

the bewildering possibility of telegraphy without wires, posts, cables, or any of our present costly appliances. It is vain to attempt to picture the marvels of the future. Progress, as Dean Swift observed, may be too fast for endurance. Sufficient for this generation are the wonders thereof.

GEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

AT the meeting of the British Association in 1889, a Committee was appointed for the purpose of arranging for the collection, preservation, and systematic registration of photographs of geological interest in the United Kingdom. Since its formation, the Committee has succeeded in obtaining a number of photographs, 588 of which were received and registered up to August last; and in its second report, presented at the Cardiff meeting of the British Association, the Committee was able to state that, in the choice of subjects, greater care had been taken during the year to include the most typical views. As yet, only about half of the British counties are represented in the collection, while some are still represented inadequately. The work is one of great interest and importance, both from a scientific and an educational point of view, and it may be hoped that local Societies and Field Clubs, whose co-operation the Committee is particularly anxious to secure, will everywhere associate themselves with the scheme, and do what they can to bring it to completion. The Committee, in a circular just issued, suggests that these Societies and Clubs might materially aid the scheme by mapping out their districts under the direction of a local geologist, and drawing up a list of sections and localities of which photographs would be desirable. New sections and exposures of strata should be noted. This preliminary work could be done during the winter session, and arrangements made for the use of the camera in the ensuing spring, or when opportunity offered.

In its report, the Committee refers especially to the work accomplished by the Geological Photographic Committee of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union. Among the photographs of this Society are many relating to sections which cannot be reproduced—as, for instance, fossil trees laid bare in quarrying and in excavations for the foundations of buildings now covered over. The Hertfordshire Natural History Society and the East Kent Natural History Society have also organized schemes for the photography of local geological features; and the Committee has already received from them views which, it is hoped, will be supplemented by a further series next year.

Of course it is not always easy to obtain the services of a professional photographer, but few Societies should have much difficulty in securing the help of amateur photographers, so many of whom are now to be found in all parts of the country. In order that there may be unity of action, the Committee has drawn up a set of instructions, copies of which may be obtained on application to the secretary, Mr. Osmond W. Jeffs, 12 Queen's Road, Rock Ferry, Cheshire. It is pointed out that the photographs should illustrate characteristic rock exposures, especially those of a typical character or temporary nature; important boulders; localities affected by denudation, or where marked physiographical changes are in operation; raised beaches; old sea-cliffs and other conspicuous instances of marine erosion; characteristic river-valleys or escarpments, and the like; glacial phenomena, such as *roches moutonnées*, moraines, drums, and kames; or any natural views of geological interest. Photographs of microscopical sections and typical hand-specimens of rocks are also admissible.

Detailed lists of photographs officially received are published in the report of the Committee, which also

states where the photographs may be obtained. Lists for insertion in the third report will be received up to June 15, 1892.

It is satisfactory to find that geological photographic schemes similar to that of the British Association are being adopted in other countries. The Committee, in its second report, alludes to the action taken in the matter by the Société Géologique de Belgique, and to the Committee of Photographs appointed by the Geographical Society of America. The American Committee proposes to prepare lists for international exchange.

NOTES.

AFTER a rather prolonged delay, the Commission for the delimitation of the Anglo-French frontier in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, in accordance with the West African agreement between Great Britain and France of August 10, 1889, has been appointed. Captain Kenney, R.E., the British Commissioner, with his party, proceeded to Sierra Leone by the steamer of November 14 last. The Secretary of State for the Colonies permitted the Director of Kew to nominate a botanist to accompany the expedition, and the Government Grant Committee of the Royal Society made a grant to meet his expenses, part of which will also be borne by the Government of Sierra Leone. The mission has been undertaken by Mr. G. F. Scott-Elliot, M.A. Camb., B.Sc. Edinb., F.L.S., who has recently published in the Journal of the Linnean Society an account of the new species of plants found by him in a journey through a little known part of Southern Madagascar. The botany of the interior of Sierra Leone is very little known, but is believed to be of great interest. The Commission will be absent about six months. It will proceed in the first instance to Falaba, and then proceed to the point of intersection of the 10th parallel of North latitude and the 13th meridian (French) of West longitude.

WE understand that Prof. Hennessy, F.R.S., will shortly resign the Chair of Applied Mathematics and Mechanism in the Royal College of Science, Dublin. The salary of the post is £400, rising to £500, a year, with a share of the fees. The appointment rests with the Lord President of the Council, and applicants should address themselves to the Secretary, Science and Art Department.

THE arrangements to be made for the Crystal Palace Electrical Exhibition are to be discussed at a meeting of the honorary council of advice and of the special committee appointed by the Electrical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce. The meeting will be held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, November 25, at 3 o'clock. The Lord Mayor will preside. The whole of the space is now practically allotted, extra buildings having been erected for certain large installations which could not otherwise have been accommodated.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to suggest plans for the International Electrical Congress to be held in Chicago in 1893, in connection with the World's Fair. A local Committee, with Prof. Gray as President, is being formed at Chicago for the purpose of making preparations for the same Congress. The Chicago journal *Electricity* sees no reason "why a perfectly harmonious arrangement should not be made between the Institute and the local Committee, whereby both will work together to promote the success of the Congress."

THE Spanish Government intend to open two Exhibitions in September 1892 in celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of America. One of these will be at Madrid, and will be called the Exposition Historique Américaine de Madrid. The