

may just as well be supposed capable of moving sideways also.

It may be noted that the formation of the moon by the segregation of a portion of the earth's crust bears a close analogy to the formation of planets from the sun by near approach of another star, as now held by many recent writers. If the aggregation to a spherical form is possible in the case just mentioned, it should be equally possible in the case of a crustal mass stripped off by tidal resonance; it is even conceivable that the disruption of the earth may have been caused by a similar cosmical disturbance due to the approach of some other body, but as to this there appears to be no evidence, and the tidal resonance theory offers the simplest explanation.

The following short bibliography includes a few of the more important recent publications bearing on this subject:

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Obituary.

SIR RICKMAN JOHN GODLEE, BART.

BY the sudden death of Sir Rickman Godlee on April 20, science loses a singularly open-minded man of varied gifts and wide interests, who was intimately associated with the great revolution in surgery accomplished by his famous uncle, Lord Lister. In fact, Godlee is now most widely known as the author of Lister's biography, which is not only a worthy record of one of the greatest incidents in the history of science, but also a graphic picture of the simple, homely society in which the sterling characters of Lister and of Godlee himself were moulded. During his long career Sir Rickman played many parts, as senior demonstrator of anatomy and afterwards professor of clinical surgery at University College, London, and honorary surgeon at University College Hospital, as president of the Royal College of Surgeons, as surgeon to the household of Queen Victoria, and surgeon-in-ordinary to King Edward VII. and King George V.

As an anatomist Godlee displayed exceptional skill in dissection, and in addition he was a superb draughtsman. These gifts were displayed not only in his contributions to "Quain's Elements of Anatomy," but also in his own "Atlas of Human Anatomy" (1880). But perhaps his chief contribution to anatomy was his investigation of cranio-cerebral topography, which his pioneer work in cerebral surgery impelled him to undertake.

At the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis (then in Portland Terrace, overlooking Regent's Park) Godlee performed the hitherto unprecedented operation (in England) of removing a tumour from the brain, after its position had been determined on the evidence provided by Sir David Ferrier's experiments on animals. This milestone in the history of surgery was made more conspicuous still when particular attention was directed to it in the *Times* of December 16, 1884, for the purpose of rebutting Ruskin's attack on vivisection.

Godlee's interest in University College and its anatomy department was maintained with unabated vigour until the end. His loss will be particularly felt this year, not merely for personal reasons, but also because his intimate knowledge of the College

and of University College Hospital and his rare literary gifts were being devoted to the preparation of the history to celebrate the centenary next year.

In spite of his seventy-six years, Sir Rickman had retained his mental and physical vigour unimpaired. After his retirement from surgical practice in 1920 he was free (at his beautiful home at Whitchurch, near Pangbourne) to devote himself with new zeal to those interests in Nature—geological, botanical, and zoological—concerning which his knowledge was amazingly wide and exact. Nor did he allow these interests to affect his devotion to art. An exceptionally gifted draughtsman himself, he was keenly interested in etchings and engravings, of which he had a characteristically critical but appreciative knowledge.

Frankly outspoken and always open-minded, Sir Rickman Godlee's opinions and advice were much valued by his friends.

SIR D. GOLDSMID-STERN-SALOMONS.

SIR D. GOLDSMID-STERN-SALOMONS, better known perhaps by his earlier name of Sir David Salomons, died at his residence at Broomhill, Tunbridge Wells, on April 19, at the age of seventy-three. He was educated at University College, London, and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he graduated in the Natural Science Tripos of 1873. His uncle was Sir David Salomons, who made a long fight for admission to the House of Commons and was the first of the Jewish faith to sit there. His uncle warmly encouraged Sir David's interest in physics and engineering. He equipped a physical laboratory for him, and a few years later a workshop and a small electric generating station were added to it. Sir David was undoubtedly one of the earliest pioneers of electric lighting for use indoors. He claimed that so far back as 1874 he used incandescent lamps for house lighting. He was a most enthusiastic inventor, making for himself all the electric switches and other devices which he required. He was one of the first to realise the difficulties in the way of heating and sparking that had to be overcome. No one outside the electrical profession realises the immense amount of research and ingenuity that has been

expended in developing the ordinary domestic electric switch.

Sir David took a great interest in the development of engineering in France. He was one of the eight founders of the Aero Club de France, and was a founder and an honorary member of the Automobile Club de France. In the early days, long before there seemed to be any commercial possibilities in automobiles, he had a motor car, and later on he helped the industry by assisting in the formation of the Royal Automobile Club, of which he was a vice-president. He was the author of several books, of which the best known is "Electric Light Installations and the Management of Accumulators," which is now in its eleventh edition. For many years this was practically the only book on the subject, and was in the library of almost every electrical engineer. He also carried out important researches, and made inventions in connexion with electric signalling apparatus, speed indicators and fire-proofing material.

As a member of council Salomons took a great interest in the management of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, with which he was closely connected almost from its inception. He was honorary treasurer for many years, and a vice-president for five years. In 1895 he would, in the ordinary course of affairs, have become president had not several members of council objected. They said that the president of a professional institution should only be a member who was in actual practice. He was president of the Electrical Trades Benevolent Institution, and took a great interest in its prosperity. He was also very interested in the training of young engineers, and founded several valuable scholarships. In his later years he devoted much time to photographic developments. His only

son lost his life by drowning in 1915 when on active service.

Sir David was a good citizen and took a leading part in municipal, political and social affairs. He will be sadly missed by the older generation of electrical engineers, who will always remember his useful pioneering work.

A. R.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. V. Ebner, Ritter v. Rofenstein, professor (1888-1913), and emeritus professor of histology in the University of Vienna, and a member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences, distinguished for his contributions to embryology and histology, on March 21, aged eighty-three.

Dr. G. S. Fullerton, formerly professor of philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania and in Columbia University, and president in 1895 of the American Psychological Society, on March 23, aged sixty-five.

Dr. W. H. Julius, professor of experimental physics since 1896 in the University of Utrecht, and known for his work in astrophysics on anomalous dispersion, on April 15, aged sixty-four.

Dr. Frédéric Morin, president of the Station Climatérique de Leysin, Switzerland, and one of the founders and later a president of the International Union against Tuberculosis, aged seventy-two.

Mr. J. A. Parkhurst, for twenty-five years on the staff of the Yerkes Observatory, and associate professor of astronomy in the University of Chicago, who made contributions to our knowledge of photographic and visual stellar magnitudes, on March 1, aged sixty three.

Prof. Eduard F. L. Mazelle, formerly Director of the Observatory, Trieste, a corresponding member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences, distinguished for his work on meteorology and seismology, on January 26, aged sixty-two.

Current Topics and Events.

MONDAY next, May 4, will be the centenary of the birth of Thomas Henry Huxley, and the event is one to be held in grateful recollection by all who esteem the pursuit of scientific truth or see the light to which it leads. As a tribute to the memory of this great naturalist and teacher, we are issuing with next week's NATURE a special Supplement containing a remarkable collection of articles surveying his scientific work from various aspects and relating the personal reminiscences of the few remaining people who were in close contact with him during his life. It is very rarely that a great man of science is also a great leader in social and intellectual development, but in Huxley these two qualities were brilliantly combined. The four volumes of his scientific memoirs establish his place in scientific history, and the papers in them display deep insight as well as extraordinary powers of generalisation. As examples of his scientific genius mention may be made of his recognition of the fundamental character of the endoderm and ectoderm, his demonstration of the close affinities between reptiles and birds, and of the ancestry of the horse, and his work "On Man's Place in Nature," in which he showed that the anatomical differences between man and the higher apes were no greater than those between the higher

and lower apes, and thus provided substantial evidence of the extension of the evolutionary principle to man. The full significance of this work can be understood only in scientific circles, in which it has taken a permanent place. To the public he was a fearless champion of scientific thought and intellectual freedom, possessing exceptional gifts of lucid exposition in his literary style and lectures, and using them continuously in social service. The symposium which we shall publish in our next issue will, we hope, induce workers and thinkers of the present time to turn to Huxley's life and writings for the stimulus and guidance which are as much needed now as they were in his own days if science is to come into its kingdom.

THE Governors of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, have made special arrangements for the celebration of the centenary of Huxley's birth. During the afternoon of Monday next, May 4, there will be an exhibition in the Zoological Department of the College, followed after tea by an address to be given by Prof. E. B. Poulton on Huxley's zoological work, and in the evening at 8.30 a reception will be held by Lord Buckmaster (chairman of the Governing Body) in the