

fear that I shall not be able to finish that most difficult task. But I may note that my assertion that "Marennin" contains principally iron, is based on the recent researches of Muntz and Chatin.

D. CARAZZI.

Spezia, Italy, October 12.

#### Oxford Endowments.

I AM surprised that my friend Dr. Hickson, whose past residence among us lends authority to his words, should so greatly misrepresent facts as to say, in NATURE of October 3, that "the income of the [college] endowments is frittered away in the salaries of the heads, the stewards, the bursars, and the tutors of the pass-men," the fact being that these endowments do not provide the salaries of either the stewards or the tutors. It is further difficult to see how estates can be managed without bursars, and how bursars can exist without salaries; how complex institutions can work without heads, and how heads can live on nothing; and how the payments to bursars and heads—the latter at least with stipends fixed by statute—is in any way connected with "the [alleged] unfortunate competition that exists between colleges."

Christ Church, Oxford.

R. E. BAYNES.

I AM sorry that my friend Mr. Baynes should think that I have "misrepresented facts" in my article on the "Linacre Reports." I did not state, nor did I intend to imply, that the whole of the salaries of the tutors and stewards is derived from college endowments; but surely it is true that in the majority of cases these officers are fellows of their colleges, and as such receive a substantial sum of money annually from the college endowments.

I am quite competent to understand that college estates cannot be managed without bursars, and that bursars cannot live without salaries; but the estates of the Oxford colleges could be managed by less than half the number of bursars that now exist in Oxford—provided that they were chosen carefully from among those who have had some training or experience in their profession—and a large annual income would be saved from the endowments.

As to the heads. Speaking with every respect for these august persons, I still feel that with judicious amalgamation three or possibly four heads would be sufficient to carry on the official work, they now perform, with efficiency and dignity.

I should exceedingly regret if any remarks of mine should give offence to my friends in Oxford; but I never hesitated to express my opinion there or in Cambridge, that the independence of the colleges means a fearful waste of their endowments; and until, by Act of Parliament, a suitable amalgamation of these institutions is brought about, there will be little margin left for the endowment of research and the payment of those engaged in pure scholarship.

SYDNEY J. HICKSON.

#### Late Leaves and Fruit.

HERE, many of the roadside lindens have cast their summer foliage, and put forth a garniture of new leaves; these are fully grown, and bear the vivid tint of spring. In this city, on the 11th inst., well-grown open-air strawberries were on sale in the fruiterers' shops. The quantity altogether amounted to several bushels.

J. LLOYD BOZWARD.

Worcester, October 19.

#### THE CENTENARY FÊTES AT PARIS.

THE latter part of last week has witnessed the celebration of the first centennial anniversary of the foundation of the Institut de France. Paris was certainly not at its best, as far as meteorological features were concerned; the weather offered nothing "Queenly" or "Presidential" in its demeanour, and upon the whole was what it generally is at this time of the year—unpleasant, wet, and cold. But it hardly interfered with the proceedings and festivities, and we trust none of the generally aged guests of the Institute will be any the worse in health for their rapid visit to Paris.

A large number of foreign associates and corresponding members had promised to come; and the occasion was

such a remarkable one, that we print in full the list of acceptations. Of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Associés étrangers present were MM. Ascoli, Helbig, Max Müller, Whitley Stokes; while the Correspondants present were MM. Bailly, de Beaurepaire, Blade, Blancard, Champoireau, Chevalier, Comparetti, Delattre (le Père), De Smedt, Sir John Evans, Goeje, Gomperz, de Grandmaison, Ioret, Kern, Merlet, Millardet, Naville, Radloff, Saige, Sauvaire, Windisch. In the Académie des Sciences, the Associés étrangers who attended were Lord Kelvin and Dr. Frankland; and the Correspondants were MM. Amagat, Arloing, Bäcklund, de Baeyer, Bayet, Bergh, Bichat, Blondlot, Brioschi, Cannizaro, Considère, Crova, Engelmann, Sir Archibald Geikie, Gosselet, Grand Eury, Haller, Herrgott, Houzeau, Kovalewski, Laveran, Lépine, Lie (Sophus), Lockyer, Marès, Marion, Masters, Matheron, Ollier, Pagnoul, Ramsay, Raoult, Rayet, Retzius, Sir Henry Roscoe, Sabatier, Sire, Sirodot, Stephan, Sir G. Stokes, Suess, Sylvester, Général Tillo, Treub, Vallier. In the Académie des Beaux-Arts there were the Associés étrangers, MM. Alma Tadema, Da Silva, Gevaert, Pradilla; and Correspondants, MM. Bertrand, Biot, Civiletti, Cui, Cuypers, Dauban, Deffès, De Geymüller, Gouvy, Guffens, Israëls, Lanciani, Le Breton, Loenhoff, Marionneau, Martenot, Perrin, Ronot, Salinas, Salmson, Sgambati, de Vriendt, Waterhouse, Wauters. In the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, the Associés étrangers present were MM. Carlos Calvo and Castelar; and the Correspondants were MM. Aubertin, Babeau, Barkausen, Bodio, Caillemer, Ducrocq, Du Puynode, Ferrand, Lallemand, Lecky, Legrand, le Comte de Lucay, Molinari, Moynier, Sir F. Pollock, Polotsoff, Raffalovich, Stubbs, Villey Desmeserets, Worms.

At one time, it had been decided to choose the epoch of the centennial anniversary for the transfer of Pasteur's mortal remains from the vaults of Notre Dame to their final resting-place at the Pasteur Institute. The plan was not carried out, and it was better so. The frame of mind which is suitable for festivities is not so for a funeral, and it would not have been in good taste to mingle the one with the other. The plan was dismissed after short, but wise, reflection. The festivities were carried out in strict accordance with the announcements made, and published in NATURE.

On the first day, the 23rd, a religious service was celebrated in Saint Germain des Près, in memory of all members of the Institute deceased since its foundation, by Monseigneur Perraud, Bishop of Autun, a member of the Académie Française, and a very distinguished writer and philosopher. It must not be thought that, even in the land of Voltaire, all men of science consider atheism as "the" proper form of philosophy. The Institute is very conservative, and whatever opinions most members may hold concerning religion and dogmas, every man has his own conception of the universe, more or less, and entertains "son petit religion à part soi," as a witty German princess put it, in her own barbarian French. This first ceremony was largely attended, although more national than international in character. The real general opening of the celebration took place the same day at 2 p.m., when the foreign associates and correspondants were received and entertained in the salon of the Institute by the members of the latter. Each *invité* was announced by the *huissiers*, and after having been introduced to the masters of the house, joined his own personal friends and acquaintances in pleasant conversation and numerous introductions to fellow-workers of every land. The masters of the house were M. Ambrose Thomas (the author of *Mignon*), member of the Académie des Beaux-Arts, and for this year President of the Institute, assisted by MM. Maspero, Marey, Léon Say, Count Delaborde, delegates of the four other Academies. The last function of the day was a general reception of all members,