

AT a Congregation of Cambridge University held on Saturday, Dr. Hill, the retiring Vice-Chancellor, delivered a valedictory address, in the course of which he made the following remarks:—"The admirable and central sites which have been purchased by the University during the last three years are still entirely unoccupied, although many departments of the University are either overcrowded or most inadequately housed; but, at the desire of our Chancellor, steps have been taken which may, it is hoped, bring in the funds necessary for the erection of the buildings which are so urgently required. A very influential committee of University men has been formed for the purpose of organising a 'Cambridge University Association,' the members of which will be kept informed of, and will be pledged to make known, the needs of the University. It is hoped that through the influence of this association the University may be placed in possession of the means of maintaining her position in the ever-widening and ever-changing educational life of the nation. The legal and medical schools, feeling that it is impossible to wait until the general resources of the University allow of the provision of new buildings, have opened subscription lists on their own account, and it is significant of their sense of the pressing need for such accommodation that of the 6000 $\frac{1}{2}$ already subscribed a large proportion has been given by the teachers of law and medicine and other residents in the University. Among gifts to the University during the past year were a very valuable collection of minerals given by the Rev. T. Wiltshire, Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in King's College, London, a collection of polyzoa given by Miss E. C. Jelly, a skeleton of the elephant seal given by Sir W. L. Buller, K.C.M.G., a MS. of *de proprietatibus rerum* of Bartholomaeus Anglicus given by Lieut. Archibald Stirling, and a collection of Malay native objects given by W. W. Skeat. The University has also received a bequest of 10,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ under the will of the late A. W. G. Allen for the establishment of a scholarship or prize in memory of the Right Rev. Joseph Allen, formerly Bishop of Ely, and grandfather of the donor. Not a few gifts for the foundation of scholarships and prizes have been received by the University during recent years. Such gifts are always acceptable; but at the present time there is a greater need for the endowment of teaching posts and the provision of buildings for University purposes than for the encouragement and stimulation of students." Dr. Hill was re-elected Vice-Chancellor for the ensuing year.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, September 26.—M. van Tieghem in the chair.—On the changes occurring in the large nebula in the belt of Andromeda, by M. G. Rayet. The brilliant point announced by M. Seraphimoff is probably the central point of the nebula, the brightness of which is variable, and is now temporarily increased. The position of the point does not coincide with that of the temporary star whose position was measured by M. Bigourdan in 1885.—On a geometrical theory of the marine compass, by M. S. L. Ravier.—On the convergence of some *réduites* of the exponential function, by M. H. Padé. The term *réduite* is applied to a function (regular in the neighbourhood of the origin) of the rational fractions which, near this point, represent this function with close approximation.—Action of lime and chalk upon certain natural humic materials, by M. G. André. The earths were heated at 100° for fifteen hours with lime, chalk, or water, and determinations made of the nitrogen volatilised as ammonia, the nitrogen rendered soluble, and the ammonia present in the filtrate.—On the composition of ceolosomine, by M. A. B. Griffiths. Ceolosomine is the name given to a colouring matter, green in acid, purple in alkaline solutions, found in *Ceolosoma tenebrarum*.—Chlorophyll assimilation in plants growing by the sea-shore, by M. Ed. Griffon. The leaves of maritime plants under the influence of sea-salt undergo a reduction of chlorophyll, acquiring by way of compensation a greater thickness and a more marked development of the assimilating tissues. But this modification of structure, although having a tendency to compensate the injurious action of the salt, is insufficient, since the assimilation per unit of surface is always less for the leaves of a maritime species than for comparable leaves of the same species growing inland.—Observations of an aurora borealis at Göttingen (Hanover) on September 9, by M. B. Violle.—On an observation of the green ray at sunrise, by M. H. de Maubeuge: The phenomenon was noticed from the steamer *Ernest Simons*, by several people simultaneously, over Mt. Sinai.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Arithmetical Chemistry: C. J. Woodward, Part 1, new edition (Simpkin).—The Campaign in Tirah: Colonel H. D. Hutchinson (Macmillan).—The Telephone: Prof. W. J. Hopkins (Longmans).—An Introduction to Practical Quantitative Analysis: H. P. Highton (Rivingtons).—Diet and Food: Dr. A. Haig (Churchill).—Beiträge zur Physiologie des Centralnervensystems: Prof. Max Verworn, Erster Theil (Jena, Fischer).—The Living Organism: A. Earl (Macmillan).—Catalogue of Chemical and Physical Apparatus and Chemicals (Leeds, Reynolds and Branson).—Eclipses of the Moon in India: R. Sewell (Sonnenschein).—Cape of Good Hope: Report of the Marine Biologist, 1897 (Cape Town, Richards).—The Gold Coast, Past and Present: G. Macdonald (Longmans).—Psychology in the Schoolroom: T. F. G. Dexter and A. H. Garlick (Longmans).
PAMPHLETS.—The Witness of Science to Linguistic Anarchy: Lady Welby (Grantham, Clarke).—Glasgow and West of Scotland Technical College: Reports on Experiments on the Manuring of Oats, Hay, and Turnips and Potatoes (Glasgow).—The Wanton Mutilation of Animals: Dr. G. Fleming (Bell).
SERIALS.—Chambers's Journal, October (Chambers).—Good Words, October (Isbister).—Sunday Magazine, October (Isbister).—Longman's Magazine, October (Longmans).—Monthly Weather Review, June (Washington).—National Geographic Magazine, September (Washington).—Century Magazine, October (Macmillan).—Humanitarian, October (Duckworth).—Contemporary Review, October (Isbister).—Fortnightly Review, October (Chapman).—Reliquary, &c., October (Bemrose).—Himmel und Erde, September (Berlin, Paetel).—Janus, July-August (Williams).—Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Vol. 9, Part 3 (Murray).—Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, August (Stanford).—National Review, October (Arnold).—Knowledge, October (Holborn).—Observatory, October (Taylor).

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