

men, five in number, were, when last seen, fully 300 miles from Lhasa, to which place they had declared their intention of proceeding, as they had little or no food, and the country all around was uninhabited, it is very probable that they all perished from starvation. Out of the ten muleteers and servants who had left Leh, only three reached the Chinese frontier with the two European travellers and the Indian surveyor.

Of thirty-nine mules and ponies, but three mules survived the hardships of travel, and during the latter part of their journey in Tibet, before meeting the merchants' caravan, the travellers appear to have lived chiefly on game—not always easily procurable—and wild onions.

The account of the journey is well written and fairly illustrated, although, as is so frequently the case, some of the "process blocks" used for cuts illustrate very little except the imperfections of the photographs from which they are copied. It is questionable whether any useful information is afforded by figures like those on pp. 180, 200 and 238. Unfortunately, too, the best views are from the accessible regions of Kashmir and China, not from "Unknown Tibet"; but this is easily understood. The scenery in the Tibetan wilderness is difficult to photograph, and the time of the travellers must have been fully occupied with more urgent matters. The two examples herewith given will serve as specimens of the illustrations.

MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of the British Medical Association, which has just terminated at Edinburgh, must be regarded as a great success, both with regard to business and pleasure. At the end of July there is a strong predisposing cause towards holiday; and an excitant which draws the medical man towards so favourite an area for holiday-making as Scotland at this time of the year is naturally welcome to all. A congress is a very good beginning to a holiday, as the recollection of it tends to alleviate what is often the boredom of idleness; and doubtless thoughts born of discussion in Edinburgh are now being developed and bearing fruit a hundredfold in the remoter holiday-taking places of Scotland.

In giving in these columns a short account of the business accomplished at the meeting, it will be best, perhaps, to limit one's attention to those regions of medicine and the allied sciences which are of interest to the general scientific reader.

An interesting address in medicine was delivered by Dr. Fraser. He reviewed succinctly the importance with regard to diagnosis of modern bacteriological method, and then proceeded to give some account of the toxic origin of infectious diseases, emphasising the great activity of some toxins killing as they do—at least, in the case of the tetanus toxin—six hundred million times their own weight of living tissue. He then passed on to consider the production of artificial resistance to disease, and the origin of the protection-producing substances, concluding his lecture with a brief review of the present state of serum therapeutics.

Dr. George Balfour gave an interesting address upon a personal experience of an almost forgotten episode in medical history, the episode in question being the treatment of pneumonia by blood-letting. The lecturer gave an amusing account of how he was treated at the hands of the local medical autocrats of the time when he advocated the abandonment of blood-letting in this disease.

Sir William Broadbent opened a discussion on the significance and consequences of different states of vascular tension with their general management. He

discussed the different clinical conditions giving rise to increased and diminished vascular tension respectively, and indicated the lines of treatment appropriate to each. He did not enter into the vexed question of the accurate measurement of blood pressure in man, and practically limited his remarks to arterial tension.

Prof. Bradbury, of Cambridge, read a paper upon the management of general vascular conditions with special reference to the use of erythrol tetra-nitrate. This drug, it will be remembered, was introduced by Prof. Bradbury as a result of experiments made by him and Mr. Marshall at Cambridge some few years ago. Its vasodilating action is less transient than that of the vasodilators hitherto at the command of the physician. Prof. Bradbury's later experience seems in every way to have confirmed the earlier results he obtained with this drug. Dr. Haig emphasised the significance of uric acid in the production of high arterial tension.

A discussion was opened by Dr. Alexander James on the clinical varieties of hepatic cirrhosis. An interesting paper was communicated in this connection by Prof. Adami, of Montreal. The author pointed out that the experimental injection of alcohol, although resulting in fatty degeneration of the liver, only gives rise to a very slight amount of cirrhosis, the typical hobnailed liver having never been produced experimentally. He also referred to the views of Hanot, who regards the enlarged cirrhotic liver associated with jaundice as being of an infectious origin. The author then described his own researches, which were made in connection with a very remarkable disease affecting cattle in a limited area of Nova Scotia, the main lesion of this disease being extensive cirrhosis of the liver. From all the animals he obtained a characteristic micro-organism, which apparently presented considerable resistance to staining reagents. Time has not yet permitted the author to make cultures of this organism, but he is about to do so. His results in this connection will be awaited with considerable interest.

Prof. MacCall Anderson pleaded for the more general use of tuberculin. He thinks much might yet be done with tuberculin in cases of consumption if it were combined with suitable hygienic and dietetic measures. The open-air treatment of consumption received much consideration, many of its votaries giving their results.

The meetings of the Section of Psychology were especially interesting. In the presidential address given by Dr. T. S. Clouston upon "The Neuroses and Psychoses of Decadence," the lecturer contrasted these with the neuroses of development. He pointed out that man's normal average life may be divided into three periods of twenty-five years each; he then proceeded to give statistics which tended to show that the neuroses prevail largely in the period of brain growth and development of function, the very best years of life being very free from them. They come on during decadence with a rush and to a far more deadly degree than even during development, senility being the most deadly period of all.

Dr. John Sibbald opened the discussion upon Suicide, its Social and Psychiatric Aspects. The author contributed a paper giving the statistics of suicide for England, Wales and Scotland. He showed that the rate of suicide per annum per million of population had risen during the past thirty years from sixty-seven to eighty-six in England and from forty to fifty-four in Scotland. He then proceeded to give statistics with regard to the methods of suicide. Dr. Haigh read a paper on the cause of suicide, the all toxic uric acid according to this author playing here a most important rôle. Dr. Morselli, of Genoa, contributed an interesting paper on the characteristics of suicide by the insane as compared with those of suicide by the sane. On Friday, the 29th, this Section proceeded to consider the subject

of Hypnotism, its phenomena and theories. An interesting feature in this discussion was a speech by Mr. Myers, of Cambridge, on the psychological side of hypnotism. Mr. Myers contrasted hypnotism with hysteria, sleep, and somnambulism. The author concluded his remarks with discussing the probable nature of "suggestion." Did the hypnotiser by suggestion merely infuse power or evoke it? Mr. Myers held the view that in some cases there was an actual transmission of power from operator to subject, a kind of telepathy. In other cases the hypnotiser merely taught the subject to start self-suggestion of his own, and he cited the miracles performed at Lourdes as an instance of the latter method. Prof. Benedikt, of Vienna, made some interesting remarks on this subject.

In the Section of Neurology Dr. Ferrier opened a discussion on the treatment, curative and palliative, of intracranial tumours. The discussion was continued by Drs. Dercum, Collins, Sir William Broadbent, and others. Dr. Buzzard introduced a discussion on the influence of micro-organisms and toxins on the production of disease of the cerebral and peripheral nervous system. According to the author micro-organisms in this connection acted in two ways: directly by their actual effect on the nervous tissue, and indirectly through the agency of chemical substances produced by their action on the blood or other tissues of the body. The author mentioned in this connection the so-called infective diseases of the central nervous system. The paper provoked a lively discussion.

The Section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics commenced its business with an address from Dr. Affleck. The lecturer sketched the progress of therapeutics, including under this term balneo-therapeutics. Concerning actual pharmacology not much was said. Dr. Herschell introduced a discussion on the treatment of diseases of the stomach; the Section had the advantage of the presence and opinions of Prof. Ewald, of Berlin, and Dr. Lauder Brunton. Prof. Turck, of Chicago, gave a demonstration of the various methods he employed in the diagnosis and treatment of gastric disorders.

A new feature of this year's meeting was the inclusion of a Section dealing with Medicine in relation to Life Insurance, with Dr. Claud Muirhead as President. The points discussed in their relation to life assurance were cardiac disease, middle-ear disease, and pregnancy.

The Section of Pathology, under the presidency of Prof. Greenfield, proceeded to discuss the nature and treatment of Leucocytosis. The subject was introduced by Dr. Robert Muir. Papers were also read by Dr. Lazarus Barlow on Irritation of Pleura and Pleurisy, and by Dr. Durham on the Agglutinating and Sedimenting Properties of Serum, and their relation to Immunity. Prof. Stockman contributed a paper on the Pathological Effects of Dead Tubercle Bacilli. Many other papers followed, giving rise to considerable discussion.

The Section of Physiology was opened by a lecture by Prof. Rutherford on Tone Sensation. Dr. Waller read a paper on the Action of Anæsthetics on Vegetable and Animal Protoplasm. Dr. Waller seems to have turned his attention from nerve fibres to nerve cells. His paper included the description of some interesting experiments upon the action of alcohol and ether vapour upon the spinal cord of the frog. He further showed that anæsthetics exerted the same paralysing influence upon vegetable as upon animal cells. The paper was illustrated by lantern slides and diagrams. Dr. Weymouth Reid joined in the subsequent discussion. Dr. A. C. Sturrock read a paper on the Selective Affinity of the Tissues, especially as regards the Mammary Gland.

In the Section of Anatomy, Prof. Cunningham opened a discussion on Anatomic Variations, dividing them into two great classes, prospective and retrospective. The former were indicative of changes that might yet become

normal in the history of the species, while the latter were of two kinds: first, simple arrest; and, secondly, development along lines which had once been normal for the species. The address was illustrated by lantern slides of the brains of apes and microcephalic idiots. The President closed the meeting with some remarks on the teaching of anatomy. F. W. TUNNICLIFFE.

PROFESSOR GEORG BAUR.

BORN on January 4, 1859, at Weisswasser (Bohemia), where for a time his father was Professor of Mathematics, Georg Baur passed his youth in Hessen and Württemberg. He went through the Gymnasium at Stuttgart, and in 1878 entered the University at Munich, taking up especially the study of palæontology, geology, zoology, and mineralogy. In 1880 he went to Leipzig, where he studied under Credner and Leukhart. Two years later he returned to Munich, and there obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He remained in Munich from 1882 to 1884 as assistant to Prof. von Kupffer, to whom he was much attached, and who in turn honoured him with his friendship. In 1884 Dr. Baur accepted a call to New Haven, Conn., as assistant to Prof. O. C. Marsh. He relinquished this position in 1890 to accept the post of docent at the Clark University of Worcester, Mass. A year later he succeeded, after great difficulties, in getting up an expedition to the Galapagos Islands, leaving in May and returning in October with a valuable collection of the flora and fauna of these interesting islands. In 1892 he went to Chicago University as Assistant Professor of Comparative Osteology and Palæontology, and was made Associate Professor in 1895.

It was in September 1897 that a serious break-down of his health gave the first indication of mental overwork. From the beginning of his career Dr. Baur had been so intensely devoted to his studies and researches, that almost no leisure remained to him for recreation; no fewer than 143 separate papers testify to his industry. A vacation of a few months, mostly spent at one of the Wisconsin lakes, seemed to benefit him. Returning to Chicago in December, the physicians recommended either a sojourn in California or in Germany. The wish to be near his relatives made him decide for his old home, and together with his family he left for Europe, the University generously granting a further leave of absence. The gravity of his illness (paralysis), already suspected in America, was at once recognised at Munich. The disease made such rapid progress, that not many weeks after his return from a short stay in Southern Tyrol his transfer to an asylum was found to be necessary. The end came on June 25.

The family have received many touching expressions of sympathy. At the grave Prof. von Kupffer spoke feelingly, referring to the great talents, the keen perception, the untiring industry of the deceased by which he had created himself an honoured place in anatomy and palæontology. "Though young in years," he said, "Prof. Baur was an authority in many a field. In remembrance of the time we worked together, of the friendship which united us, I lay down in deep sorrow this laurel wreath."

THE BEN NEVIS OBSERVATORIES.

WITH reference to the announcement in NATURE of July 28, intimating that, unless means were provided, the Observatories at Ben Nevis would be closed in October next, we are glad to be able to state that it will not be necessary to take that step this year. The subjoined letter explains how this threatened mis-