inscription was considered to be that submitted by Mr. Edwin Cardross, viz.: "Charles Darwin, the great naturalist, memorable for his demonstration of the law of evolution in organic life, achieved by scientific imagination, untiring observation, comparison, and research: also for a blameless life, characterised by the modesty, 'the angelic patience, of genius.'"

AN interesting survival of the very ancient custom of watching the sun rise at the summer solstice was witnessed on Salisbury Plain on June 21. The *Westminster Gazette* states that on the night preceding the longest day (June 21) there was a large gathering of people from the neighbourhood, and also from other parts, assembled close to the historic circle of stones at Stonehenge, in order to see the sun rise over the Plain. When atmospheric conditions are favourable, those watching