

shock in London. Mr. Ernest Myers writes from 31 Inverness Terrace, W. :—"A slight but unmistakable shock was felt here about 8.20 p.m. There was no rattling of windows or other sound. The vibration seemed to be from side to side." Mr. E. W. Haines, of Alexandra Road, St. John's Wood, says :—"The earthquake was distinctly, though slightly, felt here last evening at 8.30." A member of the firm of Yates, Crighton, and Co., of Cannon Street, E.C., while working in their offices on Thursday evening, distinctly felt four shocks just before 8.30. He says :—"It was the more noticeable as our offices are situated in a huge building, on the third floor, and the sensation was just as if the whole block were rocked by the wind from south to north." "C. W. H." writes from the General Post Office :—"Last evening I was sitting in my room, situated in the south-west corner, top story of the General Post Office, when I felt my chair oscillate with a slight tremulous motion, which lasted perhaps four seconds. Thinking it was a slight shock of earthquake, I stood up, and looking at my watch saw the time was 8.20." A person living at West Kensington reports having felt the shock at 8.15. Mr. F. Yates, writing from Park Street, Southwark, S.E., May 31, says :—"Yesterday evening, between 8.20 and 8.25, while sitting in my library at Surbiton, I distinctly felt two light shocks, which I attributed to earthquake. The shocks were also observed by other members of my family."

Mr. J. Lloyd Bozward writes to us from Henwick, Worcester, that the earthquake was perceptible there. While seated in a room on the second floor of his house at about 8.23 p.m. on Thursday, all being still, he felt five distinct tremors in rapid succession, the third being the most notable. "On making immediate inquiries," he says, "I learned that the tremors had not been felt on the other floors, but my son, who happened to be in the basement on the occasion, says that at the time referred to by me he noticed that the flame of a lamp burning on the table suddenly shot up above the top of the glass chimney."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Annual Report of the Museums and Lecture Rooms Syndicate, just issued, contains much interesting information about the progress of natural science studies and collections.

Prof. Babington announces that the late Prof. Churchill Babington's extensive herbarium has been presented to the Botanical Museum by his widow, including the typical specimens of lichens described by him. The type collection has been enlarged, and demonstrations in organography and histology are regularly given. Mr. Potter has just returned from Ceylon with a fine collection. A series of germinating seedlings (prepared by Mr. Barber), specimens showing the injuries caused to plants by insects (by Mr. Shipley), and Kny's diagrams, given by Mr. Thiselton Dyer, are among the valuable acquisitions.

Mr. J. W. Clark, Superintendent of the Museum of Comparative Anatomy, reports the gift of a beautiful collection of spiders, with accompanying drawings, by Mr. Warburton; the mounting of the skeleton of *Rhytina gigas*; the deposit of a valuable collection of skulls and bones of Bovidae and Cervidae; by Mrs. Stewart, widow of Surgeon-General L. C. Stewart; Surgeon-General Day has given 357 birdskins from India and Burmah; and Messrs. Cordeaux have given over 100 valuable Indian specimens.

Two parts of the "Morphological Studies" have been issued by Mr. Sedgwick since the last Report. The Elementary Biology Class numbered 167 in the Easter term of 1888, and 139 in the Lent term of 1889. The Morphology Class varied from 77 to 42; with a smaller advanced class.

Prof. Macalister reports the addition of 131 Egyptian skulls, 25 skulls from the Saxon burial-place at Hauxton, and many from that behind St. John's College. The Rev. J. Sanborn, of Lockport, N.Y., has given valuable skulls from a burying-place of the Seneca Indians.

Prof. Roy describes the careful and systematic arrangement he has adopted in his Pathological Laboratory (late the Chemical Laboratory).

Prof. Hughes once more deplors the long postponement of the new Geological Museum. It certainly is not just to allow the donors of the funds to die out and never see the erection of

the Museum towards which they contributed such large sums. Important additions have been made to the Cambrian and Silurian fossils by Mr. Marr, and many of them have been described and figured by him. Thirty-four figured types from the Inferior Oolite of Dorsetshire have been presented by the Rev. G. F. Whidborne. About 130 slides have been added to the cabinet of microscopical preparations of rocks. Much progress has been made in palaeobotany, and two courses of lectures have been given by the lecturer, Mr. Seward. Mr. Strickland's collection of fossils, numbering 7000 specimens, has been presented by the late Mrs. Strickland.

The new Chemical Laboratory proves to be very satisfactory in working.

The demonstrations in the Cavendish Laboratory were attended by 136 students last Michaelmas term and 144 in the Lent term. Twelve persons have been doing original work in the Laboratory during the year. Some important new apparatus has been acquired.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, série ii., tome iv., fasc. 1 (Paris, 1889).—Pre-Columbian ethnography of Venezuela, by Dr. Marcano. The author prefaces his special ethnographical remarks with a short geographical notice of the Venezuelan territory, entering more particularly into the physiological character of the fertile valleys of Aragua and Caracas. The special feature of the landscape in these picturesque regions is the range of low hills locally characterized as "Cerritos," which extend over a large area near the beautiful lake of Valencia, first known to the Spaniards as Lake Tacarigua, and which were regarded by the native Indians as natural features of the soil. It has been discovered, however, by recent explorers, that they are artificial elevations, raised in past ages by some aboriginal Indian race long extinct, whose very name is unknown to the present inhabitants of the district, although the shores and bottom of the lake testify, through their vast accumulations of bones and other *débris*, that the country must have been densely populated at some remote prehistoric period. Dr. Marcano, who devoted several years to the exploration of the Cerritos, near Lake Valencia, has succeeded in laying bare the interiors of twenty of these mounds, which prove to be sepulchral caves filled with bone and other detritus. All present a uniform plan of arrangement, and consist of a central circular walled-in space, containing an enormous mass of whole and fractured bones, and marine and fresh-water shells, with fragments of stone, bone, and wood implements, and sherds of pottery, most of which bear traces of the action of fire. The human remains were deposited in round earthen jars or urns, each of which contained only the separate bones of one body, the skull resting at the base of the vessel, while the sacrum, with the long and the small bones, was laid above it so as to fit into all the available space. The appearance of these bones indicates that the flesh had been detached from the dead body before its interment, but their brittle condition rendered a minute examination impossible in some cases, although Dr. Marcano was able to recover forty crania which admitted of sufficiently exact investigation to warrant the conclusion that they represent two distinct types of brachycephalism. About half of these crania showed signs of deformity, due to artificial pressure over the frontal bones. The most remarkable characteristic was their prognathism, which exceeded that of any skull previously examined by him, although his observations were based on the examination of more than 2000 crania, of which some belonged to New Caledonians, who have hitherto ranked as belonging to the most prognathic race extant. The implements found in the Cerritos caves are nearly identical with those associated with the Neolithic age in Europe, while the animal remains are composed of types belonging to the local terrestrial and aqueous faunas, including the broken skull of a cebus; while so enormous a mass of the bones of a caiman (*Crocodilus bava*, which is peculiar to the Lake of Valencia and its affluents) was found, that it is evident the flesh of this animal must have served as food. A number of detailed craniological tables, and numerous illustrations of the crania and of the curious figurines and idols, the urns, tools, ornaments, and other objects interred with the human bones, add greatly to the value of Dr. Marcano's exhaustive memoir.—The superstitions prevalent in Wales, by M. Maricourt. In this article the author has drawn his materials so indiscriminately from