

Prof. Ehrlich proceeded to give Koch's present views regarding tuberculin. He said that the results that had been obtained were exceedingly favourable, and most of those who had failed to obtain equally good results had failed because they had used too large doses of the remedy. The principle of cure rested in the local effects which tuberculin exercises on the specifically affected tissues; the inflammatory reaction passing to necrosis was neither desirable nor necessary, but, on the other hand, slight and even repeated stimuli would so act as to give rise to cicatrization of the tuberculous centres, so that the essence of this method of treatment was to retain as long as possible the specific excitation of the tissues, and not to do away with this, as was the case where large doses were used. Wherever successful results had been obtained they had all been by the use of repeated minute doses of tuberculin, which were only very gradually increased in strength, and it should be specially noted that the pathological signs found as the result of the action of tuberculin were always produced by large doses.

Prof. Cornil, Dr. Bardach, Dr. Ponfinck, and Prof. Hueppe were agreed that tuberculin was an heroic and dangerous remedy about which we as yet knew little, and which was therefore to be looked upon as still being experimented with. It also seemed to be the general opinion that where it was in use there existed a danger of setting up generalization of a tuberculosis that had hitherto been localized.

Dr. Hunter gave the results of his own experiments (described in the *British Medical Journal*), from which he had been able to show the nature of the active principle of tuberculin. He had succeeded in isolating principles quite different from those mentioned by Koch, or even reported by Dr. Ehrlich that morning as having been obtained by Koch. They were three—(1) those which produced fever, but set up no local reaction; (2) those which gave a local reaction, but no fever; and (3) those which set up neither fever nor local reaction, which had a distinctly remedial effect.

The President, summing up, hoped that in time we should all be able to obtain the wonderfully satisfactory results that had been so fully described by Prof. Ehrlich on Dr. Koch's behalf.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Rain-gauges.

I DO not think that valuable space in your columns should be occupied by rediscussing old questions. I do not wish to say a word in any respect discourteous to Mr. Fletcher, whose ability in other subjects has, I understand, been already recognized, but it really would have been better had he read up the subject before writing the remarkable letter which appears in NATURE of the 20th inst. (p. 371).

For experimental work, spherical, conical, inclined, horizontal, vertical, and tipping funnels have been used; but until the soil of the British Isles can be made to tilt in altitude and rotate in azimuth, so as to meet the path of falling rain, I think that we must adhere to gauges with horizontal mouths as the best representatives of the surface of the earth.

G. J. SYMONS.

British Association Reception Room, Cardiff, August 21.

Cloud Heights—Kinematic Method.

IN NATURE of April 16 (p. 563), and possibly elsewhere, I am made to speak of the method of determining the heights of clouds at sea used by Finemann and myself as the "aberration method." This was a misnomer that I supposed had been corrected. The more proper term is the "kinematic method," since in it we discuss the apparent motions of the clouds considered as the resultant of the true motions of the cloud and the observer. This is the term that I have used since May 1890, and would commend to others.

CLEVELAND ABBE.

Weather Bureau, Department of Agriculture,
Washington, August 8.

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THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE Cardiff meeting, if it was not made remarkable by any incident of very special importance, was, upon the whole, successful. Several of the addresses delivered by the Presidents of Sections were of exceptional interest, but some were very long, and we shall not be able to print all of them.

At the first meeting of the General Committee, held on Wednesday, August 19, the report of the Council for 1890-91 was read by Sir Douglas Galton. Dr. Gladstone moved a vote of thanks to Prof. Williamson for his long and valuable services as general treasurer, paying a tribute to the manner in which that gentleman had fulfilled his duties. Sir Douglas Galton seconded, and the resolution was cordially agreed to. Mr. Vernon Harcourt moved, and Sir J. Douglass seconded, the appointment of Prof. Arthur Rücker as general treasurer. This motion was also agreed to. At the meeting of the General Committee on Monday, a deputation from Nottingham was introduced. The Association was invited by the Mayor and town authorities to visit Nottingham in 1893. It was stated that it was twenty-five years since the Association had visited Nottingham. The invitation was accepted on the motion of Mr. Preece. It was also unanimously agreed, on the motion of Canon Tristram, to elect Sir A. Geikie as President of the Association, which meets at Edinburgh next year. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Marquis of Lothian, the Earl of Rosebery, Lord Kingsburgh, Principal Sir William Muir, Prof. Sir Douglas MacLagan, Sir William Turner, Prof. Taft, and Prof. Crum Brown were elected Vice-Presidents for the Edinburgh meeting. Prof. G. F. Armstrong, Principal F. Grant O'gilvie, and Mr. John Harrison were elected Local Secretaries for the meeting at Edinburgh, and Mr. A. Gillies Smith Local Treasurer. A deputation from Edinburgh also attended with reference to the fixing of a date for the Edinburgh meeting. It was stated on behalf of the Town Council that September 28 was favoured as the opening date of the meeting, though August 3 and September 21 were also mentioned as alternative dates. A motion was made to fix August 3, while an amendment was moved for September 12; but as only thirteen voted for the amendment, the original motion was agreed to—that is, the Association will meet at Edinburgh next year on August 3. The general officers were re-elected, and the following gentlemen were elected Members of Council for the ensuing year: Dr. W. Anderson, Prof. Ayrton, Sir B. Baker, Mr. H. W. Bates, Prof. Darwin, Sir J. N. Douglass, Prof. Edgeworth, Dr. J. Evans, Prof. Fitzgerald, Sir Archibald Geikie, Mr. R. T. Glazebrook, Profs. J. W. Judd, Liveing, Lodge, Mr. W. H. Preece, Profs. W. Ramsay, Reinold, Roberts-Austen, Schäfer, Schuster, Sidgwick, Mr. G. J. Symons, Profs. T. E. Thorpe, Marshall Ward, Mr. W. Whitaker, Dr. H. Woodward. The following impressions have been recorded by a correspondent:—

CARDIFF, Tuesday Evening.

One of the most prominent features of the Cardiff meeting has undoubtedly been the prevailing bad weather. Rain and cold have had their usual depressing results, and may to some extent account for the disappointment which exists among many of those in attendance. The Local Committee have done their best to render the meeting a social success, but the entertainments by the Municipality and the citizens of Cardiff have been of a somewhat restricted character. Notwithstanding the unpromising state of the weather, the excursions on Saturday and Sunday were largely taken advantage of, and the reception given by Lord Windsor on the latter day was specially appreciated. The total attendance has been about 1500, within 200 of the Leeds meeting, while the amount of money available for grants is within a few pounds of last year. Naturally there has