

Huddleston, Birnham, and Mojsisoviks. The quotation from Tennyson on p. 233 has got astray, mainly in punctuation.

In conclusion, we would ask attention to the remarkable *tour de force*, or rather *tour d'esprit*, entitled "The Influence of Oxford on the History of Geology" (p. 219). In this, Plot's work as a "critic" is compared with that of Steno as a "prophet"; Kidd, an Oxford chemist, appears to be regarded as having furnished a serviceable brake to the wheels of Hutton's chariot; while Buckland's abandonment of the Noachian deluge as a geological factor, only to accept several deluges in place of it, is held up as a claim upon our gratitude. Here we think we see Prof. Sollas revelling in his mission as an artist; yet he paints far too frankly, and has no desire to deceive us. The pigments have been made in an

to the great loss the laboratory had sustained by the deaths of Sir E. Carbutt and Sir B. Samuelson.

The report of the executive committee for 1905 was presented and approved for presentation to the Royal Society on the motion of Sir J. Wolfe Barry, seconded by Mr. David Howard. The scheme of work for 1906 was also approved. The report showed progress in all directions.

Some fourteen scientific papers of importance have been published officially, while members of the staff have contributed nine others to various journals.

The second volume of "Collected Papers" is in course of preparation. The scheme of work for 1906 includes a research into the resistance of materials of construction to impact, the continuation of the wind pressure and steam researches, the completion of the work with the Ampere balance, and some experiments



FIG. 1.—The Sella Mass, Tyrol, the remains of a supposed ancient coral atoll. (From "The Age of the Earth, and other Geological Studies.")

ancient university; but we see right through the picture. We still prefer what we may consider as the first draft of this address, a modest pamphlet issued in Bristol in 1883, in which stress is laid on the progress of geological thought rather than on the benefits to be derived from its academic retardation.

THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

THE annual meeting of the general board of the National Physical Laboratory was held at Bushy House on Friday, March 16. There were present, in addition to the chairman, Lord Rayleigh, the following among others:—Sir John Wolfe Barry, Mr. Beilby, Mr. Kempe, Mr. R. K. Graye, Colonel Crompton, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Gavey, and Mr. Howard.

In opening the proceedings, Lord Rayleigh referred

of great interest on the effect of the continued application of high pressure to insulators. In the metallurgical division a research into the properties of aluminium bronze promises interesting results.

The report announced the intention of the Government, communicated to the Royal Society in December last, to grant a sum of 5000*l.* for buildings during the year, and the increase of the annual grant by 500*l.* It referred also to the very successful meeting in the House of Commons last August, under the chairmanship of Mr. Haldane, which led up to a petition, signed by 150 members of the House, asking that the grants should be increased, and the chairman was able to announce that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had recently intimated his intention of making the building grant for the year 10,000*l.* instead of 5000*l.*, as originally contemplated. We are able to add that this increase was largely due to an appeal to the Chan-

cellor of the Exchequer by Mr. Haldane as president of the British Science Guild.

It was also stated that the Goldsmiths' Company had very generously made a donation of 1000*l.*, with the request that it should be devoted to some specific object.

The very cordial thanks of the board were voted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Haldane, Sir J. Lawrence, Sir J. Brunner, and the other gentlemen who had interested themselves in the House of Commons petition, and also to the Goldsmiths' Company.

The director gave an account of the proposed additions to the buildings rendered possible by the increased grant, and explained the plans which had been prepared by the building committee. The suggestion that the work of erecting these buildings should now be pressed forward was cordially welcomed, and at a meeting of the executive committee held later power was given to the building committee to take the necessary steps. The board then adjourned to inspect the laboratory and to view the new electrical buildings, which are now approaching completion. They have been erected by Messrs. Mowlem and Co., at a cost of about 8000*l.*, to the design of Messrs. Mott and Hay, who very kindly gave their services, while with marked generosity Messrs. Mowlem's tender was based on the cost price of the buildings.

It is hoped that they may be opened on June 25 on the occasion of the visit of the foreign guests of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. In view of this ceremony the invitations on March 16 were restricted to members of the board and their personal friends, the usual annual gathering of friends of the laboratory being postponed until June.

NOTES.

A PRELIMINARY programme has been received of the events in connection with the Franklin bi-centenary, which the American Philosophical Society will celebrate at Philadelphia on April 17-20. The opening ceremony will take place on April 17, when the president, Prof. Edgar F. Smith, will deliver an address. Numerous papers on subjects of science will be read on April 18 by distinguished American men of science. In addition to these, Sir George Darwin, K.C.B., F.R.S., will read a paper on the figure and stability of a liquid satellite, and Prof. Hugo de Vries, of Amsterdam, will deal with elementary species in agriculture. Addresses will be given during the evening of the same day by Prof. E. L. Nichols, on Franklin's researches in electricity, and Prof. E. Rutherford, F.R.S., on the modern theories of electricity and their relation to the Franklinian theory. On April 19 honorary degrees will be conferred by the University of Pennsylvania, and an oration will be delivered by the Hon. Hampton L. Carson, Attorney-General of Pennsylvania. Ceremonies will be performed on this day at the grave of Franklin. On April 20 addresses in commemoration of Franklin will be given by Dr. H. H. Furness, who will speak of him as citizen and philanthropist; Dr. C. W. Eliot will pronounce a eulogy of him as printer and philosopher; and Dr. J. H. Choate as statesman and diplomatist. The presentation of the Franklin medal to the Republic of France, in accordance with the Act of Congress, will be made by the Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of State.

DR. LIBBERTZ, the scientific director of the bacteriological department of the Farbwerke, Höchst a. M., is going to South Africa with Dr. Robert Koch to study the question of sleeping sickness.

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WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the donations to the fund being collected for the establishment of an Institute of Cancer Research in connection with the University of Heidelberg now amount to 34,000*l.*

AN exhibition devoted to engineering and mechanical appliances will be held at Olympia from September 15 to October 17. Sir William White, K.C.B., is president, and the list of patrons includes the presidents of the various engineering societies. The offices of the exhibition are at Balfour House, Finsbury Pavement, London.

THE eighth International Agricultural Congress will be held in Vienna on May 21-25, 1907. The proceedings of the congress will be carried on in eleven sections, of which section ii. will be devoted to questions on instruction in agriculture and forestry, section vi. to agricultural industry, section vii. to the protection of plants, and section x. to vine growing, &c.

A REUTER telegram states that M. Mylius Erichsen's Danish expedition to the north-east coast of Greenland will leave Copenhagen at the end of June, and will proceed *via* the Færøe Islands and east Iceland to the east Greenland pack-ice, through which the explorer expects to be able to penetrate into East Greenland between 57° and 77° northern lat. In addition to the Danish members, the exploring party will probably include Dr. A. Wegener, from Germany, as physicist and meteorologist, and Dr. Baron Firschs, from Russia, as geologist.

ACCORDING to a Reuter message from Peshawar, a letter from the Governor of Balakh states that while some peasants were preparing their land for cultivation they came upon some ruins, which on further examination proved to be wall enclosures of a ruined city. The Governor visited the spot, and found the ruins of a large city, with some gold coins, the inscriptions on which nobody could read. Old Afghans said they had heard from their ancestors that a large Kafir (or infidel) city existed in the vicinity, which had been destroyed long since, and that in the ruins were buried the treasure of the Kafir kings. Some of the coins were sent to the Ameer for inspection.

THE Washington correspondent of the *Times* states that the report of the American members of the International Commission for the Preservation of the Niagara Falls recommends that legislation be passed, based on a treaty between America and Canada, to prevent further depletion of the water, to maintain the present scenic effects, and to regulate the electrical supply companies which are using the Falls for power. It is proposed to limit the diversion of the waters on the American side to 28,500 cubic feet a second, and the diversion on the Canadian side to 36,000 cubic feet. This advantage of Canada is in reality only on paper, as the power generated on the Canadian side is used largely in the United States. The report states that the diversion of water by works already authorised is likely to injure the Falls, and will possibly leave the American fall dry. It is estimated, however, that five-sixths of the total of 60,900 feet a second authorised chiefly affects the Canadian Horseshoe Falls.

MR. FRANK STROMSTEN gives a good account of the anatomy and development of the venous system of various species of turtles (*Amer. Journ. of Anatomy*, iv., 1905, p. 453). About forty turtles of the more common species were dissected, and fifty turtle embryos were studied for the development of the veins. In general, the development