

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1882

## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

SOUTHAMPTON is to have the honour this year (as no doubt most of our readers are already aware) of receiving the British Association for the Advancement of Science during its fifty second Annual Meeting, which will take place between the 23rd of August and the 1st of September. The selection of Southampton for this purpose is happy in many respects. The town has a history, and is in itself attractive. It is near the sea, it is well-built, it has beautiful surroundings; its Public Parks and its Common are no mean objects of interest, it has superior hotel, boarding and lodging accommodation, and, above all, it is excellently supplied, as we shall see below, with Public and other Buildings in which to hold the General and Sectional Meetings of the Association.

The proximity of Southampton to the Continent induces a hope of the presence of some of the most eminent men of science of France, Germany and other countries. Steps have been taken to secure this; and the visit of the distinguished foreigners will probably form one of the leading characteristics of the meeting.

The town and its immediate neighbourhood have always been found extremely attractive to visitors, especially during the months of August and September, when a very large number of yachts assemble for the purpose of taking part in the great regattas which are held at Cowes, Ryde, Portsmouth, and Southampton itself; whilst the beautiful scenery of the New Forest and the Isle of Wight can easily be enjoyed. It will be seen in the sequel that ample provision has been made by the Local Executive Committee in this direction.

To the Archæologist, Southampton presents much that is interesting, possessing as it does many remains of great antiquarian value,—for instance, the Bar Gate and the old Town Walls, Towers, &c., the birth-house of Isaac Watts, the site of the old Spa, and other ruins,—whilst on the banks of Southampton Water stand the ruins of Netley Abbey. Within very easy access of the town are the City of Winchester, with its Cathedral, its College, and the Hospital of St. Cross; the town of Romsey, with its noble Abbey Church; the city of Salisbury with its beautiful early English Cathedral, its Blackmore Museum, Old Sarum, Stonehenge, Cherbury, and Wilton Park; and the village of Beaulieu, in the New Forest, with the remains of Beaulieu Abbey. On the shores of the Solent is Hurst Castle, and a little beyond, the Priory of Christchurch. In the Isle of Wight are Carisbrooke Castle, the remains of a Roman villa in the village of Carisbrooke, and the newly discovered Roman villa near Brading: to say nothing of the Queen's residence at Osborne House, and numerous other lovely sites and spots.

Special facilities have been granted by the respective authorities for inspecting the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, the great Naval Arsenal, Dockyard, &c., at Portsmouth, and the royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*.

To the Geologist the shores of the Solent display for his investigation rocks of the greatest interest, some of which at the present time occupy the attention of men

most eminent in the science. Alum Bay, Headon Hill, Colwell Bay, and Whitecliff Bay, in the Isle of Wight will be visited by means of excursions, as also probably Hardwell Cliff and Bournemouth. The Purbeck Beds can easily be reached by those who desire to pursue the subject.

Southampton is within a little more than two hours railway journey of London; and by the through communications of the railways in connection with the South Western Company, can readily be reached from any part of the United Kingdom. It also affords special facilities to those who wish to include a sea passage in their arrangements for the autumn. Steam-packets, fitted with every comfort, ply between Southampton and the ports of London, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Falmouth, Cork, Waterford, Dublin, Belfast and Glasgow; and the mail-packets of the London and South Western Railway Company maintain constant communication with Havre, Rouen, Honfleur, Trouville, Caen, Cherbourg, Granville, St. Malo, and the Channel Islands.

With reference particularly to the arrangements for the forthcoming meeting of the British Association, it may be mentioned that H.R.H. Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, occupies the position of President of the General Local Committee, and a confident expectation is indulged that, in company with the Duchess, His Royal Highness will be present during the week. The Vice-Presidents include some two dozen of the neighbouring nobility, and resident clergy and gentry. For Chairman of the Executive Committee we have the Worshipful the Mayor of Southampton (Mr. W. H. Davis); the Vice-chairman is Mr. W. E. Darwin, M.A. (son of the late distinguished Charles Darwin); the local Treasurer is Mr. T. Blount Thomas, a former Mayor of the Town; the local Secretaries are Mr. C. W. A. Jellicoe (the Borough Treasurer), Mr. J. E. Le Feuvre (one of the Borough Magistrates), and Mr. Morris Miles (an officer of long-standing on the Ordnance Survey, and President of the local Literary and Philosophical Society); whilst the Committee itself comprises about thirty of the local clergy, members of the various services and professions, &c., &c.

The President-elect is Mr. C. W. Siemens, LL.D., F.R.S., &c. The first general meeting will be held at the Skating Rink on Wednesday, August 13, at 8 p.m., when Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., &c., will resign the chair, and the President-elect will assume his office and deliver an address. On Thursday, August 24, at 8 p.m., there will be a *soirée* in the Hartley Hall; on Friday evening, August 25, at 8.30 p.m., in the Skating Rink, a discourse on the Tides, by Sir William Thomson, LL.D., F.R.S., &c., Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow; on Monday evening, August 28, at 8.30 p.m., in the Skating Rink, a discourse on Pelagic Life, by H. N. Moseley, M.A., F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Oxford; on Tuesday evening, August 29, at 8 p.m., a second *soirée* in the Hartley Hall; on Wednesday, August 30, the concluding General Meeting will be held in the Skating Rink at 2.30 p.m. In addition to these arrangements, there will be a lecture to the operative classes in the Skating Rink on Saturday evening, August 26, by Mr. John Evans, D.C.L., V.P.R.S., &c., on "Unwritten History, and How to Read it;" and on

Sunday, the 27th inst., at the invitation of the Rector (the Rev. the Hon. Canon A. Basil O. Wilberforce), the Members of the Association, accompanied by the Mayor and Corporation, will attend Divine Service at the mother Parish Church of St. Mary, when a sermon will be preached by the Lord Bishop of Truro.

The sectional meetings will be held respectively in some one or other of the following places:—The Watts Memorial Hall, Zion Hall, the Grammar School, Portland Baptist Chapel, Kingsfield School, the Masonic Hall, the Philharmonic Hall, the County Court, the Friends' Meeting House, the Unitarian School, Taunton's Trade School, the Wesleyan School, the East Street Baptist Chapel, St. Andrew's School, &c.

The Rector has also invited the Members of the Association to a garden party in the charming Deanery Grounds on Monday, August 28, while the Southampton Yacht Club have conferred the privilege of Honorary Membership of their Club for the week on the members, &c., of the British Association; and the Hartley Council have placed the Hartley Institution entirely at the disposal of such members during their stay. The Dock Company will provide competent guides, &c., to conduct the members over the splendid series of local docks; and the Union Steam-ship Company will lend and provision their magnificent ship *Pretoria* for an all-day marine excursion (during which the boat exercise as used in case of storm, and the hose exercise as in case of fire, will be gone through), unless the vessel in question should meanwhile be required by the Government for Transport Service.

The scheme of excursions is very complete, and includes all-day excursions on Thursday, August 31, to Salisbury, Stonehenge, and Wilton Park; Portsmouth Arsenal, Dockyard, the Royal Yacht, &c.; and a marine excursion to Bournemouth, or round the Isle of Wight: as well as afternoon excursions on Saturday, August 26, to Alum Bay; Ryde, Brading, Whitecliff, Newport, and Carisbrooke; drives in the New Forest; Netley Abbey and Hospital; Romsey, Broadlands (the seat of Lord Mount-Temple), &c; Winchester and St. Cross.

The local Gas Company will give an illustration of improved gas-lighting in the Skating Rink, and from Holyrood Church to the Hartley Hall (in one direction), and to the Commercial Road (in the other); completely lighting both parts also of Portland Street, &c. The Edison Electric Light Co. will illuminate the Hartley Hall.

The various local factories (Messrs. Day, Summers, and Co., Northern Iron Works, Oswald, Mordaunt, and Co., Woolston Ship Building Works, &c.), and the yard of the Royal Mail Steam Ship Company will also be accessible to the Members and Associates with their friends.

The Mayors of Winchester, Ryde, and Newport have shown a hearty desire to co-operate with the Local Executive Committee, as have Lord Mount-Temple, and others too numerous to mention. There appears every probability that, so far as can be attained by sound, honest, local work, the forthcoming meeting will not be the least successful that the Association has held; but it must not be disguised that the Local Committee has been somewhat hampered by the financial difficulty, in which respect there is still time for those who have not sub-

scribed to make amends by sending in their names to the Local Treasurer either as Donors, Guarantors, or both.

T. NORFOLK,  
Assistant Local Secretary

#### THE CLIMATE OF ALEXANDRIA<sup>1</sup>

WE have before us seven and a half years' very full and satisfactory observations made at Alexandria, under the auspices of the Austrian Meteorological Society, from the commencement of 1875, from which a tolerably accurate account of the climate of this historically and otherwise important region of the lower Nile may be gathered. The observations have been made daily at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., and 9 p.m., and are quite continuous to the end of May last.

A marked feature of the atmospheric pressure is its comparative steadiness from year to year, attaining the annual maximum, 30·147 inches, in January, and falling to the minimum, 29·844 inches, in July, the difference being thus 0·303 inch. At Cairo the difference between the winter and summer pressures is 0·321 inch, the greater difference at Cairo being due to its lower summer pressure. The greater diminution of pressure in advancing from the Mediterranean towards the interior during the summer is an important element in the meteorology of Lower Egypt, on account of the changes of wind which result from it.

During the three winter months the direction of the wind in the morning shows a mean of 27 days for S.E., S., and S.W. winds, as against 28 days for N.W., N., and N.E. winds. On the other hand, during the three summer months, southerly winds are wholly absent, and N.W., N., and N.E. winds prevail on 79 days. Looked at broadly, northerly and southerly winds prevail in winter, northerly in summer, and northerly and easterly in spring and during October and November. The prevalence of easterly winds at these seasons is a striking peculiarity of the climatology of a large part of the Levant, and as regards the autumn, they are accompanied with a higher temperature than would otherwise be the case. During the afternoon the wind blows uniformly from some northerly point at all seasons, except in winter, when winds from the west also prevail, west winds being then 16 as against north winds 30. During the warmest months the wind is wholly from the north. The wind is also much stronger in the afternoon than in the morning. Thus the morning observations give 48 days of calms during the year, but the afternoon observations only 18; and for the seven months from May to November, there are only two days of calm, but for the same months the morning observations give 30 days of calm.

In connection with these changes of wind, the relative humidity is very interesting. The lowest humidity, 66, occurs in winter; but as the wind changes more completely into the north, the humidity rises gradually to the maximum, 76, in July, and in exact accordance therewith, whilst the daily range of temperature in winter is about 11°0, in summer it is only half that amount. On the other hand, while the air at Alexandria approaches nearer

<sup>1</sup> "Meteorologische Beobachtungen an sechszechn Stationen in Österreich und drei Stationen (Alexandrien, Beirut und Sulina) im Ausland. (Wien, 1875-82.)"