

mercial agents in England as elsewhere. Its successor, the United States territory of Hawaii, now administers the affairs of the late kingdom. Neither kingdom nor republican territory has ever sanctioned such a barbarous name as your reviewer gives—Hawaiiia.

WM. T. BRIGHAM.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H.I.,  
October 24.

THE first article in the "Fauna Hawaiiensis" is entitled "Introduction, being a Review of the Land-Fauna of Hawaiiia." Dr. Brigham's quarrel is hence with the writer of that article, and with the editor of the fauna, not with me. I should have expected "Hawaiiia" to meet with his approval as against the rather cumbersome title, "United States Territory of Hawaii," a title taken from the name of the largest island. The islands from Niihau to Hawaii stand on an isolated plateau in the ocean, and represent a geographical group; the name "Hawaiiia," I consider, may quite usefully be applied to them. A name will also have to be adopted for the islands between Nihoa and Lisiansky, which form a similar group; these I frequently find in maps included in the Hawaiian Islands.

Presumably the aboriginal inhabitants had no name for the islands in question, as they knew no other lands, and certainly the Spanish navigators established no name for them. Cook's name, "Sandwich Islands," dates from 1778, and clearly has priority, a fact which should appeal to American—I hope Dr. Brigham will pardon this incorrect adjective being applied to his countrymen—biologists.

J. STANLEY GARDINER.

November 14.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE STRUCTURE OF MATTER.

THE first International Conference in Brussels on the Theory of Radiation in 1911 (see NATURE, vol. lxxxviii., p. 82) owed its inception to Mr. Ernest Solvay, and proved a great success. Shortly afterwards, Mr. Solvay generously gave the sum of one million francs to form an International Physical Institute (NATURE, vol. xc., p. 545), part of the proceeds to be devoted to assistance of researches in physics and chemistry, and part to defray the expenditure of an occasional scientific conference between men of all nations to discuss scientific problems of special interest. In pursuance of this aim the second International Conference or Conseil International de Physique Solvay, was held in Brussels this year on October 27–31, under the able presidency of Prof. Lorentz. On this occasion the general subjects of discussion were confined to the structure of the atom, the structure of crystals, and the molecular theory of solid bodies.

Reports were presented by the following:—The structure of the atom, Sir J. J. Thomson; Interferenzerscheinungen an Röntgenstrahlen hervorgerufen durch das Raumbgitter der Kristalle, Prof. Laue; the relation between crystalline structure and chemical constitution, W. Barlow and Prof. Pope; some considerations on the structure of crystals, Prof. Brillouin; and Molekulartheorie der Festen Körper, Prof. Gruneisen.

Among those present at the meeting were Prof. Lorentz, Kamerlingh Onnes, Sir J. J. Thomson, Barlow, Pope, Jeans, Bragg, Rutherford, Mme. Curie, Gouy, Brillouin, Langevin, Voigt, Warburg, Nernst, Rubens, Wien, Einstein, Laue, Sommerfeld, Gruneisen, Weiss, Knudsen, Hasenöhr, Wood, Goldschmidt, Verschaffelt, Lindemann, and De Broglie.

An interesting and vigorous discussion followed on all the papers presented to the congress. Special interest was taken in the report of Laue on the interference phenomena observed in crystals with  $x$ -rays. A valuable contribution was made by Prof. Bragg on selective reflection of  $x$ -rays by crystals, and on the information afforded by this new method of research on crystalline structure. The report of Mr. Barlow and Prof. Pope on the relation between crystalline structure and chemical constitution was illustrated by a number of models, and was followed with much interest. A report on the papers and discussions at the Conference will be published as promptly as possible.

The arrangements for the meeting, which was successful in every way, were admirably made by Dr. Goldschmidt. All the members stayed at the same hotel, and thus were afforded the best of opportunities for social intercourse and for the interchange of views on scientific questions. During the meeting, the members were very hospitably entertained by Mr. Solvay and Dr. Goldschmidt, while a visit was made to the splendid private wireless station of the latter, which is one of the largest in the world, capable of transmitting messages to the Congo and Burmah.

The committee of the International Physical Institute, who were present at the conference, held meetings to consider the applications for grants in aid of research, made possible by the sum set aside for this purpose by Mr. Solvay at the foundation of the institute.

It was arranged that the next meeting of the Conseil de Physique should be held in three years' time at Brussels, when there will be a new programme of subjects for discussion. In order to extend the scope of the congress, and to make it as representative as possible, it has been arranged that the original members will retire automatically at intervals, while their place will be taken by new members, who will be specially invited to take part in discussion of definite scientific topics.

E. RUTHERFORD.

#### ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE.

THE last link with the great evolutionary writers of the mid-nineteenth century—the men who transformed the thought of the world—is broken. How can I best speak of the long, happy, hard-working, many-sided life that has just come to a close? The history of Wallace's contributions to science and the details of his career have been long known, and are now rewritten and epitomised in the Press of the world. I propose to speak of the man himself as he was revealed to his friends.