

knew him for his uprightness, modesty, unselfishness, and generosity to fellow-workers, always helping young inquirers with specimens and information, he was suddenly lost to sight as a friend and father, but remains in the minds of fellow-workers, of those whom he so freely taught, and of his stricken relatives, as a great and good man, whose beneficent influence will ever be felt in a wide-spreading and advancing science, and among thoughtful and appreciative men in all time.

ALPHONSE FAVRE.

BY the death of Prof. A. Favre, Switzerland has been deprived of one of her foremost men of science, and geology has lost a very assiduous and successful cultivator. His death appears to sever the last remaining link between the present generation of Swiss geologists and that older and famous one which included Bernhard Studer, Arnold Escher von der Linth, Peter Merian, and Oswald Heer. The late Prof. Favre, who had reached the age of seventy-seven at the time of his death, was the author of numerous papers, the earliest of which, "On the Anthracites of the Alps," was published as long ago as 1841. He will perhaps be best remembered by the part he took in the famous controversy concerning the supposed admixture of fossils, belonging to different geological horizons, which were said to occur in the same beds in the Alps. In opposition to M. Scipion Gras and others who asserted that such intermixture of fossils did actually occur, Favre was able to show, by a series of patient investigations, that the apparent reversals of succession, and intimate union of Carboniferous, Jurassic, and Tertiary strata, could all be accounted for by repeated interfoldings and complicated overthrust faults. It is interesting to note that at the time when Favre was thus successfully contending for such an interpretation of supposed anomalies in the Alpine rocks, James Nicol in this country was engaged in a precisely similar controversy with Murchison and his followers, concerning the rocks of our own Highlands. But whereas the triumph of Favre's views was immediate and complete, and their author lived to see the justice of his interpretation universally admitted, Nicol was fated to witness the influence of great authority exerted for a long time in preventing the truth of his conclusions from being accepted; and only after his death was the retraction made which showed how much Scotland owes to this able interpreter of the geological structure of his native land. History may be relied upon, however, to do equal justice to the successful Swiss geologist and the disappointed Scotch one. Prof. Favre, besides papers on a great variety of geological questions, wrote several works dealing with the geology of the parts of Savoy, Piedmont, and Switzerland of which Mont Blanc forms the centre. During the later years of his life he had retired from his Professorship of Geology at Geneva, but up to the time of his death Favre held the post of President of the Federal Commission having charge of the geological map of Switzerland. As long ago as 1874 he was elected a foreign member of the Geological Society, and he was also a correspondent of the Institute of France.

AID TO ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH.

PROF. PICKERING, of the Harvard College Observatory, has issued the following notice:—
"Miss C. W. Bruce offers the sum of six thousand dollars (\$6000) during the present year in aiding astronomical research. No restriction will be made likely to limit the usefulness of this gift. In the hope of making it of the greatest benefit to science, the entire sum will

be divided, and in general the amount devoted to a single object will not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500). Precedence will be given to institutions and individuals whose work is already known through their publications, also to those cases which cannot otherwise be provided for, or where additional sums can be secured if a part of the cost is furnished. Applications are invited from astronomers of all countries, and should be made to the undersigned before October 1, 1890, giving complete information regarding the desired objects. Applications not acted on favourably will be regarded as confidential. The unrestricted character of this gift should insure many important results to science, if judiciously expended. In that case it is hoped that others will be encouraged to follow this example, and that eventually it may lead to securing the needed means for any astronomer who could so use it as to make a real advance in astronomical science. Any suggestions regarding the best way of fulfilling the objects of this circular will be gratefully received.

"EDWARD C. PICKERING.

"Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.,
U.S.A., July 15, 1890."

NOTES.

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet this year at Indianapolis, under the presidency of Prof. Goodale. The first meeting will be held on August 19. The subject selected in advance for special discussion is "The Geographical Distribution of North American Plants," and papers upon it will be presented by Messrs. Watson, Macoun (of Ottawa), Sargent, Britton, Underwood, Halsted, and Coulter.

A ROYAL COMMISSION has been appointed to inquire and report "what is the effect, if any, of food derived from tuberculous animals on human health, and, if prejudicial, what are the circumstances and conditions with regard to the tuberculosis in the animal which produce that effect upon man." Lord Basing is chairman. The other Commissioners are Prof. G. T. Brown, Dr. George Buchanan, Mr. Frank Payne, and Prof. Burdon Sanderson.

THE Turin Academy of Medicine has proposed the following theme for the Riberi Prize of about £750: "Researches on the nature and the prophylaxis of one or several infectious diseases of man." Works may be sent printed or in manuscript; they may be in Italian, French, or Latin; and printed works must have appeared since 1886. The date limit is December 31, 1891.

THE failure of the Government to carry its scheme for the extinction of some public-house licences is likely to result in an important advantage to education. In his statement on Monday with respect to the money which was to have been applied to this object, Mr. Goschen said:—"As regards England we propose to add the amount set free by the abandoned licensing clauses to the residue which, under the Bill as it stands, goes to the county councils, accompanying this inclusion by an intimation that possibly new charges may, by and by, be put upon them, with reference to intermediate, technical, or agricultural education. It seems very desirable, if more is to be done in this respect, that the localities, and especially county councils, should be interested in the work. In England there is at present little machinery available for carrying out such an object, and it would be impossible to create such a machinery at this period of the session. But in Wales and in Monmouthshire the machinery does exist. County councils may supply funds to the joint committee for intermediate education under the Act of last year out of the county rate, but to the extent of a halfpenny of such rates only. We shall propose that the county councils in Wales