

Before attempting to expound a new section, I endeavour to explain the purpose which this section serves, for as King Solomon stated: "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself." (Prov. xviii. 2.)

In small type I have given many of the explanations that a good teacher requires with his pupils in the class room, but never includes in his printed manual. This peculiarity makes my book useful for self-instruction.

The beginning of all mathematical study is easy. The difficulty begins later, because it is indispensable to know what has already been studied for the understanding of what follows. Therefore my arrangement permits even the youngest pupils to learn something applicable to the practice of calculation.

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THE NATIVE QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.¹

IT cannot be too often repeated or too strongly impressed on the public mind of this country that by far the most difficult problem of South Africa is, not that of the relations of the white populations to one another, but that of the relations of the white population to the "Natives," and of the Natives to one another. It involves questions not to be solved by any process of patching. The ordinary "short view" recommended by European statesmen in treating European problems will not do. To deal with these questions effectually, considerations of a far-reaching economic and anthropological character are necessary. We must understand the Native mind, we must endeavour to see things from the Native point of view, we must consider the Native prejudices and aspirations as well as what we, from our point of view, regard as the Natives' best interests, and we must take into account their physiological and mental condition, and the influence upon it of the changes which have begun and the further changes impending.

It is thus evident that, before any final steps can be taken, a full inquiry into these matters must be held. Until the end of the war such an inquiry would be difficult. Consequently, all that can be done at present is to legislate on the most urgent points, so as to obtain a temporary *modus vivendi* on the labour contracts and the liquor laws. This is all that Lord Milner has yet attempted. But his despatches to the Colonial Secretary, and the important memorandum by Sir Godfrey Lagden, comprised in the papers recently presented to Parliament, though relating chiefly to the proclamations on the two subjects just mentioned, disclose the fact that the authorities are not insensible to the wider principles which must underlie our future policy. Lord Milner fully recognises the need of uniformity throughout British South Africa, and looks forward to a Native code to be framed by a Federal Parliament. It is satisfactory to learn from him that "the best colonial sentiment" as to our treatment of the Natives "is not far removed from the best home sentiment, as represented, for instance, by temperate and reasonable advocates of Native rights," such as the authors of "The Natives in South Africa," reviewed in these columns last May. What is wanted is that such sentiment should be controlled and directed by full and accurate information.

The Anthropological Institute and the Folklore Society have already petitioned Mr. Chamberlain to order a full and systematic inquiry into the Native laws and customs in our new colonies at the earliest possible moment. The authors of the book just referred to, whom Lord Milner mentions with so much approval, speak of the want of such an inquiry as "urgent." It is the only satisfactory way to provide the information required for the guidance of public sentiment, and of the administration; and if the example of Cape Colony be

of value, it must precede any comprehensive attempt at legislation. The readers of NATURE are primarily interested in its scientific aspect. It is needless to reproduce the arguments they have had before them more than once. Those arguments are reinforced by Lord Milner's protests against some of the statements made on behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society and the Aborigines Protection Society in these papers, and by Sir Godfrey Lagden's admission that "there is much yet to be learnt by those who are vested with the control of Native affairs." And, though there is no allusion to the matter in the despatches now printed, we may be allowed to indulge the hope that it will not be overlooked as soon as the country is sufficiently pacified to enable the Government to arrange for it. Meanwhile, every opportunity should be taken by scientific anthropologists and jurists to bring their views before ministers and members of Parliament.

THE JUBILEE OF THE AUSTRIAN METEOROLOGICAL CENTRALANSTALT.

TO celebrate the fiftieth year of the existence of the Central Institute for Meteorology and Earth's Magnetism, the Vienna Academy has published a jubilee volume,¹ the contents of which form a very valuable contribution to science and an appropriate publication for this important celebration. This Central Institute, which is now the hub of all the meteorological and magnetic work carried on in the Austrian Empire, came into existence on July 23 in the year 1851, and it was founded with the object, first, of coordinating a number of stations all over the country and making them work on a uniform plan, and, second, of collecting such observations. How well these two objects have been carried out is familiar to every meteorologist of to-day, and so successful an issue of this organisation has been due to the consecutive labours of such directors as Kreil, Jelinek, Hann and Pernter, who have kept the Institute in such an excellent state of efficiency.

In the present volume we are first made acquainted with a brief history of the events which led up to the formation of the Institute, and the progress made during the period of office of each director. This is written in the form of an introductory chapter by the present director, Prof. Pernter. It is interesting to read that in the year 1851 Director Kreil had only forty stations working on a uniform plan carefully prepared by the Institute, but eleven years later he had increased the number nearly threefold. At this early stage there was a great amount of work to be accomplished, and Kreil, among other things, brought out the useful and valuable year book which was considered at the time a "modèle à suivre." The collection of old observations formed an important duty at this period of the Institute's history, and the first few volumes published contained long series of valuable observations made at Wien (1775-1850), Mailand (1763-1850), Prag (1775-1851), Kremsmünster (1763-1851), Salzburg (1842-1851), Udine (1803-1842), Fünfkirchen (1819-1832), Stanislaw (1839-1850), and several other stations.

As time went on, the Institute, like many others, began rapidly to accumulate more work than it could accomplish, and this necessitated an increase in the staff and a greater output of publications. By the year 1877, 238 stations were sending in their results, while twenty years later this number had increased to 447; last year the number of first, second and third class stations together was 420.

To come now to the series of valuable articles which form the substance of this large volume, it may, in the

¹ "Transvaal. Papers relating to Legislation affecting Natives in the Transvaal." Presented to Parliament, January 1902.

¹ "Denkschriften der kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften." *Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Classe*, vol. lxxiii.