

and fourteen other maps. There are also eighty-six text illustrations, mostly of towns and of striking physical features. By the courtesy of the publishers, we are enabled to give one of the illustrations.

BRITISH FORESTRY.

THE recommendations in the report which has just been issued by the committee appointed by the President of the Board of Agriculture "to inquire into and report upon British forestry" follow very much the trend of the opinions that have in recent years been expressed in *NATURE* and elsewhere. As was expected from the terms of the reference to the committee—"to consider whether any measures might with advantage be taken, either by the provision of further educational facilities or otherwise," to improve and encourage the "position and prospects of forestry"—the report deals chiefly with the root-matter of the forestry question—education. To such an extent is this the case that other elements of the forestry problem in Britain, such as the incidence of rates, the taxes upon timber transport, inequality in the levying of estate duty and the game question, are treated as minor considerations.

The report recognises the different classes requiring education in the country—landlords, land-agents and wood-foresters. In the forefront of the recommendations, the committee places the acquisition by the State of "two areas for practical demonstration," "one in England and the other in Scotland, of not less than 2000 acres, if possible, nor over 10,000 acres in each case," to furnish an object-lesson and to serve as areas of instruction for working foresters. They also recommend that forestry should be a subject of instruction at Oxford and Cambridge as it is at Edinburgh, and that example-plots of 100-200 acres in extent should be formed in the vicinity of these universities for the illustration of forestry teaching, and in this connection they also express the opinion that the forestry department of Coopers Hill should be transferred to a university centre. Forestry should also, they recommend, be a subject of study in the curricula of all agricultural colleges, and the teaching of forestry by county councils is recommended.

The whole tenour of the report is sound, although timidity and want of grasp might be indicated in several places, and it is satisfactory that the President of the Board of Agriculture has now in his hands a statement showing the main lines upon which, in the opinion of those who have given their attention to the subject, the forestry of this country may be improved. It remains to be seen whether any action will follow upon the report.

NOTES.

IT is with deep regret that we announce the death of Sir George Gabriel Stokes, Bart., F.R.S., at Cambridge on Sunday last, at eighty-three years of age. By direction of the president, the ordinary meeting of the Royal Society announced for to-day will, out of respect for his memory, not be held. We believe that representatives of all the scientific organisations with which Sir George Stokes was connected will attend the funeral at Cambridge to-day.

WE regret to see the announcement of the death of the Rev. Norman Macleod Ferrers, F.R.S., master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in his seventy-fourth year. Dr. Ferrers graduated in 1851 as senior wrangler and Smith's prizeman. He was the author of several mathematical treatises, including one on trilinear coordinates and another on spherical harmonics. He was appointed master of his college in 1880, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1877.

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IT is reported that the Lick Observatory has received from the Carnegie Institution a grant of 800*l.*

THE annual meetings of the Institution of Naval Architects will be held on Wednesday, April 1, and the two following days at the Society of Arts, London, W.C. The Earl of Glasgow, president, will occupy the chair.

MR. HENRY PHIPPS, who is now travelling in India, has given Lord Curzon the sum of 2000*l.* to be devoted to an object of practical benefit or scientific research promising to be of enduring good to India.

THE *Times* correspondent at Rome states that on January 30 the Chamber of Deputies unanimously passed a vote of congratulation and thanks to Mr. Marconi for the great services he had rendered to the world and the glory he had won for his country, Italy.

THE annual meeting of the Society for the Protection of Birds will be held on Tuesday, February 10, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The chair will be taken at 3 p.m. by His Grace the Duke of Bedford, K.G.

IT was hoped that Gilbert White's house, "The Wakes," at Selborne, Hants, and the grounds of thirty acres, would be secured by the nation as a memorial to the famous naturalist. Announcement has, however, just been made that the property has been purchased by Mr. Andrew Pears.

THE International Congress of Historical Science will be held in Rome on April 2-9, 1903. Among the eight sections is one of history of the mathematical, physical, natural and medical sciences. Communications should be addressed to the secretary, Via del Collegio Romano, 26, Rome.

THE great electric generating plant at Niagara Falls was destroyed by fire on the night of January 30. The correspondent of the *Standard* says the fire was caused by lightning, which struck a cable with defective insulation. The short circuit thus caused resulted in the explosion of one of the big transformers in the electric power-house operated by the Falls.

ACCORDING to a Reuter message from St. Petersburg, the total number of deaths caused by the earthquake at Andijan on December 16 last was 10,000. Nearly every day subterranean tremblings of varying intensity are still felt at Andijan; on January 19 and 20 there were violent shocks, and at Uzgent, some ninety kilometres to the east of Andijan, cracks appeared in the walls of the houses.

DR. HENRY WOODWARD, F.R.S., has been re-elected president of the Royal Microscopical Society. Two visits of members of the Society to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, have been arranged. The first will be on February 14 at 2 p.m., and the party will be conducted by Dr. H. Woodward; the second visit will take place on March 14, when Mr. W. Carruthers, F.R.S., will act as conductor.

A REUTER message from Bologna announces that Prof. Tizzoni, who recently presented to the Royal Academy of Science a report containing the results obtained from the use of a serum which he has discovered for the cure of pneumonia, states that his discovery is, so far, of purely scientific interest. Prof. Tizzoni has obtained satisfactory results from experiments with the serum on animals. Experiments have been also made with the serum in a hospital at Rome with excellent results.

PROF. SIRODOT, whose death was announced in a recent number, was professor in the Faculty of Science at Rennes for many years. Referring to his contributions to science in an