

Animal Intelligence

I AM not aware whether or not the following case has appeared among the numerous instances under this head already given in the columns of NATURE. It is to be found in Vogt and Specht's "Die Säugetierte in Wort und Bild" (p. 11). The writer of the text of that work says:—"I have myself seen a case in which a chimpanzee, who had got himself a little scratched by the point of a slightly projecting nail in the wall of his cage, first carefully examined the same, then sought to remove it, and afterwards, when he was let out, immediately proceeded to search for the head of the nail on the outside of the wall, and then, on finding it, began to try to pull out the nail with his fingers and teeth, and when this was done for him with a pair of pincers, broke out into lively demonstrations of joy."

Camberwell, September 18

GEO. G. CHISHOLM

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

SOUTHPORT, Tuesday.

CONSIDERING general results, the Southport meeting must be regarded as a decided success. The number of tickets sold has been over 2,650, and the funds will therefore be ample to provide for scientific research. The supply of papers has been kept up in all Sections, and the quality of them has certainly reached a fair average. The weather with two exceptions has been fine, and the accommodation ample. The *soirées* have been all that could be wished, to which the beautiful trees, ferns, and palms in the Winter Gardens have contributed, and the exhibition connected with it afforded points of interest for people of varied tastes. The local officers have worked well and shown both application and forethought, and the excursions, if not of a particularly scientific character, have certainly been the means of the Association receiving much hospitality, and seeing many places of interest, and some of beauty.

The General Committee meeting on Monday was very largely attended, and after the exceedingly well expressed speeches of Principal Dawson and Sir Charles Tupper, the feeling was strong that the meeting in Canada will be a success, and that the greater the number who go the better will the Canadians be pleased. Sir Charles Tupper stated that, after a long experience of the Canadian House of Commons, he never saw a vote so unanimously passed as the appropriation of 4000*l.* for the forthcoming meeting. There are many who still think it a mistaken policy for the Association to leave the shores of these islands, but all of those who were present fully sympathised with the very strong expression of approval that met announcement after announcement of cheap passages, free railway journeys, and magnificent hospitality offered by the Dominion. General satisfaction was expressed at the announcement that those who are unable to spare the time for the long excursions to the Rocky Mountains and elsewhere after the Canada meeting will be allowed to make those expeditions before the meeting, which will commence on August 27, under the presidency of Prof. Lord Rayleigh.

For the 1885 meeting Birmingham and Nottingham did not put in applications, the competing towns being Aberdeen and Bournemouth. In favour of the former it was urged that the members of the Association by that time will be so accustomed to long journeys that they will think nothing of the distance to Aberdeen, and that the Scotch meetings have always been a success, both as to numbers and as to the position of those who attended. In favour of Bournemouth it was urged that first meetings were always a great success, as at Brighton and the present meeting at Southport. The vote was for the northern University town; but there was an expression of feeling that the claims of the watering-place should not be forgotten in 1886.

Prof. Ball's lecture was the most successful of the addresses delivered in the Pavilion. The building, as originally constructed, was oval in shape, with a gallery

extending round it, and its acoustic properties were then good; subsequently an ordinary theatrical stage and appointments were added to it, which latter were only partially removed for the meeting, and the building was certainly but ill adapted for the large audiences which endeavoured to find room in it. The Reception Room at the Cambridge Hall left nothing to be desired, except a wish that it had been on the ground floor.

In the Geographical Section much interest was felt in a long paper by Mr. H. H. Johnson, on a visit to Mr. Stanley's stations on the River Congo. The author read a letter he had just received from Mr. Stanley, in which that explorer gives expression to his belief that the River Congo will give civilisation and commerce to the lost Continent. In this Section also an interesting paper was read by Mr. Wm. Hancock of the Chinese Imperial Custom Service, on the volcanic and earthquake regions of Central America; by the Rev. S. J. Perry, on Nos Vey and the south-west of Madagascar, which he visited for the late transit of Venus.

The address of Sir Frederick Bramwell to the working men was a very great success; his good voice and easy style told with effect on the crowded audience of working men who came to learn about the telephone, which was clearly shown to be an important factor in commercial life.

The following is the list of grants of money appropriated by the General Committee to scientific purposes for next year:—

A—Mathematics and Physics

Brown, Prof. Crum—Meteorological Observations on Ben Nevis	£50
Foster, Prof. G. Carey—Electrical Standards	50
Schuster, Prof.—Meteoric Dust	20
Abney, Capt.—Standard of White Light	20
Scott, Mr. R. H.—Synoptic Charts of the Indian Ocean	50
Stewart, Prof. Balfour—Meteorological Observatory near Chepstow	25
Shoolbred, Mr. J. N.—Reduction of Tidal Observations	10
Darwin, Prof. G. H.—Harmonic Analysis of Tidal Observations	45

B—Chemistry

Odling, Prof.—Photographing the Ultra-Violet Spark Spectra	10
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C—Geology

Etheridge, Mr. R.—Earthquake Phenomena of Japan	75
Williamson, Prof. W. C.—Fossil Plants of Halifax	15
Sorby, Dr. H. C.—British Fossil Polyzoa	10
Prestwich, Prof.—Erratic Blocks	10
Etheridge, Mr. R.—Fossil Phyllopora of the Palaeozoic Rocks	15
Hull, Prof. E.—Circulation of Underground Waters	15
Evans, Dr. J.—Geological Record	15
Green, Prof. A. H.—Raygill Fissure	15
Prestwich, Prof.—International Geological Map of Europe	20

D—Biology

Newton, Prof.—Zoological Bibliography	50
Slater, P. L.—Natural History of Timor Laut	50
Lankester, Prof. Ray—Table at the Zoological Station at Naples	80
Harrison, J. Park—Facial Characteristics of Races in the British Isles	10
Hooker, Sir J.—Exploring Kilimandjaro and the adjoining Mountains of Equatorial Africa	500
Cordeaux, Mr. J.—Migration of Birds	20
Foster, Dr. M.—Coagulation of the Blood	50
Stainton, Mr. H. T.—Record of Zoological Literature	100

E—Geography

Godwin-Austen, Lieut.-Col.—Exploration of New Guinea	100
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F—Economic Science and Statistics

Brabrook, Mr. E. W.—Preparation of the Final Report of the Anthropometric Committee	10
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