

but before the establishment of the present laboratory. There are now several important papers in progress, but these can hardly be mentioned until their publication.

In the summer of 1902 considerable attention was paid to the plankton, and almost every night showed novelties and interesting forms. Almost all the common types of larvæ occurred abundantly—*Cyphonautes*, *Mitraria*, Loven's larva, *Pilidium*, plutei and *Bipinnaria*, etc. More noticeable, however, was *Actinotrocha*, the first time the genus has been noticed north of Newport. On several evenings the rare pteropod *Spirialis gouldii* was abundant, while on others there were numbers of the larvæ of a gymnosomatous pteropod (possibly *Clione*) recalling the oft-copied figures of *Pneumodennon* larvæ. Towards the end of the season several specimens of the strange annelid *Tomopteris*, some with eggs, were taken, and we obtained several specimens of *Arachnactis*, the young of the peculiar sea-anemone, *Cerianthus*, which, by the way, is not uncommon in the deeper waters of the bay. The locality possibly offers a good chance to obtain the development of the 'Copelate Tunicata, as specimens of an *Appendicularia*-like form, some with apparently ripe eggs and spermatozoa, were abundant. Numerous specimens of chain salpæ were brought us by fishermen from the trawling grounds outside.

The student of elasmobranch embryology will find this a most favorable place for work, for the common dog-fish *Acanthias*, is abundant just outside the islands during most of the summer, and embryos are readily obtained from the first appearance of the blastoderm up to those an inch or two in length.

On the whole, our experience has been that no spot north of Cape Cod can excel South Harpswell as a location for a station for biological research. The present laboratory, while well adapted for elementary instruction, is, in many respects, inadequate to the demands liable to be made upon it when the richness of the fauna and the charms of the place become better known.

J. S. KINGSLEY.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION.*

THE inauguration of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science took place at Cape Town on April 27. The *Cape Times*, to which we are indebted for the details of the proceedings, describes the successful gathering as a British Association meeting in miniature. The new Association enters upon its career with a membership of seven hundred persons from many parts of South Africa.

The main objects of the organization are the same as those of the parent body. As defined in the Constitution, they are "to give a strong impulse and systematic direction to scientific inquiry; to promote the intercourse of societies and individuals interested in science in different parts of South Africa; to obtain a more general attention to the objects of pure and applied science, and the removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which may impede its progress."

The presidential address was delivered by Sir David Gill, K.C.B., the Astronomer Royal for South Africa, who explained the nature of the work which it was hoped the new Association would accomplish. During the course of his able address Sir David Gill announced that Lord Kelvin had written that, although in 1905 he will be eighty-one years of age, he intends, if he is as well then as he is now, to accompany the British Association on the visit to South Africa.

The work of the sections began on the second day of the meeting. The presidential addresses in the various sections were delivered by the following men of science:

Section A, Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics, Meteorology and Physics, by Professor P. D. Hahn; Section B, Anthropology, Ethnology, Bacteriology, Botany, Geography, Geology, Mineralogy and Zoology, by Dr. R. Marlotti; and Section C, Archeology, Education, Mental Science, Philology, Political Economy, Sociology and Statistics, by Dr. Thomas Muir, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of Education for Cape Colony.

Among the papers read during the course of the meetings the following deserve mention. In Section A, on ferments causing 'casse' in wine, by Mr. Raymond Dubois; meteorology in South

* From *Nature*.

Africa: a retrospect and prospect, by Mr. C. M. Stewart; close binary systems, by Dr. Alex. W. Roberts; determination of mean temperature, etc., from observations made at second-order stations on the Table Land, by Mr. J. R. Sutton; some recent work on the discharge of electricity from heated bodies, by Professor J. C. Beattie.

In Section B, (1) on the occurrence of an epidemic among the domesticated animals in Mauritius in which Trypanosomata were found in the blood; (2) note on the correlation of several diseases occurring among animals in South Africa; (3) on the production of a malarial form of South African horse sickness, by Dr. Alex. Edington; the minerals of some South African granites, by Mr. F. P. Mennell; on the classification of the Theriodonts and their allies, by Dr. R. Broom; (1) some morphological and biological observations on the genus *Anacampseros*; (2) on some stone implements in the Albany Museum, by Dr. S. Schonland.

In Section C, some aspects of South African forestry, by Mr. D. E. Hutchins; dry crushing of ore preparatory to the extraction of gold, by Mr. Franklin White; sewage disposal in Cape Colony, by Mr. J. Edward Fitt.

In Section D, the library system of South Africa in comparison with those of England and America, by Mr. Bertram L. Dyer; iteration as a factor in language, by Professor W. Ritchie; common sense and examination, by Mr. P. A. Barnett; Cape Dutch, by Professor W. S. Logeman; how we get knowledge through our senses, by Rev. Dr. F. C. Kolbe.

The example set by the British Association of arranging for receptions and other social functions to lighten the intellectual fare provided was followed at Cape Town, and the excursions, conversazioni, etc., were well attended and much appreciated.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE University of Pennsylvania has conferred its Doctorate of Laws on Dr. Charles D. Walcott, director of the U. S. Geological Survey, and on Dr. F. P. Venable, now president and formerly professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina. The university has conferred its doctorate of science on Colonel William Gorgas, U.S.A.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of Doctor of Science on Dr. J. J. Thom-

son, Cavendish professor of physics at Cambridge University, and on Mr. Peter Cooper Hewitt, known for his researches and inventions in electrical science.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY will confer its Doctorate of Science on M. Henri Poincaré, professor of mechanics at Paris, and on Mr. M. H. N. Story-Maskelyne, formerly professor of mineralogy in the university.

By a vote of the Corporation of Harvard College a bronze tablet has been placed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology under the portrait of Dr. Alexander Agassiz. The tablet bears this inscription: 'Alexander Agassiz. This memorial of his great services to science and the University, given by his friends, is placed here by special vote of the President and Fellows and Board of Overseers.'

THE Albert Medal of the Society of Arts, London, for the year 1903, has been awarded to Sir Charles Augustus Hartley, K.C.M.G., in recognition of his services, extending over forty-four years, as engineer to the International Commission of the Danube, which have resulted in the opening up of the navigation of that river to ships of all nations, and of his similar services, extending over twenty years, as British commissioner on the International Technical Commission of the Suez Canal.

A CHAPTER of the scientific society of the Sigma Xi has recently been organized at the University of Michigan with Professor J. P. McMurrich as president.

ACCORDING to the *American Geologist* Mr. Bailey Willis has accepted the position of leader of the Carnegie Geological Expedition to China, which has as its object the investigation of the Cambrian of that country. He will be assisted by Mr. Eliot Blackwelder, of the University of Chicago. Mr. Willis expects to leave Washington in July, to attend the International Congress of Geologists at Vienna, and to go to China *via* Siberia. Dr. H. Foster Bain has accepted an appointment as geologist on the United States Geological Survey, and during Mr. Bailey Willis's absence in China will be acting editor of *geologic folios*. He is to take up the study of