

few to whom research at the high Gnifetti laboratory would be impossible, but who could do solid work at a somewhat lower level provided that the life was not too rough, and especially if they had no fear of being hampered by indigestion caused by too rude or monotonous a diet. For these especially is the Col d'Olen Laboratory intended; and unless things have altered sadly in the last few years, such need have no fear for their stomachs. I still have a vivid recollection of a stay at the inn at Col d'Olen during which the efforts of a talented cook produced results which would have satisfied tastes of a far higher epicurean level than my own.

The new laboratory, like the old, is to be carried out as an international institution. It received warm support from the International Physiological Congress at Turin in 1901, and again at Brussels this year. After the plan of the Stazione Zoologica at Naples, its maintenance is to be provided by subsidies which will give the right to occupy working places. Already the Italian Ministry of Instruction has secured accom-

be on a safe basis, and especially that an annual income should be provided sufficient to ensure at the laboratory adequate service and assistance, which, as might be expected from the circumstances, have to be well paid. The existence of such a laboratory offers unusual opportunities for investigation, not only to those who are interested in the general problems of physiology, of meteorology, and of the physics of the earth, but also to the perhaps larger class who desire a wider and more exact knowledge of the manifold fascinating phenomena of the High Alps. Is it too much to hope that Prof. Mosso will find no great difficulty in obtaining the further funds which he needs?

M. FOSTER.

NEOLITHIC DEPOSITS IN THE NORTH-EAST OF IRELAND

THE recent changes of level in the north-east of Ireland attracted a considerable amount of public interest during the year 1903, in consequence of the



FIG. 1.—Wind excavated Pit in Portstewart Sand-dunes, showing "black-layers." From *Proceedings* of the Royal Irish Academy, December, 1904.

modation for two investigators, the Italian Alpine Club for one, and the German Government for two. M. Solvay, who has otherwise been a lavish benefactor to the whole enterprise, has taken two places for Belgium, and, through the generosity of Dr. Ludwig Mond, our own Royal Society has the right of nominating two investigators. The undertaking, therefore, is well on the way to success; but much remains yet to be done. Prof. Mosso informs me that though he has obtained 70,000 lire, he still needs some 50,000 lire in order that everything should

lawsuit, known as the "Gold Ornaments Case" (Attorney-General *v.* the Trustees of the British Museum). A golden boat, collar, and other objects were found in ploughing at Broighter, on the extensive flat that stretches around Limavady Junction in county Londonderry. They were buried eighteen inches deep in stiff clay soil, at a spot which is four feet above ordinary high-water mark. The British Museum authorities rested their claim to the retention of the objects in part on the theory that the ornaments in question constituted a votive offering, which was

deposited in Lough Foyle about the beginning of the Christian era, the spot where the objects were sunk having since become dry land, owing to upheaval of the coast-line. The claim of the British Museum was, however, not sustained.

In connection with this contention, Messrs. George Coffey and R. Lloyd Praeger made special investigations into the evidence of recent geological changes, and these they have brought forward in an essay on "The Larne Raised Beach: a Contribution to the Neolithic History of the North of Ireland" (*Proc. R. Irish Acad.*, vol. xxv., December, 1904). To this essay we are indebted for the preceding statement. After dealing generally with the phenomena indicative of changes of level in Glacial and post-Glacial times, the authors treat particularly of the post-Glacial history, which began with a long period of emergence, and a land-level at least 30 feet higher than at present. The evidence obtained near Larne and Belfast tells of subsequent submergence, re-elevation (the amount of which increased northward), and of a final slight movement of submergence in recent times that has left the surface as we now find it. The raised beach of the Curran at Larne was accumulated over estuarine muds during the period of submergence, and it is of peculiar interest owing to the occurrence in it from top to base of worked flints of Neolithic type. A detailed account, with figures of the flints, is given. The evidence is taken to indicate that man was on the ground during the submergence that allowed of the continued laying down of 20 feet of gravels in shallow water or between tides. Moreover, the abundance of flint flakes in the surface-layers renders it probable that Neolithic man persisted after that movement of elevation had set in which made the top of the gravels a land-surface. Attention is directed to further evidence at Whitepark Bay, east of the Giant's Causeway, and again in the neighbourhood of Portstewart, which lies only 13 miles E.N.E. of Broughter. At Whitepark Bay, Neolithic "black layers" or land-surfaces occur at various levels among the sand-dunes, while near Portstewart old surfaces with Neolithic remains are found in deep wind-excavated hollows in the dunes. (see Fig. 1). This evidence proves conclusively that the ground on which the gold ornaments were found has been a land-surface, with an elevation at least as great as at present, since Neolithic times, the whole of the movement of elevation, which formed the post-Glacial raised beach of the north-east of Ireland, having been accomplished during Neolithic times.

NOTES.

THE president of the Royal Society, and Lord Rayleigh, chairman of the general board of the National Physical Laboratory, have issued invitations to a visitation of the laboratory on Friday, March 17, when the various departments will be on view and apparatus will be exhibited.

THE thirteenth "James Forrest" lecture of the Institution of Civil Engineers will be delivered by Colonel R. E. B. Crompton on Monday, April 10, upon the subject of "Unsolved Problems in Electrical Engineering."

PROF. W. J. SOLLAS, F.R.S., has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club under the rule which empowers the annual election by the committee of nine persons "of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public services."

MR. J. E. S. MOORE has been appointed director of the Cancer Research, which is carried out in connection with the Royal Infirmary.

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It is stated that the Madras Government has sanctioned the establishment of an experimental garden in Malabar for the investigation of pepper vine disease.

THE second annual dinner of old students of the Royal College of Science, Ireland, will be held on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17, at the Holborn Restaurant, London.

PROF. K. MÖBIUS has retired from the directorship of the Berlin Museum of Natural History. The position has been offered to Prof. H. H. Schauinsland, director of the museum at Bremen.

SIR WILLIAM BROADBENT will preside at a medical conference on the teaching of hygiene and temperance, to be held at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, on Friday, March 24.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that Prof. E. A. Minchin, F.R.S., has undertaken to conduct—on the spot—further investigations, under the auspices of the Royal Society's Committee, into the causation of sleeping sickness in the Uganda Protectorate.

THE fifteenth German Geographentag will be held at Danzig on June 13-15. The chief subjects of papers and discussions will be south polar exploration, vulcanology, coast morphology and formation of dunes, and school geography.

AFTER a pause of many years France has again entered the list of gold-producing countries. In December, 1904, the first gold mill in France was started at the La Lucette antimony mine, near Laval. A 10-stamp mill is running steadily, the daily production amounting to about 1 kilogram of gold in the form of a rich concentrate.

WE learn from the *Chemist and Druggist* that two prizes, one of 5000 francs (200*l.*) and the other of 3000 francs (120*l.*), have been offered by Dr. Henri de Rothschild to the Scientific Society of Alimentary Hygiene, Paris, for the best treatises written in French on the rational food for man. The prizes will be awarded in 1906, and the papers must be sent in by December 31, 1905.

THE experiments with wireless telegraphy between Diamond Island and the Andamans are, says the *Pioneer Mail*, giving most satisfactory results. A recent message transmitted from Port Blair reached Calcutta in nineteen minutes, though it had to come over the land-lines after being received at Diamond Island.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Times* reports that a telegram has been received from M. Jean Charcot, the explorer in command of the French Antarctic expedition, dated Puerto Madryn, March 4. It is stated that scientific work was carried on under good conditions while wintering on Wandel Island. Several parts of Graham Land hitherto unknown have been explored, and by following the coast continuously its outline has been determined.

THE *Times* states that the French Ministry of Public Works has commissioned M. Jacquier to project plans for a railway between Chamonix and Aosta. It is considered that the difficulty would not be so great as with the Simplon tunnel; the tunnel would be $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles shorter, and the rock gives no indication of subterranean reservoirs of water. The tunnel would commence at Chamonix, 3415 feet above sea level, and end at Entrèves (4550 feet), a distance of $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The Dora Baltea would give ample water power for the boring work, and afterwards for locomotion.