

(Brussels), Prof. Michie Smith (Madras), M. A. P. N. Franchimont (Leiden), Dr. H. Haviland Field (New York), Dr. Bashford Dean (Columbia College, New York), Prof. J. W. Langley (Ohio, U.S.A.), Dr. Paschen (Hanover), Dr. Conwentz (Dantzic), M. Berthelin (Paris). A large number of the leading scientific men in England have already notified that they will attend the meeting.

The hon. local secretaries for the meeting are Messrs. S. A. Notcutt, G. H. Hewetson, and E. P. Ridley. All communications to them should be addressed to the Museum, Ipswich.

#### BAILLON, BABINGTON, EATON.

BY the death of Henri Ernest Baillon, France has lost one of her most accomplished botanists, and certainly her leading systematist. Under date of the 19th ult. the writer received the following lines from a friend at the Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Paris.

"Je vous écris sous une bien pénible impression ; M. Baillon est mort hier soir subitement. Dans l'après midi il était venu au laboratoire selon son habitude. À 5 heures et demie il prit un bain ; à 6 heures son fils rentrant de l'École de Médecine le trouva mort. On croit que le bain, un peu trop chauffé, a déterminé une congestion.

"C'est une grande perte pour nous et pour la botanique. S'il avait des ennemis implacables, il avait aussi des amitiés fidèles. Je ne doute pas que l'avenir ne montre que derrière un esprit, dont les manifestations parfois acerbes visait moins la personnalité que ce qu'il jugeait être l'erreur, se cachait un cœur sensible à l'excès. Il est un bon nombre de ses élèves pauvres qui savent de quelles délicatesses il savait entourer une aumône.

"Quoiqu'il en soit c'était un grand botaniste ; vous le jugez ainsi, n'est ce pas ?

"Ses quatre enfants vont se trouver dans la misère la plus profonde qu'on puisse imaginer. Ce qu'il n'a pas dépensé de sa fortune pour la publication de ses livres a disparu dans le gouffre des dettes de celle qui a porté son nom. Aujourd'hui il ne reste rien."

The allusion to Baillon's personal character in the foregoing letter will appeal to the sympathies of those who knew him on this side of the channel. Unfortunately he quarrelled with some of the foremost French botanists of assured position, which led to regrettable and undignified recriminations on his part, and resulted in closing the doors of the Académie des Sciences against him for ever. This embittered his life considerably, and rendered his relations with a section of the botanists of Paris almost unbearable.

For most of the following particulars of Baillon's career I am indebted to the author of the above letter. Henri Baillon, as he usually signed himself, was born at Calais, November 29, 1827, of a family of good position and reputation in the town and district. He studied with great distinction at the Lycée de Versailles, and commenced his medical education at the age of seventeen. In 1854 he became house-surgeon at the Hôpital de la Pitié, Paris, a position obtained only by severe competition ; and he was so brilliantly successful in his work, that he was unanimously awarded the gold medal of the Internat, the highest reward at the disposal of the Faculté de Médecine. His candidature for the degree of Docteur en Médecine was a perfect triumph, for he completely held his examiners, both by the elegance of his diction and the depth of his scientific views. In 1863 he succeeded Moquin Tandon in the Chair of Botany at the École de Médecine, and he filled this chair up to the time of his death ; and for some time was Professor of Botany at the Lycée Napoléon as well. He was also Docteur ès Sciences. In 1875 he was elected a foreign member of the Linnean Society of London, and last year he received the same distinction from the Royal Society.

This gave him much pleasure, and consoled him, in some measure, for the implacability of his own countrymen. In 1866 he and a few others founded the Société Linnéenne de Paris. He was elected president, and continued to act as such until his death. For some years the *Proceedings* of this very small Society were published in Baillon's own periodical, *Adansonia*, and then a *Bulletin Mensuel* appeared, and has continued to appear down to the present time, entirely owing to the energy and industry of the president. This organ was not published, but distributed to the leading botanical establishments ; hence there is no record of Baillon's numerous articles therein in the Royal Society's catalogue of scientific papers. Yet, omitting these, the catalogue contains the titles of 230 of his papers, published between 1854 and 1883. But Baillon was a most prolific writer, and covered a considerable range, though systematic botany was his chief study. I need only name his *Adansonia*, twelve volumes, 1866 to 1879 ; "Dictionnaire de Botanique," four volumes, 1876 to 1892 ; "Histoire des Plantes," 1867-95, and still unfinished. Baillon, too, was the only French botanist who occupied himself on the rich collections of flowering plants in Paris from Madagascar ; being the author of the uncompleted "Histoire des Plantes de Madagascar," forming a portion of Grandidier's great work on Madagascar.

Baillon was one of the few existing botanists having a good knowledge of the phanerogamic flora of the world. As a writer, however, he was more critical than methodical, and many of his original observations and suggestions have been overlooked by botanists who have subsequently gone over the same ground. This is owing to the fact that the titles of many of his articles do not sufficiently describe their contents. Not infrequently a new genus or a new species is described in the body of a paragraph, and sometimes so informally, that only by careful reading is it possible to arrive at the fact. This often caused the author himself chagrin, especially as he was very sensitive and apt to believe that his work had been purposely ignored. I had almost forgotten to mention that the Euphorbiaceæ were one of his favourite families, and his "Étude Générale du Groupe des Euphorbiacées" is one of his most finished works. This is not the place to enter into a more critical examination of his works, but I cannot help mentioning that the illustrations almost throughout are of a high order of merit. Dr. Baillon has been a frequent visitor to Kew and the British Museum during the last thirty years, and many botanists will join me in regret for his sudden death whilst apparently in almost the full vigour of life.

The veteran Professor of Botany, Charles Cardale Babington, in the University of Cambridge, whose death has lately taken place, was born at Ludlow in 1808, and educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his B.A. in 1830 and M.A. in 1833. As long ago as June 1830, he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society ; yet there are still two of earlier date in the Society's list, namely, Dickinson Webster Crompton and William Pamplin, both elected the previous January. There are only two others, Thomas Archer-Hind and James Bateman, who have been Fellows of the Society for upwards of sixty years. In 1851 Babington was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and among the fifteen of that year, it may be mentioned, were the late Prof. Huxley, Lord Kelvin, Sir James Paget, and Sir Gabriel Stokes. In 1861 he succeeded the Rev. J. S. Henslow in the Botanical Chair at Cambridge, a post he held up to his death, though for many years he was incapacitated from performing the duties. Prof. Babington was, in his early years at least, a prolific writer, his first paper appearing in 1832. His writings were almost exclusively on the British flora ; and his name will stand in the history of British botany as the inaugurator of a more critical delimitation

of species than had previously found favour in this country. Taking Koch and Fries as his models, from whom he largely borrowed, he published the first edition of his "Manual" in 1843. This new departure caused considerable commotion and opposition from the older school of botanists; and the fact that Babington did not possess the critical acumen and originality of the masters in his adopted school, sometimes exposed him to attacks. Nevertheless the "Manual" was a success, passing through eight editions, the last of which appeared in 1881; and it still enjoys great favour, even among those who do not go so far in the matter of species. Babington was also author of several local floras; the first being the "Flora Bathoniensis," 1834; followed by the "Flora Sarniensis," 1839, and a "Flora of Cambridge," in 1860.

Daniel Cady Eaton, who belonged to a school of American botanists, of whom very few survive now, was the grandson of Amos Eaton, the author of the formerly famous "Manual of the Botany of North America," which passed through many editions; and son of General Amos E. Eaton, also a devotee of natural history. D. C. Eaton was born in 1834, and early evinced a liking for botany. After a successful career at school and college, he experienced many changes, including service in the federal army during the civil war. In 1867 he was called to the Botanical Chair of Yale College, New Haven, which he held until his death. As an author he will be best remembered by his writings on North American, Mexican, and West Indian ferns. His principal, or at least most popular, work is his "Ferns of North America," illustrated in colours by J. H. Emerton and C. E. Faxon.

W. B. H.

#### NOTES.

DR. BERGH, of Copenhagen, has been elected a Correspondant of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the Section of Anatomy and Zoology.

THE resignation is reported of Mr. R. Trimen, F.R.S., Curator of the South African Museum, Cape Town, and also of Mr. R. L. J. Ellery, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Observatory at Melbourne.

THE deaths are announced of Dr. Adolf Gerstäcker, Professor of Zoology in the University of Greifswald; Dr. Pellegrino Strobel, Director of the Natural History Museum at Parma; Prof. H. Witmeur, Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Brussels; and Dr. W. Fabricius, Astronomer at the Kieff Observatory from 1876 to 1894.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Science met at Bordeaux last week. It was at Bordeaux that the Association held its first meeting in 1872, and this year the same cordial hospitality was accorded to its members as was given twenty-three years ago. The president of the recent meeting was M. Émile Trélat, and in his presidential address on "La Salubrité," he indicated the place of hygiene among the sciences, and traced its limits.

THE annual congress of the British Institute of Public Health was opened at Hull on Thursday last, under the presidency of the Mayor. On Friday, Sir A. Rollit delivered an address as president of the municipal and parliamentary section of the Institute, and Dr. Cameron delivered an address in the section of preventive medicine. It was resolved on Monday—"That in the interests of public health all municipal and local authorities should be empowered to provide crematoria, and that a petition be presented to Parliament in support of the Bill about to be presented to secure this object." Prof. W. R. Smith brought forward the subject of the influence of schools on diphtheria, and in the course of his remarks contended that schools did not

play that important part in the spread of diphtheria which they had been supposed to do. The final sitting of the congress was held on Tuesday, when the reports of the several sections were adopted, and a resolution was passed that every house in a watering-place where lodgers were accommodated should undergo a survey by the sanitary authority, and that a certificate of fitness should be compulsory.

THE annual summer meeting of the Institution of Junior Engineers, the headquarters of which are in London, takes place from August 17 to 24, the rendezvous being Belgium. The towns to be visited include Antwerp, where the municipal docks, M. Kryn's diamond-cutting works, and other places of interest will be opened to members' inspection. At Ghent, MM. Carel's engine works, M. de Hemptinne's cotton-spinning works, and M. Van Houtte's nursery gardens will be seen; at Brussels, the electric lighting station; whilst at Liège, the works of the Société Cockerill, the Vielle Montagne zinc works, the St. Leonard locomotive works, the Val St. Lambert glass works, the Small Arms Factory, and the Electric Tramway Installation will be visited. In honour of the Institution a banquet is to be given by the Liège section of the Society of Engineers from the University, and the members will also be the guests of the Société Cockerill. An excursion to Verviers, where the Chamber of Commerce will entertain the visitors, is arranged for the purpose of seeing works in connection with the woollen cloth industry. Here MM. Peltzer's works and those of M. Duesberg-Delrez, La Vesdre, and M. Hauzeur Gerard fils, will be opened. The celebrated Gileppe reservoir, from which Verviers receives its domestic and manufacturing supply, is also included in the programme. A large number of members have notified their intention of being present at the meeting, which promises to be one of the most successful the Institution has held.

AN auto-mobile carriage race between Chicago and Milwaukee, promoted by the *Times-Herald* of Chicago, will be decided on Saturday, November 2, the object being to encourage and stimulate the invention, development, perfection, and general adoption of motor carriages. The amount offered in prizes is 5000 dollars, apportioned as follows:—First prize, 2000 dollars and a gold medal, open to competition to the world; second prize, 1500 dollars, with a stipulation that, in the event the first prize is awarded to a vehicle of foreign invention or manufacture, this prize shall go to the most successful American competitor; third prize, 1000 dollars; fourth prize, 500 dollars. The third and fourth prizes are open to all competitors, foreign and American. The rules laid down stipulate, among other things, that no vehicle shall be admitted to competition which depends in any way upon muscular exertion, except for purposes of guidance. Competing vehicles which derive their power from petroleum, gasoline, electricity, or steam, and which are provided with receptacles for storing or holding the same, will be permitted to replenish the same at Waukegan, Ill., and at Kenosha, Wis., but at no other points.

DURING the past week the weather over the United Kingdom has been very unsettled, owing to the advance of various low-pressure areas from the Atlantic. Several heavy thunderstorms have occurred, the most severe being on Saturday night, the 10th inst., over the southern and south eastern parts of England. In London the storm was very violent, and the lightning was of unusual brilliancy. The disturbance travelled from south to north, and was accompanied by heavy rain. An exceptionally heavy thunderstorm also occurred at Holyhead on the same night, and the rain measured there on the next morning amounted to 2.68 inches. The *Weekly Weather Report* of the 10th inst. states that the rainfall for the week exceeded the average in all districts, the amount over England being about twice as much as the mean.