

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-