

that the mineral industry of the United States is in a sound and flourishing condition, and that the vast mineral resources of that great country are being steadily and profitably developed.

As to the volumes in which the results of these operations are chronicled, it is impossible to do more than express admiration for the care and attention bestowed upon them, and we can only wish that we had in this country a department capable of doing anything like similar justice to our own British mineral industry. H. L.

#### SIR TREVOR LAWRENCE, BART.

SIR TREVOR LAWRENCE, late President of the Royal Horticultural Society, and sometime Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, died at his seat at Burford, Dorking, in his eighty-second year, on Monday night, December 22. Born on December 30, 1831, Sir Trevor was educated at Winchester, and afterwards at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where his father was one of the staff and one of the teachers. After qualifying as a medical man, Trevor Lawrence joined the Indian Medical Service in 1853, seeing much active service during the Mutiny. In 1863 he retired from India, and in 1867 succeeded his father as second baronet. In 1869 he married Elizabeth, daughter of the late Mr. J. Matthew, of Burford, Dorking. From 1875 till 1892 he sat in Parliament.

Always interested in plants, Trevor Lawrence became during his Indian service a keen and successful gardener. This taste and talent he exercised and developed on his return to England, and although he was doubtless best known in gardening circles as an orchid grower, there was no particular branch of horticulture in which he was not keenly interested and in which he was not highly successful. Even in that especial branch of the craft in which he was deservedly famous—the cultivation of orchids—his innate love of plants for their own sake, which he appears to have inherited from his mother, was very conspicuous. In addition to one of the finest private collections of showy sorts, Sir Trevor had at Dorking probably the largest private collection of the less conspicuous, but very often more scientifically interesting genera and species from both hemispheres.

There was therefore everything that was appropriate in the election of Sir Trevor, in 1885, to the presidency of the Royal Horticultural Society. But on Sir Trevor's part there was also a strong strain of chivalry and gallantry in his acceptance of this, at that time, thankless post. The Society was at a miserably low ebb, with an inadequate membership and still more inadequate finances. Supported in the struggle which ensued by a number of far-seeing and courageous colleagues, both against adverse external circumstances and against opposition from within the Society, the difficulties were overcome, and the assured financial position in which the Royal Horticultural Society stands to-day

has been largely due to the steadfastness of purpose, tact and wisdom of Sir Trevor Lawrence during the presidency of twenty-eight years, which ended with his retirement from that position on April 1 last.

Almost as great as the services he was able to render to gardening were those which Sir Trevor rendered to his own old hospital, the treasurer-ship of which he was invited to undertake when he retired from Parliament. This post he held during twelve years of financial and other difficulties. The qualities which had stood him in such good stead in the Royal Horticultural Society enabled him here again to inaugurate much that was useful in the matter of extending the scientific equipment of the hospital, of securing for the staff some share in its management, and of establishing a sounder administrative policy with regard to its property. As a member of the council of King Edward's Hospital Fund, Sir Trevor was able to do much for the cause of hospitals generally.

A well-known and skilled collector of Chinese and European porcelain and the possessor of one of the finest collections of Japanese lacquer in Britain, Sir Trevor placed students of the latter under much obligation by printing for private circulation in 1895 a finely illustrated catalogue of his collection. A host of exquisite courtesy, and a counsellor of great sagacity, Sir Trevor's death will be greatly mourned by a wide circle of friends.

#### A NEW BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE science of geography will enlarge its bounds if the expedition to the South Pole, planned by Sir Ernest Shackleton, ends successfully. A start is to be made next October from Buenos Aires, and the plan proposed is to cross the south polar continent from the Weddell Sea, on the Atlantic side, to the Ross Sea, touching at the South Pole *en route*—a distance of some 1700 miles. Altogether the party will number forty-two, twelve being actual explorers, and the remainder the crews of the two ships that are to support the venture, one on each side of the Antarctic continent. Of the explorers, six expect to cover the whole ground from the point of landing on the Weddell Sea to the point of embarkation on the Ross Sea. The other six will be divided into two groups: one, composed of a biologist, a geologist, and a physicist, will probably remain at an experimental station on the Weddell Sea side; the other party of three will be told off to explore the land to the east, which is at present entirely unknown. These two wings of the expedition will eventually be taken back to South America, while the party which will accompany Sir Ernest across the continent is to be met at the Ross Sea base by the second ship from New Zealand, whither it will take them.

For the outward journey the *Aurora* has been chosen. Both this and the sister vessel will depend