

Chest to expend a sum of 7500*l.* on the erection of an annex to the east side of the present University Museum to contain the collection and to provide the requisite cases and fittings; a vote of thanks to General Pitt-Rivers was also passed.

This most important collection, therefore, which commenced its public existence at Bethnal Green, and has so long been exhibited at South Kensington, will rest finally at Oxford, where it cannot fail to be studied with ever increasing interest and benefit to learning generally. The title of the collection as the "Pitt-Rivers Collection" is to be maintained, and the developmental and gradational system of arrangement devised by the donor, and carried out by him in the greater part of the collection, with such valuable and interesting results is to be retained. The new building, which will be provided with two galleries, will be entered by two doorways at different levels from the present University Museum.

The delegates of the Museum have elected Dr. E. B. Tylor to be Keeper of the Museum in place of the late Prof. Henry Smith, so that the new collection, as well as the anthropological collection of the late Prof. Rolleston, will fall into the hands of the man most suited to arrange and explain them.

JOHN RICHARD GREEN

THE death of Mr. Green, at the early age of forty-five years, we regard as a serious loss not only to historical literature but to science. We have frequently maintained that science has no peculiar sphere, that every field of human research is capable of scientific treatment. As we pointed out in reviewing Mr. Green's famous "Short History" and his "Making of England," he has the credit of having been the first historian who appreciated the function of science in a State, or the moulding power of the environment of a people. Not only so, but he distinctly aimed at showing that the history of a people is simply an evolution dependent for its course and outcome on the action and reaction between the entity and its surroundings. This conception of the function of the historian was probably even more distinctly brought out in the "Geography of the British Isles," by Mr. Green and his accomplished and congenial wife. As we pointed out in our notice of the "Short History" moreover, Mr. Green not only wrote his "History" on a scientific method, but gave large space in that history to a record of the progress of science and of scientific societies, as distinct and influential elements in the life of our nation. Indeed he may be regarded as the first historian who, breaking away from the old conventional methods of writing history from the outside, and thus mistaking the shell for the kernel, adopted the method of the physical geographer as distinct from the mere topographer, and, penetrating deep beneath the surface, traced the forces which have actuated the nation and brought it to its present standpoint. Although the impulse given by Mr. Green to historical study will certainly bear fruit, his loss cannot be overestimated. His "Making of England" was evidently only a prelude to a series of volumes in which he intended to show in minute detail the interaction between the various elements that go to make up the life of these islands,—the ethnical and moral elements on the one hand, and the encompassing physical elements on the other. Happily he has left behind him in a nearly complete state a second volume on "The Coming of the Northmen," which brings his scheme down to the point when it may be said that all the forces were in the field, the continued action of which has gone to make up the England of to-day. Since Mr. Green's death ample testimony has been borne to his rigidly scientific method of work, and the patience with which he wrote and rewrote ere his own severely critical

standard was reached. It will be difficult to find a successor to Mr. Green so far as stirring eloquence of style is concerned, but we trust that his scientific method may find favour, and that historians in future will endeavour to trace the life of a nation as he did, after the manner of the biologist and physical geographer.

THE BOTANY OF THE "CHALLENGER" EXPEDITION

FROM time to time various contributions to the Botany of the *Challenger* Expedition have been published in the *Journal* of the Linnean Society, chiefly in the fourteenth and fifteenth volumes; but hitherto no part of the botanical results has appeared in the series of sumptuous volumes in which are recorded the discoveries and observations of the expedition. The Government have at length decided to devote one volume of about 350 pages and fifty plates to the elucidation of the flora of the more interesting countries visited, which the writer of the present article has undertaken with the assistance and under the superintendence of Sir Joseph D. Hooker. There can be no doubt that the Government are right in their estimate of the relatively small importance of the results obtained in botany as compared with those obtained in other branches of science; yet we think we shall be able to show that the botanical collections are sufficient to form the basis of a most interesting volume. It is almost superfluous to state that the botanist of such an expedition has little chance of exhausting the flora of any of the numerous countries or regions visited; and the task of elaborating the materials seemed at first an unpromising one. At many of the places visited, and especially some of the more interesting ones, the stay was too short and the means inadequate for making and drying large collections of plants. Nevertheless the naturalist, Mr. H. N. Moseley, seems to have lost no opportunity, having collected in almost every place touched at. Unfortunately the plants of the least-known countries, such as the Aru and Admiralty Islands, reached England in a very much damaged condition. But imperfect as they are, they include a large proportion of novelties, and indicate a flora rich in endemic species. The best collections, so far as number and quality of the specimens are concerned, are those from Chili, Juan Fernandez, Japan, the Sandwich Islands, &c.; yet they contain little or nothing new to science, and by no means fully represent the vegetation of the several countries. There remain the collections made in the remote islets of the Atlantic and Southern Oceans, which, with what was previously known, afford material for a practically complete flora of these isolated spots, so interesting to the student of the distribution of plants and animals. And it has been decided that this shall be the scope of the work.

The Bermudas, the oldest English colony, come first in the arrangement adopted. These islands, having an area of about one-seventh of that of the Isle of Wight, are situated about six hundred miles from the American continent, and although settled as long ago as 1612, nothing approaching a complete and critical account of their vegetation has hitherto been published. The flora is a poor one, especially in regard to number of species, and is evidently of comparatively recent origin, being in this respect in striking contrast to that of various other Atlantic islands—that of St. Helena, for example. The indigenous element has been, almost without exception, derived from the West Indies and the extreme south-east of the mainland of North America. By the indigenous element we mean those species which have reached the islands independently of human agency, direct or indirect. With unimportant, though rather numerous, exceptions, the indigenous and introduced elements are easily dis-