

reach of his arm, each of them a receptacle devoted to a special object of inquiry. To me this operation of "pumping," as he called it, was most instructive. I could not but feel that any information that I could give him was comparatively trivial, while what I carried away was often as much as I could stagger under. As his health fluctuated or declined, and especially during his sharper attacks of illness, these interviews became intermittent, and on such occasions he would ask me to bring my own work with me to Down, where I pursued my studies free from the distractions of Kew, and with the advantages of his counsel and aid whenever desired. These morning interviews were followed by his taking a complete rest, for they always exhausted him, often producing a buzzing noise in the head, and sometimes what he called "stars in the eyes," the latter too often the prelude of an attack of violent eczema in the head, during which he was hardly recognisable. These attacks were followed by a period of what with him was the nearest approach to health, and always to activity. Shortly before lunch I used to hear his mellow voice under my window, summoning me to walk with him, first to inspect the experiments in his little plant-houses, and then to take a precise number of rounds of the "sand-walk," which he trudged with quick step, staff in hand, wearing a broad-brimmed straw hat and light shooting coat in summer, and a felt hat and warm cape in winter. This walk was repeated in the afternoon; on both these occasions his conversation was delightful, animated when he was well enough, never depressing however ill he might be. It turned naturally on the scenes we had witnessed in far-away regions and anecdotes of our seafaring lives, and on the discoveries in science, then, as now, hurrying onwards and treading on one another's heels in their haste for recognition. In the evening we had books and music, of which latter Mr. Darwin was, during the first few years of our friendship, almost passionately fond. I well remember now, at the 1847 meeting of the British Association in this city, his asking me to accompany him to hear the organ at New College Chapel, and, on coming away, saying to me, "Hooker, I felt it up and down my back;" and I find in the "Life and Letters" that when a student at Cambridge, after hearing a beautiful anthem, he made use of a similar expression to a friend who had accompanied him. It is a curious fact that music should have had in after life no charm for him—that "it set him thinking too energetically at what he had been at work on instead of giving him pleasure."

#### AN ESTIMATE OF DARWIN'S CHARACTER.

If I were asked what traits in Mr. Darwin's character appeared to me most remarkable during the many exercises of his intellect that I was privileged to bear witness to, they would be, first, his self-control and indomitable perseverance under bodily suffering, then his ready grasp of difficult problems, and, lastly, the power of turning to account the waste observations, failures, and even the blunders of his predecessors in whatever subject of inquiry. It was this power of utilising the vain efforts of others which in my friend Sir James Paget's opinion afforded the best evidence of Darwin's genius. Like so many men who have been great discoverers, or whose works or writings are proofs of their having intellects indicating great originality, he was wont to attribute his success to industry rather than ability. "It is dogged that does it" was an expression he often made use of. In his autobiography he says of himself, "My industry has been nearly as great as it could have been in the observation and collection of facts"; and, again, "of the complex and diversified mental qualities and conditions which determined my success as a man of science, I regard as the most important the love of science—unbounded patience in long reflecting over many subjects—industry in observing facts, and a fair share of invention, as well as of common sense." In this introspection he has, if my judgment is correct, greatly undervalued "invention"; that is originality or that outcome of the exercise of the imagination which is so conspicuous in every experiment he made or controlled, and in the genesis of every new fact or idea that he first brought to light. Referring to his disregard when possible of his bodily sufferings, I remember his once saying to me that his sleepless nights had their advantages, for they enabled him to forget his hours of misery when recording the movement of his beloved plants from dark to dawn and daybreak. For those other qualities of head and heart that endeared Mr. Darwin to his friends I must refer you to the "Life and Letters." There is

only one upon which I would comment, it is that passage of his autobiography where he says, "I have no great quickness of apprehension or wit." Possibly the "of" and "or" are here transposed; whether or no, my impression of his conversation has left the opposite as characteristic of him. It is, at any rate, inconsistent with the fact that in arguing he was ever ready with repartee, as I many times experienced to my discomfort, though never to my displeasure; it was a physis so thoughtfully and kindly exhibited. And I may conclude these fragmentary records with an anecdote which goes, I think, to support my view, and which I give, if not verbally correctly, as nearly as my memory of so ancient an episode permits. I was describing to him the reception at the Linnean Society, where he was unable to be present, of his now famous account of "The two forms or dimorphic condition of *Primula*," for which he took the common primrose as an illustration. On that occasion an enthusiastic admirer of its author got up, and in concluding his *loge* likened British botanists who had overlooked so conspicuous and beautiful a contrivance to effect cross-fertilisation to Wordsworth's "Peter Bell," to whom

"A primrose on the river's brim  
A yellow primrose was to him,  
And it was nothing more."

When I told Mr. Darwin of this he roared with laughter, and, slapping his side with his hand, a rather common trick with him when excited, he said, "I would rather be the man who thought of that on the spur of the moment than have written the paper that suggested it."

#### "AMERIND"—A SUGGESTED DESIGNATION FOR AMERICAN ABORIGINES.

A PART of the *Proceedings* of the Anthropological Society of Washington, at a meeting on May 23, seem destined to produce permanent influence on ethnologic nomenclature; this part of the proceedings taking the form of a symposium on the name of the native American tribes. The discussion was opened by Colonel F. F. Hilder, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, with a critical account of the origin of the misnomer "Indian," applied by Columbus to the American aborigines; he was followed by Major J. W. Powell, who advocated the substitution of the name *Amerind*, recently suggested in a conference with lexicographers. A communication by Dr. O. T. Mason followed, in which the various schemes of ethnologic classification and nomenclature were summarised and discussed. Contributions to the symposium were made also by Dr. Albert S. Gatschet, Dr. Thomas Wilson, and Miss Alice C. Fletcher. At the close of the discussion the contributions were summarised by President McGee as follows:—

(1) There is no satisfactory denotive term in use to designate the native American tribes. Most biologists and many ethnologists employ the term "American"; but this term is inappropriate, in that it connotes, and is commonly used for, the present predominantly Caucasian population. The term "Indian" is used in popular speech and writing, and to a slight extent in ethnologic literature; but it is seriously objectionable in that it perpetuates an error, and for the further reason that it connotes, and so confuses, distinct peoples. Various descriptive or connotive terms are also in use, such as "North American Savages," "Red Men," &c.; but these designations are often misleading, and never adapted to convenient employment in a denotive way.

(2) In most cases, the classifications on which current nomenclature are based, and many terms depending on them for definition, are obsolete; and the retention of the unsuitable nomenclature of the past tends to perpetuate misleading classifications.

(3) While the name "Indian" is firmly fixed in American literature and speech, and must long retain its current meaning (at least as a synonym), the need of scientific students for a definite designation is such that any suitable term acceptable to ethnologists may be expected to come into use with considerable rapidity. In this, as in other respects, the body of working specialists form the court of last appeal; and it cannot be doubted that their decision will eventually be adopted by thinkers along other lines.

(4) As the most active students of the native American tribes, it would seem to be incumbent on American ethnologists to propose a general designation for these tribes.

(5) In view of these and other considerations, the name *Amerind* is commended to the consideration of American and foreign students of tribes and peoples. The term is an arbitrary compound of the leading syllables of the frequently-used phrase "American Indian"; it thus carries a connotive or associative element which will serve explicative and mnemonic function in early use, yet must tend to disappear as the name becomes denotive through habitual use.

(6) The proposed term carries no implication of classic relation, raises no mooted question concerning the origin or distribution of races, and perpetuates no obsolete idea; so far as the facts and theories of ethnology are concerned, it is purely denotive.

(7) The proposed term is sufficiently brief and euphonious for all practical purposes, not only in the English, but in the prevailing languages of continental Europe; and it may readily be pluralised in these languages, in accordance with their respective rules, without losing its distinctive semantic character. Moreover, it lends itself readily to adjectival termination in two forms (a desideratum in widely-used ethnologic terms, as experience has shown), viz. *Amerindian* and *Amerindic*, and is susceptible, also, of adverbial termination, while it can readily be used in the requisite actional form, *Amerindise*, or in relational form, such as *post-Amerindian*, &c.; the affixes being, of course, modifiable according to the rules of the different languages in which the term may be used.

(8) The term is proposed as a designation for all of the aboriginal tribes of the American continent and adjacent islands, including the Eskimo.

The working ethnologists in the Society were practically unanimous in approving the term for tentative adoption, and for commendation to fellow-students in this and other countries.

#### MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS AT MAURITIUS.<sup>1</sup>

DR. MELDRUM'S name is inseparably connected with the fortunes of the Royal Alfred Observatory. The value of his researches in meteorology, especially in cyclonic movements of the atmosphere, has been repeatedly acknowledged. The simple rules that he has enunciated for the handling of ships during hurricanes in the Southern Seas are based upon rigorous scientific grounds, and though it may be true that no completely satisfactory rule is possible for determining more than the approximate position of the central vortex of a cyclone by any observations at a single station, yet in a majority of cases the mariner who trusts strictly to the instructions provided will find himself in a position of safety. The recent publication of the Mauritius magnetic reductions by Mr. Claxton, the present director of the Royal Alfred Observatory, shows that Dr. Meldrum devoted himself not less energetically to the study of the absolute determinations of the magnetic elements of his station. We may never arrive at the happy condition foreshadowed by Gauss, when trustworthy and complete observations from all parts of the earth shall be obtained, but the possession of a continuous record from a distant outlying station has a value peculiarly its own, and may act as a stimulus to the establishment of other observatories in localities where they are most needed to provide material for the discussion of the amount of change in the magnetic potential of the earth, of which the simultaneous magnetic disturbances afford evidence.

Mr. Claxton, with a loyalty which we recognise and appreciate, is content to stand aside and play the part of editor to his predecessor's work. But the arrangement is not very satisfactory, giving rise as it does to two introductions, one by the editor and one by Dr. Meldrum. If the information derivable from these two sources had been carefully welded into one consecutive history, the description of the tables could have been followed more easily, and the processes employed in the reductions have been more readily apprehended.

The general arrangement does not call for any special remark. All who have been engaged in similar work know the amount of labour involved, and the care that has to be exercised. We notice what we think is a very praiseworthy feature, a determined effort to maintain a uniformity of sensitiveness on the photographic record. A difference of one m.m. in the

<sup>1</sup> "Mauritius Magnetical Reductions." Edited by T. F. Claxton, F.R.A.S. Being a discussion of the results obtained from the self-recording magnetometers from 1875 to 1890, under the direction of C. Meldrum, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.

scale reading is intended to represent a scale value of '0005 millimetre-milligramme. This is a convenient value, sufficiently sensitive to exhibit changes for ordinary magnetic disturbances, but yet not so sensitive as to send the spot of light off the paper even in a violent magnetic storm. But Dr. Meldrum reports that it is impossible in spite of every precaution to keep this value of the coefficient constant. The length of time elapsed between the cleaning of the knife edge and the agate plane, the temperature, the change of level of the magnet due to secular decrease in the value of the vertical force, all operate as disturbing causes, necessitating continual examination and readjustment. Tables of the scale coefficient employed are given. The horizontal force magnet shows as usual the larger variation.

Mr. Claxton gives in a tabular form the more trustworthy determinations of declination and dip that have been made on the island of Mauritius since 1750. Lacaille gave 52° 55' for inclination in 1761, and in 1896 this angle had increased to 54° 32'. The earliest determination of declination gave 16° 30' W. in 1753, it now reads 9° 49'; but the director points out, which indeed is sufficiently obvious, that there are large discrepancies among the observations arising probably from the use of indifferent instruments and the effect of local magnetic attraction, varying at the different spots at which the several determinations have been made. For these reasons, no attempt has been made to discuss the secular variation of any of the magnetic elements.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—In a congregation held on June 13 the Curators of the University Chest were authorised to expend a sum not exceeding 10,000*l.* in the erection of a pathological laboratory on ground adjoining the University Museum, and also to pay the sum of 250*l.* a year for five years for the equipment and maintenance of this laboratory from the date at which it shall be brought into use. An anonymous donor, a member of the University, has already offered the sum of 5000*l.* towards the erection of this laboratory, provided that it be commenced before January 1, 1901.

The above decrees were passed by Convocation on June 20, when also the twenty-fourth annual report of the visitors of the University Observatory was presented. In consequence of this report, the Curators of the University Chest will be asked to expend a sum not exceeding 500*l.* in the reconstruction of the western dome of the observatory.

It is proposed to adapt the upper floor of the Ashmolean Museum for the purposes of instruction in geophysics.

CAMBRIDGE.—At St. John's College the following awards in Natural Science were made on June 19:—

Foundation Scholarships continued or increased: Rudge, Yapp, Howard, Brown, Harnett, Lewton-Brain, O. May, Adams, Fletcher, Harding, Browning, Gregory, Wakely, Williams, Walker.

Exhibitions: Wyeth, Ticehurst, J. H. Field, King, Paton. Hutchinson Studentship for research (botany and zoology): G. S. West.

Research Prize (physics): Vincent.

Herschel Prize (astronomy): Eckhardt.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Mr. G. Birtwistle, who was bracketed Senior Wrangler this year with Mr. R. P. Paranjpye, has not only had much success in mathematics during his career, but has distinguished himself in other subjects. When at Owens College he devoted himself chiefly to chemistry, and in 1896 graduated B.Sc. with first-class honours in chemistry, obtaining also a Le Blanc medal and University scholarship. With regard to Mr. Paranjpye, the Allahabad correspondent of the *Times* states that he is a Maratha Brahmin, born twenty-three years ago in the village of Murdi, in the Ratnagiri district. First in the first division has been his invariable record since in 1891, at the age of fifteen, he headed the list at the matriculation examination for the whole of the Bombay Presidency. During his three years at Fergusson College he passed first in the first class at every examination. Fergusson College is an institution manned entirely by native professors, and Mr. Paranjpye, before going to England, pledged twenty years of his life to service in the college, where he will draw a salary not exceeding Rs.70 a month.