

at all. The rule would evidently apply safely in every such case, unless the ships had nearly equal manœuvring powers, and were then so placed that their turning arcs coincided; two concomitant conditions almost impossible to exist. Needless to say that the results of actual collisions exactly follow the diagram.

It now remains to express my general belief as to the *Victoria*. The paths in turning given of the *Edinburgh* and *Dreadnought* are those of two of the ships which were present on the occasion of her loss. Whether or not they had these traces on board I do not know. There is no mention of such things in the Minutes of the Court Martial, and the questions and answers never go beyond the work of 1865-74. But it is to me inconceivable that the mistake could have been made had such traces been familiar in every ship, and had the late Sir George Tryon been supplied with those of all his ships as a matter of course.

I think that, while blame for this accident has been *authoritatively and unauthoritatively strongly thrown on* individuals, it is impossible for anyone realising what I have written, to blame any one individual.

P. H. COLOMBE.

THE TUNICATE.

FAR down in the depths of the ocean
The Tunicate's active and gay;
It hasn't the ghost of a notion
How cellular tissues decay.

With a notochord all down its central part,
It is surely a wee morsel vain;
For it knows it possesses a ventral heart,
Not to speak of a dorsal brain.

Then down in the depths of the ocean
The Tunicate's lightsome and free;
It hasn't the ghost of a notion
How degenerate old age can be.

For it must be a pleasing sensation
That, if other resources all fail,
You can never come quite to starvation
If you've been endowed with a tail.

Then down in the depths of the ocean
The Tunicate's careless and glad;
It hasn't the ghost of a notion
Its instincts all tend to the bad.

Till, wearied by youthful diversion,
It thinks it will rest on a stone.
It becomes disinclined for exertion.
—Ah! Tunicate, you are undone!

Now, down in the depths of the ocean
That Tunicate's losing his tail:
As though he had swallowed a potion,
His mental resources all fail.

His brain and his nerves they degenerate,
His notochord meets a like fate;
You hardly can class him, at any rate
He's no longer a true vertebrate.

And down in the depths of the ocean
He gets him a cellulose frock;
And all just because of that notion
Of taking a rest on a rock.

And there is a moral deduction,
Which I'd like you to cogitate often:
Don't we all know of stones where, by suction,
We stick, till our intellects soften?

R. M.

NOTES.

THE Croonian lecture of the Royal Society for 1894 is to be delivered by S. Ramón y Cajal, Professor of Histology and Pathological Anatomy in the University of Madrid. The subject will be "The Minute Structure of the Nervous System," and the date, March 1.

ON February 16 next, Prof. E. Haeckel celebrates his sixtieth birthday, and in honour of the event it is proposed to place his marble bust in the Zoological Institute of Jena. Friends and admirers of Haeckel who desire to support this object, should send their subscriptions to Prof. Richard Semon, Jena.

MISS KLUMPKE, the well-known lady assistant at the Paris Observatory, took the degree of Doctor of Mathematical Science at the Sorbonne, on December 14. The subject of her thesis was Saturn's rings.

PROFS. BARNARD AND ASAPH HALL have been awarded the Arago Prize for Astronomy by the Paris Academy of Sciences.

PROF. C. F. MABERY has received a grant of 300 dollars from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to enable him to carry on his investigations of the American sulphur petroleum.

THE death is announced of Dr. J. Boehm, Professor of Botany in Vienna University, of Dr. D. A. Brauns, Extraordinary Professor of Geology in Halle University, and of Dr. P. A. Spiro, Professor of Physiology in the University of Odessa.

IT appears from the will of the late Sir Andrew Clarke that he has bequeathed the sum of £500 to the London Hospital Medical College, for the foundation of a scholarship.

AT a special general meeting of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, held on Friday last, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"That the members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, in special general meeting assembled, hereby record their deep regret at the death of Dr. John Tyndall, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., who was for forty years connected with the institution as lecturer, professor, and honorary professor of natural philosophy, and who by his brilliant abilities and laborious researches nobly promoted the objects of the institution and conspicuously enhanced its reputation, while at the same time he extended scientific truth, and rendered many new additions to natural knowledge practically available for the service of mankind; and that the members of the Royal Institution further desire to convey to Mrs. Tyndall an expression of their sincere sympathy and condolence with her in the bereavement she has sustained in the loss of her gifted and distinguished husband."

WE learn from the *Victorian Naturalist* that Baron von Mueller has withdrawn from the directorship of the International Academy for Botanic Geography of Le Mans.

AFTER remaining dormant throughout historic time the volcano El Calbuco in the Andes (Lat. 41° 21' S. Long. 72° 38' W.) has renewed its activity. Mr. A. E. Nogues described the eruption in a communication to the Paris Academy, on December 11. Some months ago, columns of vapour began to issue from the crater, their escape being accompanied by the usual subterranean noises, seismic movements, and electrical phenomena. This stage was followed by the ejection of scorix and rock fragments in such large quantities that the surrounding woods were burnt up, and the ground raised to a comparatively high temperature. At the present time the volcano is in full play. Lava has issued from the sides of the cone and flowed down to the base, forming streams of molten rock which have barred the way of torrents and changed the directions of rivers. This phase of the eruption, however, marks a decline of activity, and will in all probability be followed by the quiet emission of gaseous products.