

tion of the Paris Academy it was decided to assume control of the committee of physiology, having for its object the standardisation of the self-recording instruments used in physiology and increased uniformity in the methods used in that science.

M. Darboux concludes his article by mentioning a matter which proves at least the interest excited by the formation of the International Association of Academies, namely, that intended donations have already been announced. At the suggestion of M. Diels, it has been decided that any one having expressed the desire to give to the Association the means to develop its action could make the donation, with special instructions, to any of the academies taking part in it. Other less determinate projects will come before the general meeting. One, from the Academy of Munich, has reference to the publication of a "Corpus des actes et diplômes grecs du moyen âge et des temps postérieurs."

Another, suggested by the Academies of Leipzig, Munich and Vienna, is the publication of a "Real-Encyclopædie des Islam."

The committee meeting at Paris had finally to fix the date of the next meeting, the first general meeting. It is to be supposed that some, at least, of the proposals here made known demand careful consideration; hence, to leave the academies which have presented them time to give them a precise and definite form, Tuesday, April 16, which follows Easter Tuesday, 1901, has been fixed as the date of the next general meeting of the Association at Paris.

The various discussions and proposals mentioned are, without doubt, of unequal importance; they have at least the merit of being very varied and of putting in evidence the diversity of the services that may be rendered by the International Association of Academies.

The Association has been received with favour wherever science is cultivated. "Already," remarks M. Darboux, "we look to it for many works which it alone will be capable of realising. It may be recalled that the agreement between scientific men in the field of theoretical research often precedes a good understanding between peoples in the field of practice and business. There is a feeling that a new organism has been created, which should ultimately be called upon to exert a great and beneficent influence. It is important that the constituent academies should justify this feeling and forward the working of the Association by submitting carefully thought out proposals. It is important, also, that all those who expect much from the Association should bear in mind that it has time before it; that, by their very nature, academies are bodies which move with a certain slowness; and that time ought to be given to the new Association to create little by little the means by which it may be able to realise all the hopes to which it has given rise."

#### PROF. C. F. LÜTKEN.

CHRISTIAN FREDERIK LÜTKEN was born on October 7, 1837, at Sorö, a small town in Zealand, which at that time possessed an academy where his father was professor of philosophy. When quite a young man, even before his student days, his interest in the natural sciences was awakened, and after his examinations were completed he devoted himself heart and soul to zoology. In 1848 his studies were interrupted by the war between Germany and Denmark, in which he enlisted and served as a lieutenant. In 1852 he left the army and obtained his master's degree with distinction, almost immediately after which he was appointed assistant to Prof. Steenstrup, at Copenhagen, whose pupil he had been in his early days at Sorö. Thus began a connection with the zoological museum of the University

which lasted for 47 years, terminating only when illness enforced his resignation.

His career was marked by constant devotion to the collections under his charge, and by the publication of a long series of scientific memoirs, published chiefly in the *Transactions* (Skrifter) and *Proceedings* (Oversigt over de Forhandlinge) of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences, and the *Communications* (Videnskabeliger Meddelelser) of the Natural History Society of Copenhagen. His studies were always intimately connected with his work in the museum, and hence systematic zoology and geographical distribution and, to some extent also, palæontology constituted the main subject of his writings. Almost every one of the larger divisions of the animal kingdom owes something to Lütken's industry, but during his earlier years he concentrated his attention principally on the echinoderms, and later on ichthyology. Under the title "Dyreriget" he published a small text-book of zoology, a work which would have attracted considerable attention had it been in a language more generally understood. It is still the authorised text-book in most of the educational establishments in Denmark. Amongst his scientific writings special attention may be called to three papers on the echinodermata of Greenland and on the geographical and the bathymetrical distribution of northern echinodermata, which constituted the thesis for his doctor's degree; to a memoir entitled "Spolia Atlantica," which gives a large series of important observations on the young stages of many species of fish, and to a communication on *Himantolophus reinhardti*, a deep-sea lophioid fish, in which he first called attention to the probability that the attracting tentacles in these forms are phosphorescent.

On the death of Prof. Reinhardt, in 1883, he was appointed "inspector" of the department of vertebrates, and in 1885 he succeeded Steenstrup as professor of zoology and director of the museum. As a professor he was by no means the conventional pedagogue, and his pupils obtained from his lectures a clear and striking picture of the animal kingdom. Physical weakness, however, gradually grew upon him, and in his later years it was only with difficulty that he accomplished any teaching at all, and his auditors were frequently anxious lest he should be unable to complete his lecture, so feeble and distressing was his appearance. In 1897 he resigned the chair, and for the last year of his life was a victim of paralysis, which completely disabled him. He died on February 6, 1901, leaving behind him a record of valuable services to the University and to the science which he loved, and the memory of an intellectual and genial personality in the minds and hearts of all who had the privilege of his personal acquaintance. W. E. H.

#### NOTES.

REFERENCE was made in our issue for February 28 to the retirement of Sir A. Geikie from the office of director-general of the Geological Survey, and to the appointment of Mr. Teall as successor. Mr. Teall takes the title of director of the Geological Survey and Museum, and the further changes in the staff (which date from April 1) are as follows: Mr. H. B. Woodward to be assistant director (for England and Wales), and Mr. John Horne to be assistant director (for Scotland); Mr. C. Fox Strangways, Mr. Clement Reid and Mr. Aubrey Strahan to be district geologists for England and Wales; Mr. B. N. Peach and Mr. W. Gunn to be district geologists for Scotland; and Mr. G. W. Lamplugh to be district geologist for Ireland.

SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE will be entertained at a complimentary dinner on May 1, as a mark of recognition of his services to geology, and in commemoration of his recent retirement from the position of director-general of the Geological Survey and