

to 10 c.c. of the extract. Incubation of spores with this mixture gave unmistakable evidence of division at the end of eight hours, and in forty-eight hours the products had separated, and were lying free within the sac wall. At a later period they acquired flagella, and several sacs discharged their contents, which appeared quite normal in all respects.

The fact that auxetics will cause the full development of these spores is important, and raises the question as to whether their presence may not be necessary under natural conditions, as it seems fairly evident that pond-water must contain auxetics, derived from the organic matter present, and it is quite possible that it may also contain augmentors in the shape of some of the alkaloids of putrefaction. Much work, however, remains to be done in this direction before the question can be regarded as definitely settled. From the available evidence, however, it seems to be clearly demonstrated that the products of cytolysis do cause cell-reproduction, and, that being so, it is very probable that it is absolutely necessary for a cell to absorb these auxetics before any reproduction is possible.

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The Lion in Sinhalese Art.

IN the notice of the new "Guide to the Collections of the Colombo Museum," which appeared in *NATURE* of January 9 (p. 523), the point was raised as to the source of the concept of the lion which occurs so frequently in Sinhalese art.

The lion has never been native of Ceylon, and the association of the symbol with the Sinhalese race may be traced back so far as B.C. 543, when a band of adventurers from northern India, led by Wijayo, landed in Ceylon. According to the *Mahawansa*, Wijayo's father was the offspring of a lion, and was called Sihabahu, or Sinhabahu (lit. "lion arm"). This legend is based upon the fact that the grandfather of Wijayo was probably an outlaw named Siha or Sinha ("lion"). Hence the name Sihala or Sinhala was given to Wijayo's kingdom, and the newly established race became known as the Sinhalese. In this way the lion became the national emblem, and, together with the sun, is depicted on the royal banner. Nevertheless, there is no Sinhalese heraldry, as the term is understood in Europe.

The lion was regarded as a symbol of royalty by the Sinhalese, hence the word *sinhāsena* (lit. "lion seat") was applied to the throne. In the Colombo Museum there is a stone lion standing about 5 ft. high, upon which was placed the throne of the kings when the seat of Government was at Polonnaruwa.

A monograph on the Sinhalese banners is shortly to be issued from the Colombo Museum, when the significance of the lion will be fully discussed.

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Colombo Museum, Ceylon, January 30.

THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

(1) TRIBUTE TO THE DEAD EXPLORERS.

FULLER information and reflection on the disaster which overtook Captain R. F. Scott and his four companions in the Antarctic have served to intensify the national senses of bereavement at their end and of pride at the manner in which it was encountered, and both senses have

been given full expression. St. Paul's Cathedral was filled, and might have been filled again, on Friday last, when a memorial service was held. The King was present, and there also attended Queen Alexandra, the Prime Minister, and other members of the Government, representatives of the Opposition, of foreign Powers, of the Royal Geographical Society, of the Royal Society, and of many other bodies and institutions which were directly interested in the expedition, or with which its lost members were associated. Memorial services have also taken place at Portsmouth and Devonport dockyards and elsewhere. Expressions of regret have been received from many Colonial and foreign Governments and societies, and tributes of deep sympathy and appreciation have been paid to the memory of the dead by other workers in the polar fields—Dr. Nansen, Admiral Peary, Captain Amundsen, Dr. Charcot, Sir E. H. Shackleton, and others.

Prompt steps have been taken to fulfil the last wish of Scott, that those dependent on his companions and himself should not be allowed to want. On the part of the Government, it is stated that Captain Scott and Petty Officer Evans will be regarded as having lost their lives in action, and the pension due to their widows will consequently be enhanced. Further assistance, covering the necessities of the dependants of the other lost travellers, may be expected to be forthcoming from the public funds. The committee of the Antarctic Exploration Fund, of which Sir Edgar Speyer is chairman, is taking measures to the same end, and is also concerned to clear off the very heavy debt remaining upon the expedition, towards which Scott himself had pledged personal property, and which includes the recoupment of some of the survivors who have forgone part of the payment due to them. The question of the proper publication of the scientific results of the expedition is also involved. If the expedition had ended in success unshadowed by disaster, and if the leader had himself returned, means would have been open, which now are closed, for the discharge of these liabilities; the loss of his lectures, for example, must have a serious financial bearing on the whole position of affairs. In addition to the action of the Government and of the committee, a public subscription fund has been opened by the Lord Mayor of London; two London newspapers (*The Daily Telegraph* and *The Daily Chronicle*) have adopted a similar course, and collections are also being made under various official or unofficial auspices in various centres in the provinces and colonies. It may be added that, at the moment of writing, the Mansion House Fund has not been augmented with the rapidity characteristic of occasions of deep national feeling; it may well be that the public waits to learn what measures will be taken by the Government; but these cannot in the nature of the case be taken immediately, and there is ample scope for the proper use of whatever moneys may in the meantime be subscribed.