effect. The rays themselves are in reality practically parallel, but seem to converge to east and west just as the parallel track of a straight railway seems to converge in both directions to anyone standing between the rails. The effect in the east soon after sunset is sometimes so striking that anyone might well believe that the sun had set there, were there no other circumstances to judge by.

T. C. PORTER.

Upton, Slough, May 31.

### Red Water.

IN connection with the letters on "red water" in NATURE of April 4 and 11, it may be of interest to state that a rusty-red coloration of brine and salt in evaporating pools of sea water is common on this coast.

I remember particularly such pools at Suez and near the Rawaya Salt Lake, in lat. 21° N. In the latter case the salt beds themselves, though also formed by the evaporation of sea water, remain quite pure white.

I have had no opportunity of examining the growth microscopically.

Another cause of red water is the occurrence of shoals of a large protozoan (? radiolarian) in the open sea. These are of sufficient size and density to colour large areas. CYRIL CROSSLAND.

Sudan Government, Red Sea Province, Office of the Marine Biologist, Dongonab, May 5.

### Zoological Nomenclature.

THE Zoology Organisation Committee has decided to obtain the opinion of the zoologists of this country on the question of the strict application of the rule of priority as regards zoological nomenclature.

As it is not possible to draw up a complete list of those who are competent to form an opinion on this subject, I should be obliged if you would allow me to say that I shall be glad to send a copy of the voting papers to any British zoologist who will forward to me his name and address before June 30.

SYDNEY J. HICKSON.
(*Hon. Sec. of the Z.O.C.*)

The University, Manchester, June 3.

## *THE DUNDEE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.*

AFTER a lapse of little short of fifty years, the British Association is to meet again this autumn in Dundee, on September 4–11, under the presidency of Prof. E. A. Schäfer. The former meeting in 1867 was a distinguished and memorable one, and many of the most eminent men of the time took part in it, among others Sir R. Murchison, Sir Charles Lyell, Sir David Brewster, and Sir William Thomson; Prof. Sharpey was president of anatomy, Sir Samuel Baker of geography, and Mr. Archibald Geikie of geology.

The memory of the 1867 meeting still survives in the town and district, and the citizens of Dundee are anxious, if it be at all possible, to make the forthcoming meeting no less successful. The necessary funds have been subscribed on a scale even more liberal than usual, and the offers of private hospitality from persons in and round the city are very numerous.

While Dundee is a commercial city, and by no means picturesque in itself, its situation is remarkably fine, and the views from the town over the estuary of the Tay, the Fife coast, and to the northward over the Sidlaw Hills, are exceedingly beautiful. In every direction the country affords easy and interesting excursions. Within short walking distance one has moorland and hill country, and not less attractive are the sandy wastes and dunes at the mouth of the river. A little farther one finds, for instance, the bold cliff scenery of the Forfarshire and Kincardine coasts, and all the Perthshire Highlands are within easy reach. Excursions are already arranged to such places as these, and the university town of St. Andrews and the ancient royal burghs of Arbroath and Dunfermline will each receive and entertain a party of visitors. Numerous other excursions are being planned for particular sections, and these will be more particularly described in forthcoming articles. The geologists, for instance, will find reopened for them the famous fossil fish-beds at Dura Den; they will also visit the neighbourhood of Stonehaven, the fossiliferous beds of the Lower Carboniferous in Fife, and will make, after the close of the meeting, a longer excursion to the western Highlands. The botanists will find work of unusual interest among the alpine flora of Clova and Glen Esk, celebrated by the discoveries of George Don. The agriculturists will have an opportunity of visiting some of the best farms in Scotland, and some of the best herds of polled Angus and other Scotch cattle.

The usual handbook of the meeting, now in the press, gives a complete account of the history of the town, its trade and local industries, and the topography and natural history of its neighbourhood. It is accompanied by a geological map containing much new material, and prepared, by the kind permission of the director, under the care of the staff of the Geological Survey in Edinburgh. Another and larger map depicts the flora, or "plant associations," of the adjacent parts of Forfar, Perth, and Fifeshire; it is reproduced from the work of the late Robert Smith, who was the first to introduce into this country this aspect of botanical study. The handbook is further enriched by several articles on distinguished men of science born in the district: for example, on Sir Charles Lyell, by Sir Archibald Geikie; on Robert Brown, by Colonel Prain; on George Don, the botanist, by Dr. Claridge Druce; and on Patrick Matthews, one of Darwin's most important precursors, by Dr. W. T. Calman.

The accommodation provided in the town for the meetings of the Association appears to be excellent. The reception room will be found in the Albert Institute, the principal building in the centre of the town. There, in addition to the main hall, is a suite of large galleries which will be used for conversation and writing rooms. The walls of these will be hung with a loan collection of pictures, which promises to be a very notable feature of the meeting. The great houses of the