

vibration lasted two minutes. No report of the extent of damage done has yet been received.

AN eruption broke out in Mount Etna on Sunday evening last. The lava issued from the crater by three mouths, all of which, however, are happily some distance from human habitations.

THE *Times of India* states that the report which M. Victor de Lesseps and Mr. C. Stuart will have to make on their return to Europe on the feasibility of the great Central Asian Railway scheme will be of a character to render it likely that preliminary funds will be subscribed to enable the first surveys to be effected with a view to definitely settle the route which it would be desirable to follow.

WE have received from Mr. Stanford the Alpine Club Map of Switzerland, edited by Mr. R. C. Nichols, the preparation of which we noticed in vol. vi. p. 205. It is a very fine specimen of map making, and a credit to English cartography. We hope soon to notice it in detail.

IF the observations recorded by Mr. F. M. Balfour at the recent meeting of the British Association, on the development of the notocord from the hypoblastic, instead of the mesoblastic layer of the embryo in the shark, are confirmed, they will shake to the foundation the importance of the elaborate arguments which have been, of late, so frequently based upon the origin of the different morphological elements of the living frame.

WE are sure many of the recent visitors to Belfast must have found an invaluable aid in their wanderings about the town and district, which so abounds in varied interest, in the very excellent "Guide to Belfast and the Adjacent Counties" (Belfast, Ward and Co.), which has been brought out under the care of the members of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club. Great prominence is of course given to the scientific aspects of the districts embraced in the Guide, but a fair portion is also devoted to the ordinary objects of interest, to trade, commerce, manufactures, &c. The Guide is well arranged under the various headings of Physical Geography, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Topography, &c., and is amply illustrated with forty-six roughly executed but very useful plates, mostly of objects of antiquarian interest. We heartily recommend the book to any visitor who wants an intelligent guide to the counties of Down and Antrim, a good map of which is appended.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Cassowary (*Casuaris?*) from N.E. New Guinea, presented by Capt. Maisby; a Javan Chevrotain (*Tragulus javanicus*) from Java, presented by Mr. G. Mannings; a Formosan Deer (*Cervus pseudaxis*) from the Island of Formosa, presented by Mr. Abel A. J. Gower; two Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*) from Australia, presented by Mr. R. H. Bower; an Indian Python (*Python molurus*); a Vervet Monkey (*Cercopithecus lalandii*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. C. Hassam; two Black-eared Marmosets (*Hapale penicillata*) from Brazil, presented by Mr. J. P. Harrison.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE Belfast Session of the British Association was brought to a conclusion on Wednesday, the 26th ult., with mutual congratulations between all concerned. In our animadversions on the high charges for sleeping accommodation charged from some of the members of the Association, we of course meant in no way to reflect on the local authorities or local committee, who exerted themselves to the utmost to render the meeting in every way a success. The vote of thanks to the Mayor was thoroughly deserved, as was also [the tribute of praise

awarded by the Rev. Dr. Henry to the "unflagging zeal" of Dr. Andrews in behalf of this meeting of the Association. One very pleasing result of the meeting, and of a discussion in the Economical Section, was the sudden termination of the extensive strike which had existed in Belfast for a considerable time. The various excursions organised on Thursday were a decided success.

The next meeting opens at Belfast on August 25, 1875. The Committee, among other things, have recommended, and their recommendation has been adopted, that the Council of the Association be requested to take such steps as they may think expedient to urge upon the Government of India the desirableness of continuing solar observations; that the Council of the Association be requested to take such steps as they may think desirable with the view of appointing naturalists to vessels engaged on coasts of little-known parts of the world; that they be requested to take such steps as they may think desirable to promote any application that may be made to her Majesty's Government by the Royal Society to promote physiological and biological explorations in the seas round the British Isles; that they be requested to take such steps as they think desirable for supporting a request to her Majesty's Government to undertake an Arctic expedition on the basis proposed by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society at the beginning of the present year, and which will be made again by that body.

The following is a synopsis of grants of money appropriated to scientific purposes by the General Committee at the Belfast Meeting:—

MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS.

| | |
|---|----------|
| *Cayley, Prof.—Printing Mathematical Tables | ... £100 |
| *Balfour Stewart, Prof.—Magnetisation of Iron | ... 20 |
| *Brooke, Mr.—British Rainfall | ... 120 |
| *Glaisher, Mr. J.—Luminous Meteors | ... 30 |
| Maxwell, Prof. C.—Testing the Exactness of Ohm's Law | ... 50 |
| Stokes, Prof.—Reflective Power of Silver and other Substances | ... 20 |
| *Herschel, Prof.—Thermal Conducting Powers of Rocks | 10 |
| *Tait, Prof.—Thermo-Electricity (renewed) | ... 50 |

CHEMISTRY.

| | |
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| *Williamson, Prof. A. W.—Records of the Progress of Chemistry | ... 100 |
| Roscoe, Prof.—Specific Volumes of Liquids | ... 25 |
| Allen, Mr.—Estimation of Potash and Phosphoric Acid | 10 |
| *Armstrong, Dr.—Isomeric Cresols and their Derivatives (renewed) | ... 20 |

GEOLOGY.

| | |
|---|---------|
| *Willett, Mr. H.—The Sub-Wealden Exploration | ... 100 |
| *Lyell, Sir C., Bart.—Kent's Cavern Exploration | ... 100 |
| *Lubbock, Sir J.—Exploration of Victoria Cave, Settle... | 50 |
| *Bryce, Dr.—Earthquakes in Scotland (renewed) | ... 20 |
| Hull, Prof.—Underground Waters in New Red Sandstone and Permian | ... 10 |

BIOLOGY.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Dresser, Mr.—Report on Ornithology | ... 10 |
| Rolleston, Prof.—Development of Myxinoïd Fishes | ... 20 |
| *Stainton, Mr.—Record of the Progress of Zoology | ... 100 |
| *Fox, Col. Lane.—Forms of Instruction for Travellers... | 20 |
| *Brunton, Dr.—The Nature of Intestinal Secretion | ... 20 |

GEOGRAPHY.

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| Wilson, Major.—Palestine Exploration Fund | ... 100 |
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STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE.

| | |
|---|----|
| *Houghton, Lord.—Economic Effects of Trades' Unions | 25 |
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MECHANICS.

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|--|--------|
| Froude, Mr.—Instruments for Measuring the Speed of Ships (renewed) | ... 50 |
|--|--------|

Total £1,180

* Reappointed.