

News and Views

The Sun's Outer Envelope

ACCORDING to a cabled statement from the New York correspondent of *The Times* published on August 14, Major Stevens of the United States Army, flying over Peru at a height of 30,000 ft. on June 8, during the total solar eclipse, obtained some very surprising photographs of the eclipsed sun. Surrounding the corona with its irregular streamers, there was found a bright envelope one million miles high in which the details of the corona became insignificant. The first natural reaction is to ascribe this result to photographic effects of over-exposure, especially as no details of the size of the image secured or other optical details of the apparatus used are given. But the name of Harvard University behind the announcement renders one unwilling to look to any simple instrumental explanation of this unexpected phenomenon. A link between the corona and the zodiacal light seems suggested, but no indication is given in the report of any extension in the zodiacal plane, such as would be expected. Again, since the zodiacal light and the corona both have the same distribution of radiation as ordinary sunlight, one would expect any connecting matter to be similarly conditioned. Only over-exposure, which blots out all coronal details, would account for the even globular envelope unless this outer envelope is relatively much stronger in light of short wavelength. It would be interesting to know what visual observations were made from the aeroplane. If these agreed in general outline with the photographs secured from the ground, then the photographs from the stratosphere suggest an extensive outer atmosphere giving bright line or bright band radiation which must be examined spectroscopically at the next suitable total eclipse. Further and fuller details of the photographs will be impatiently awaited.

Anglo-Egyptian Treaty Honours List

THE additional Egyptian Honours List issued in connexion with the signing of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in London, and published in the *Egyptian Mail* of July 28, contains the names of the following men of science: *Third Class of the Order of Ismail* (Commander), Dr. E. Hurst, director-general of the Physical Department of the Ministry of Works, and Mr. F. Newhouse, inspector-general of irrigation in the Sudan; *Second Class of the Order of the Nile* (Grand Officer), Dr. Roy S. Dobbin, professor of obstetrics in the Egyptian University, Cairo; *Third Class of the Order of the Nile* (Commander), Dr. J. Templeton, chief botanist, Botanical and Plant Breeding Section, and Dr. W. T. H. Williamson, chief chemist, Chemical Section, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. J. H. Grindley, expert for technical education, Major W. L. Forsyth, professor of bacteriology, and Prof. D. H. Bangham, dean of the faculty of science in the Egyptian University, Cairo; *Fourth Class of*

the Order of the Nile (Officer), Mr. G. H. Jones, director of the Mycological Section, Prof. H. Priesner, director of entomological research, and Mr. C. H. Broun, senior botanist of the Ministry of Agriculture, Prof. T. L. R. Ayres, professor of physics, Dr. O. Zdanski, professor of geology, and Prof. A. Naef, professor of zoology in the Egyptian University, Cairo.

Centenary of Dr. Edmund Weiss (1837-1917)

ON August 26, 1837, Dr. Edmund Weiss, the distinguished Austrian astronomer, was born at Freiwaldau, in Austrian Silesia. A part of his boyhood was spent in England, where his father was physician to a health institution, but he received his education at Troppau and at the University of Vienna, and at nineteen years of age became assistant to Karl von Littrow (1811-77) in the old Vienna Observatory which had been erected in 1826 by Joseph von Littrow (1781-1840) on the site of the observatory established by Father Maximilian Hell, S.J., in 1753. At first Weiss was employed on geodetic work, but it being proposed to remove the old observatory, which was situated among the narrow streets of the Austrian capital, to a more favourable situation, Weiss, in 1872, was sent on a tour of European and American observatories to study their methods, and optical works, and to him fell the task of planning the equipment of the new observatory at Währing, the foundation stone of which was laid in June 1874. On von Littrow's death in 1877 Weiss was appointed to the directorship. This post he held for thirty-two years, retiring in 1910. He died on June 21, 1917, at the age of seventy-nine years. During his career Weiss took part in several eclipse expeditions, was one of the observers of the transit of Venus in 1874, wrote on comets, meteors and orbits, and prepared a revised edition of Oeltzen's catalogue of Argelander's zones from 15° to 31° S. declination. He was a member of the Vienna Academy, a *correspondant* of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and for thirty-four years an associate of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Reginald Harrison (1837-1908)

MR. REGINALD HARRISON, who was equally eminent as a Liverpool and as a London surgeon, was born at Stafford on August 24, 1837. He was educated at Rossall School and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and qualified in 1859. In 1866 he became fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the following year was appointed assistant physician to the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, becoming full surgeon in 1874. He was at first a general surgeon, but before long he specialized in diseases of the male genito-urinary system, and in 1889 he left Liverpool for London on his appointment as surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital for Stone and Other Urinary