

THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE arrangements of the Local Committee are nearly completed for the reception of the British Association on the occasion of its fifty-ninth annual meeting, which, as our readers are aware, is to be held in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and will commence on September 11. This will be the third occasion on which the Association has held its annual Congress in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the last being in 1863—a meeting memorable as being the largest gathering of members and friends of the Association, which has only been once exceeded in point of numbers, viz. by the Manchester meeting of 1887. No efforts have been spared on the part of the Committee to make preparations for a meeting which, it is hoped, will prove as successful and interesting to the members as the former meeting proved; and in their endeavours to do this, the work of the Committee has been greatly facilitated by the many notable additions, in the shape of buildings suitable for the purposes of the Association, which have been erected since 1863.

The reception-rooms, occupying a central position with respect to the various Section rooms, will be located in the new buildings of the University of Durham College of Medicine, Bath Road, in which building a writing-room and ladies' drawing-room will be provided, also special rooms for the use of the officers of the Association. The Cambridge Drill Hall, near the reception-room, is to be fitted up for a luncheon-room. Sections A and B will meet in the new buildings of the College of Science, opened in November last by H.R.H. Princess Louise; and in the chemical laboratory of this College it is intended to bring together a series of exhibits illustrating the chemical and allied manufactures of the district. The general meetings of the Association will be held in the St. George's Drill Hall.

The Natural History Museum, opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1884, in which building is Mr. Hancock's unique collection of British birds, will be used for the two *soirées*; the first is to be given by the Mayor and Corporation, and the second by the Local Committee.

A guide-book, arranged in three sections, has been prepared for the occasion of the Association's visit, dealing respectively with the history and topography, the geology and natural history, and the industries of the district. The first section is edited by the Rev. J. Collingwood Bruce; the second by Prof. Lebour; and the third by Mr. Wigham Richardson.

The Durham, Northumberland, and Newcastle-on-Tyne Botanical and Horticultural Society has arranged to hold its autumn show during the time of the meeting, and on Wednesday, September 11—the first day of the show—it will be open to members free on presentation of their tickets.

On the Saturday, half-day excursions have been arranged to the following places of interest: Morpeth, Wallington, Seaton Delaval, Hexham, Marsden, Prudhoe, Durham, and an excursion down the river. The Senate of the University of Durham proposes to hold a special Convocation on the Saturday for the purpose of conferring honorary degrees on the President and other officers of the Association. Convocation will be followed by a luncheon, to which 200 members of the Association will be invited, after which there will be a special service in the Cathedral.

Thursday, the last day of the meeting, is to be devoted to whole-day excursions to the following places: Alnwick, Crag-side (the seat of Lord Armstrong), Middlesbrough, Berwick, Lanercost, Beal, Little Mile, Belford, Raby, Bardon Mill, and Middleton-in-Teesdale.

The principal works in Newcastle and on the Tyne

will be thrown open to members for inspection during the meeting.

The railway company is prepared, during the meeting, to issue tickets at reduced rates to and from places in the neighbourhood, and to run special trains, so that members, should they wish to do so, will be able to reside in the country or on the coast, and get to and fro conveniently. Through the kindness of the authorities of University College and of Hatfield Hall, Durham, the Local Committee are enabled to place the students' rooms in these buildings on their hotel and lodgings list, which list will also be found to contain the addresses of several places in Tynemouth, Cullercoats, and Whitley, on the coast.

THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE SORBONNE.

IN England we are still fighting about the question whether London is or is not to have a teaching University. It is significant that Frenchmen have no sort of doubt as to the necessity of such an institution in Paris. During the long and splendid history of the Sorbonne they have had ample experience of the value of a great teaching body in the capital; and the result is that this is one of the institutions in which men of all parties take a common pride.

So long ago as 1855 it was decided that new buildings for the Sorbonne should be erected, but the scheme was not really complete until 1881. It was then estimated that the expense would be 22,000,000 francs—a formidable enough sum, but one which caused no serious difficulty, as the city readily undertook to contribute half of it. The foundation was laid in 1885, and now a considerable part of the work is finished. This was opened on Monday, in the presence of the Head of the State, and the ceremonies on the occasion may be regarded as affording fresh evidence of the enthusiasm felt by educated Frenchmen for all that represents and tends to develop the highest intellectual life of the nation. Every University had been asked to send delegates elected by the students to the celebration; and the State, and the City of Paris, agreed to look upon them as their guests during the ten days of festivity in honour of science. "This part of the programme," says the Paris Correspondent of the *Daily News*, "has been well carried out, arrangements having been made with different hotels to board and lodge the foreign visitors at the expense of the Hôtel de Ville and the Ministry of Public Instruction. Russia and Germany have not accepted invitations, but the Universities of Great Britain, of the Scandinavian countries, of Belgium, Holland, Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, and the United States are represented. There are about 700 delegates from these countries, besides a large number who have come at their own expense."

The *fêtes* began on Sunday evening with a gala performance of "Faust" at the Opera House, which the President attended. On Monday, 3000 persons assembled in the new amphitheatre, an immense hall adorned with frescoes. Each delegation had a standard-bearer carrying the flag of his nation, and the members of the various groups were warmly greeted by the public as they advanced to the places appointed for them. At 3 o'clock M. Carnot arrived, and took his seat on the platform, surrounded by Ambassadors, statesmen, and Academicians. M. Ferry, as the Minister who made the arrangements for the enlargement, was much cheered.

M. Gréard, Rector of the Academy, made the first speech. He sketched the history of the Paris University, extolled the events of 1789, and described study as a common Fatherland, which had brought together delegates from nearly all the European and American Universities. M. Hermite next reviewed the mathemati-

cal teaching of the Sorbonne since 1808. M. Chautemps, President of the Municipality, vindicated democracy from the imputation of indifference to culture, and claimed credit for the body represented by him for having founded a Chair of French Revolution History and a Chair of Evolution. M. Fallières, Minister of Education, dwelt on the efforts and sacrifices of the Republic for the diffusion of culture. He referred to the moribund condition of the Universities on the eve of the Revolution, and the want of cohesion between the colleges afterwards established, and eulogized the individuality now developed by the provincial Universities.

NOTES.

AT the annual graduation ceremony at the close of the summer session of the University of Edinburgh, last week, Prof. T. R. Fraser intimated that the important Cameron Prize in Therapeutics, the recipient of which might be selected from any country, had been awarded to M. Pasteur, a Doctor of Laws of Edinburgh University, in recognition of the high importance and great value in practical therapeutics of the treatment of hydrophobia discovered by him.

THE fifty-seventh annual meeting of the British Medical Association will begin at Leeds on Tuesday, the 13th inst., and go on until the 16th, under the presidency of Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse. The President's address will be delivered on the evening of the 13th. On the 14th, an address in medicine will be given by Dr. Hughlings Jackson, F.R.S., and afterwards the Stewart Prize will be presented to Dr. Klein, F.R.S., for his work in bacteriology and scarlet fever. On the 15th, an address in surgery will be given by Dr. Pridgin Teal, F.R.S., and on the 16th, Sir James Crichton Browne, F.R.S., will deliver an address in psychology.

AT the Academy of Medicine, Paris, in the grand amphitheatre, a numerous and distinguished audience gathered on Sunday for the first sitting of the International Congress of Hygiene. The chair was taken by Prof. Brouardel, with Dr. Chautemps, President of the Paris Municipal Council, and Sir Douglas Galton as Vice-Presidents. Sir Douglas Galton returned thanks on behalf of the various English Sanitary Societies, represented at the Congress by ten English delegates. He promised a hearty welcome to the French hygienists, who, he hoped, would in great numbers attend the next International Congress, to be held, as arranged, in London in 1891. The work of the Congress began in earnest on Monday, and among the subjects discussed was a proposition submitted by Dr. Jablowski, the Russian delegate, to the effect that children suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs, or even only suspected to have this complaint, should be sent back from school to their families. This proposal was rejected, but it was considered that the school doctor should exclude such pupils as by the dangerous character of their expectorations might spread the specific germ of pulmonary consumption. On Tuesday there was a discussion on the inspection of unwholesome dwellings; and in connection with "the dust-bin grievance" the Congress unanimously passed a resolution that kitchen refuse should never be kept in the house over night, that it should be placed outside in metallic boxes, and that it should be removed every twenty-four hours.

IN his interesting speech on the Education Estimates on Monday, Sir W. Hart Dyke had much to say about the new Code, the enforcing of which he has been obliged to postpone. He showed that it would "open and widen the curriculum," and referred especially to the advantages it would confer on small schools in the midst of a scattered agricultural population. The

mass of our agricultural schools in England and Wales did nothing but just pass their scholars through the elementary subjects. Both sides of the House regarded that as a most deplorable thing. Questions had been put to him from time to time as to teaching agriculture in the rural schools. Knowing something of rural school life, he should do nothing so absurd as to attempt to turn out first-rate agriculturists from our elementary schools. But there was a vast difference between that and turning children out knowing nothing of plants or botany or of insect life, and what was useful and what was injurious to agriculture. A vast deal of good might be done by training in regard to these matters. What they proposed to do was to provide that any scholar might attend elementary science classes at district centres. At present, in towns as well as in agricultural districts, more combination was required between schools to enable them to carry out different kinds of teaching. What one school was unable to do, a group of three or four, with little trouble and with an economy of expenditure, might readily carry out. Sir John Lubbock and Sir Henry Roscoe expressed much regret that the new Code had been for the present withdrawn, and hoped that it would be introduced again next session.

THE committee of the national association for the promotion of technical education have issued their second annual report. They think they may fairly congratulate the members on the progress made by the movement during the past year. On May 1, 1888, an anonymous donor offered to contribute £500 to the funds of the association, provided £1000 were raised from other sources before May 1, 1889. The support received from the public has been such that the committee have secured this donation. They refer with especial satisfaction to the support received from representative bodies of working men. No fewer than thirty-one working men's Co-operative Societies have given donations or subscriptions during the year, and many more are in complete accord with the aims of the association. The committee hope that with the resources now at their disposal they may be able to extend their work, particularly in the department of secondary education, but they appeal for a larger number of annual subscriptions. Nothing has occurred to weaken their belief in the magnitude and urgency of the work which needs to be carried out to improve, develop, and harmonize, and bring into close relations one with another, the elementary, secondary, and technical education of the country.

THE establishment of a technical school at Frankfort-on-Maine for young artisans and mechanics was planned long since by different corporations in that city, and from a statement made lately by the mayor, it appears that all the expenses in connection with the school are to be borne by the city, which will also give the rooms and see to the appointment of the teachers. The lessons will be given on Sundays and in the evening on week days. The pupils will be charged a very moderate tuition fee only. Great energy is displayed in order to open this school very shortly, says the British Consul in his last Report, as the accomplishment of the scheme will be hailed with great satisfaction throughout the city.

THE death of Mr. C. Spence Bate, F.R.S., at Plymouth, is announced. He was the author of the "Report of the Crustacea *Macrura* dredged by H.M.S. *Challenger*, during the years 1873-76." He was also the author of the "Catalogue of the Specimens of Amphipodous Crustacea in the Collection of the British Museum"; and of a work on "The Pathology of Dental Caries." In conjunction with Mr. J. O. Westwood, Mr. Bate wrote "A History of the British Sessile-eyed Crustacea."

DURING last week Mr. John Aitken visited the Ben Nevis Observatory in connection with the proposed investigation into the number of dust particles in the atmosphere. From observa-