known which behave as single Mendelian characters. The distinguishing peculiarity of the white Panama Indians is chiefly, but apparently not entirely, a pigment character. But I believe that there is no human race whose pigment character behaves in crosses with other races as a simple Mendelian recessive; and I believe there is no human race which is distinguished from other races by pigmentation alone. Prof. Karl Pearson has maintained that the white European originated as an albino from a dark race. But it seems proved that the white character of the European does not segregate completely in crosses with other races, and therefore does not behave as albinism. Mr. Huxley states that the white Indians mate almost wholly with other whites. There is a certain amount of separation, but the white girl among the group which Mr. Marsh has with him is the daughter of parents who are both normal brown individuals, and who are both with her. Each of these parents had one white parent.

I hope to give further study to the matter, but so far it seems to me that this case tends to demonstrate the difference rather than the similarity between mutation and evolution. J. T. CUNNINGHAM.

October 1.

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

IT is a matter of sincere pleasure to those who are students of science in India to read in NATURE of August 2 an account by Dr. Morris W. Travers of the early working and the history of the Indian Institute of Science.

All those who have seen this splendid Institute have a word of praise and admiration for Dr. Travers, who equipped it so that it continues to be one of the finest laboratories in the British Empire. The libraries attached to this Institute are second to none in the world.

That these laboratories will turn out scientific work of the highest importance is only a question of time. With increasing consciousness of the importance of research in India, and the enlarged reforms which give Indians greater scope for intellectual and political activities, the Institute is sure, in time, to fulfil the hopes which its equipment inspires.

When the political status of India is that of a free Dominion in the British Empire, the British names which will be written in golden letters for bringing about that happy state of affairs will not be those of statesmen only, but will include also prominent chemists such as Crum Brown for giving us Sir P. C. Rây, the founder of a school of chemical research in India, Donnan and Thorpe for inspiring the largest number of physical and organic chemists in India, and above all Travers, for building the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore.

S. S. BHATNAGAR

(Director of University Chemical Laboratories, The Panjab University, Lahore; and Hon. University Professor of Chemistry, Benares Hindu University).

Benares, September 9.

Gravity Measurements in Deep Water.

ATTEMPTS at determining the gravity force over the oceans do not seem to have met with unqualified success. The following suggestion, so far as I know, is new. Possibly some objection to its use may exist.

A pendulum of the usual type is suspended within a steel vessel of sufficient strength and lowered on a sounding wire to the bottom of the ocean. The verticality of the steel vessel is secured by suspending it from a tripod which takes up a stable position on the sea-floor.

Vanes attached externally to the steel vessel keep it from taking up a vibratory motion, and a surrounding screen protects it from possible currents. Within the vessel there is a photo-electric cell; a small dry-battery and lamp; and a simple electromagnetic arrangement for the release of the pendulum, which, while being lowered, is held by this release in a deflected position. A recording thermometer is also contained within the vessel. A single insulated wire makes connexion with the ship.

When the pendulum has been for some time at the bottom, so as to take up a constant temperature, and to allow for initial settlement, it is released by a momentary current from the ship. It now falls into vibration, and at each vibration screens the photo-electric cell from the lamp. The periodically interrupted current so created reaches the ship through the connecting wire.

It is desirable to compare these vibrations with the vibrations of a standard pendulum upon the land. This is accomplished by means of wireless. The current from the submerged apparatus, after reinforcement, operates the wireless of the ship, and so is transmitted to a station on the land. Or, alternatively, the vibrations of a shore pendulum are transmitted to the ship and the comparison carried out on board.

J. JOLY.

Trinity College, Dublin,
September 12.

The Institute of Catalan Studies at Barcelona.

IN June last, Prof. Dwelshauvers, the Belgian philosopher, was dismissed by the Spanish Directorate from his position of director of the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology at Barcelona. The reasons given for his dismissal were that his researches were frivolous, and that as the results were only published in a foreign periodical, *L'Année psychologique*, the work must stop on grounds of economy.

The Laboratory was under the patronage of the Institute of Catalan Studies, against which a general attack has been made by the Spanish Government on the ground that its tendency is separatist and subversive. Public opinion in Barcelona hotly resented the action against Prof. Dwelshauvers, and one hundred and twenty-five professors and science teachers signed a letter of sympathy and protest, which was published in the daily press.

The Directorate professed to consider this letter an insult to the military government, and it was announced that unless an apology was publicly made by the signatories they would be dismissed from their posts. The professors replied that their action was dictated by sympathy with a colleague and had no political significance, and that therefore they had nothing to withdraw. In consequence they have all been dismissed.

Only those who know the work of the Institute of Catalan Studies can appreciate the result of this: practically all the higher education of the Catalan provinces has ceased, for, with the exception of the Castilian University in Barcelona, the whole higher and technical education was in the hands of the Institute.

Among those dismissed are several with reputations outside Spain, including S. Pi i Suñer, Director of the Advanced School of Agriculture; S. Campallans of Louvain and Charlottenburg; Prof. Pau Vila of Geneva and Grenoble; and Prof. Pompeu Fabra, the well-known philologist and the virtual creator of modern literary Catalan.

JOHN LANGDON-DAVIES.