

## RECENT EARTHQUAKES.

IN connection with the announcement made in our notes columns (p. 349) of a remarkable disturbance in the Pacific on January 13 and of an earthquake in Jamaica on February 5, the following abstract of recent earthquakes recorded at Shide, Isle of Wight, which Prof. Milne has made at our request, is of interest:—

The most remarkable disturbance recorded at the Isle of Wight station during the month of January was one which commenced at 1h. 59m. a.m. on January 14. Maxima occurred at 2h. 36m. and 2h. 39m. At 3h. 34m. these are apparently repeated, indicating an origin  $137^\circ$  distant, and therefore possibly to the east of Tahiti—the scene of the recent disasters occasioned by hurricanes and sea-waves. Similar records were obtained at Kew, Bidston, Edinburgh, and probably at all stations furnished with instruments capable of recording the unfelt movements of large earthquakes.

Since the commencement of February, the earthquakes noted at Shide in the Isle of Wight have been as follows:—

Date.	Commencement.		Maximum.		Duration.	Amplitude.
	h.	m.	h.	m.		
Feb. 1 ...	10	16	10	18.9	1 5	6
„ 4 ...	6	51.8	6	54.9	— 10	0.75
„ 5 ...	19	4.5	19	46.2	2 30	2 to 0.75
„ 6 ...	8	5.5	8	14.7	— 30	1.0

The first is a large disturbance which had its origin at some place about 4500 kms. distant, possibly in Turkestan. The third disturbance—which as recorded at Shide is small—may refer to the West Indies.

J. MILNE.

## JAMES GLAISHER, F.R.S.

WE regret to see the announcement that Mr. James Glaisher died on Saturday last, February 7. Born April 7, 1809, he had nearly attained the great age of ninety-four years, the major portion of which was devoted to unceasing work of a varied nature, mainly, however, directed to practical meteorology.

At the age of twenty he was appointed as assistant on the principal triangulation of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, and from 1833-1836 was an assistant at Cambridge University, whence he proceeded in the latter year to the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, and having been, in 1840, promoted to the position of superintendent of the magnetical and meteorological department, he remained there until his retirement from official life in 1874.

His contributions on subjects bearing on meteorology and astronomy were too numerous to allow of our giving more than a passing notice. His hygrometrical tables, published in 1847, which have reached their eighth edition, are still the standard work on the subject for the British Islands, and "Travels in the Air" (1871 and 1880), "Diurnal Range Tables" (1867), "Mean Temperature of Every Day for Greenwich, 1814-1873," "Report on the Meteorology of India" and "Meteorology of Palestine" are among his chief writings.

From 1862-1866 he made twenty-nine balloon ascents in the interests of meteorological science, and the results were given in reports to the British Association at their annual meetings of those years. The ascent on September 5, 1862, is particularly memorable from the fact that he and the late Mr. Coxwell attained the highest distance from the earth

(37,000 feet) ever reached, and formed the subject of a most thrilling experience, which nearly had a tragic termination for both of the intrepid aerial explorers.

As the pioneer of systematic organisation of meteorological observations, the results of his endeavours may be seen in his weekly, quarterly and annual reports on the "Meteorology of England," contained in the periodical returns of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for England and Wales during the long period of sixty-one years (1841-1902). He was a juror in the class of scientific and philosophical instruments at the exhibitions of 1851 and 1862, and, apart from his scientific work, was actively engaged in other useful spheres of labour.

He was a fellow of several of the learned societies. For upwards of half a century he was on the roll of membership of the Royal Society, to which he was elected on June 7, 1849, and from time to time he contributed papers to the *Philosophical Transactions*. In 1850 he was one of the founders of the British Meteorological Society—now the Royal Meteorological Society—and for many years took a leading part in the conduct of its affairs, being its original secretary, "who nursed it through its infancy and youth, and left it to other hands only when it was old enough and strong enough to walk alone" (president's address in the jubilee year). He was also a past-president of the Royal Meteorological Society, the Royal Microscopical Society, the Royal Photographic Society and the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain, a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, and for many years was on the executive committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, of which he was for twelve years the chairman. He had also been honoured with the honorary fellowship of several foreign scientific bodies.

## NOTES.

WE are fortunate in being able to publish the appreciative notice of the late Sir George Stokes's scientific work, contributed by Lord Kelvin to another part of the present issue. So long ago as 1875 (vol. xii.) Sir George Stokes was one of our Science Worthies, and the account of his career then given is now supplemented by the record of his life's work and estimate of its influence on scientific progress, which Lord Kelvin has sent us. The funeral at Cambridge on Thursday last was a striking ceremony, in which men of distinguished eminence in many branches of knowledge took part, as will be seen from the list given on pp. 345, 346, of some of the people present. It is but rarely that such an assembly is drawn together, and the presence of so many men of light and leading showed the high regard in which Stokes was held, and testified to a widespread desire to do honour to his memory. It is inexplicable that no attempt was made to find a place for the body in Westminster Abbey. Great by his works and personality, Stokes was a man whose memory the nation should delight to cherish, and if such men as he are not buried at Westminster, it is difficult to understand who should find a place there.

THE gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has this year been awarded to Prof. Hermann Struve, of Königsberg, for his work on the satellites of Saturn. The medal will be presented at the annual general meeting to be held to-morrow, February 13. The Councillor of the German Legation will attend the meeting and receive the medal for Prof. Struve, who is unable to be present.