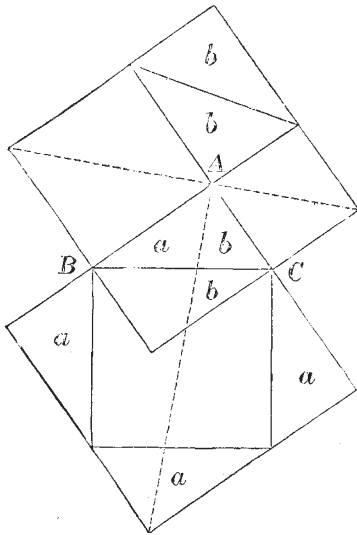


where, I send it to you as possibly of interest to some and perhaps of use where practical geometry is being taught. It is evident that the two larger squares are equal, the side of each being equal to the sum of the sides AB, AC of the triangle ABC. It is also clear that the four triangles marked "a" are equal to



one another. Again, the four triangles marked "b" are equal to one another, and to the four triangles marked "a."

Hence taking four times the triangle "a" from one of the large squares and four times triangle "b" from the other, there remain in the one case the square on BC, and in the other case the squares on AB and AC, and these remainders are equal. Therefore the square on the hypotenuse is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.

A. J. BICKERTON.

Canterbury College, New Zealand University,
June 15.

[The principle of the above solution is not new. A proof, by dissection, depending on it is given in several text-books. The novelty of it consists in the position of the squares by means of which the truth of the property is seen in one figure.]

Musical Sand. Lava in the Bournemouth Drift.

In reference to the note in NATURE (July 21) respecting musical sand in Australia, permit me to say that the subject has long since received attention there. I am away from references at present, but I should think it must be over two years since Mr. Sidney Olliff kindly sent me samples from Botany Bay. The samples sent were enclosed in small canvas bags, and, though there was probably not more than half-an-ounce of each, they were very musical on reaching me. For purity and musical effect, the Botany Bay samples were more like the Egg sand than any other kinds I had previously examined.

During the last five years I have been collecting the various kinds of rock found in the Bournemouth high-level gravels (Codrington). A section has lately been exposed at the head of Alum Chine. Here a bed of angular and sub-angular flint gravel 5 ft. (varying) in thickness rests on the Bagshots, and is covered by sand, humus, and peat. At the base of the gravel bed I disinterred (on the 17th inst.) a small piece of vesicular lava, much decomposed in places, but retaining more than sufficient of its original structure for purposes of identification.

The specimen will be sliced for the microscope; in the meantime I draw attention to it because it is, to my knowledge, the first specimen of vesicular lava that has been found in these gravels.

CECIL CARUS-WILSON.

Oxford, July 27.

The Flora and Fauna of Bromley.

THE Bromley Naturalists' Society have recently appointed a Special Committee to draw up lists of the flora and fauna of

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the Bromley Union District. This district comprises the parishes of Beckenham, Bromley, Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Cudham, Down, Farnborough, Foots Cray, Hayes, Keston, Knockholt, Mottingham, North Cray, Orpington, St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray, and West Wickham.

I am desired to ask you to allow me to state that the Special Committee will be glad to receive from your readers any information which in their opinion might be of service to the Committee.

J. FRENCH.

Hon. Sec. Special Committee.

99, Widmore-road, Bromley, Kent, July 27.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

EDINBURGH.

AN Edinburgh meeting of the British Association seems almost a home meeting. At every turn we are reminded of some of those who bore their part in founding and building up the Parliament of Science. Sir David Brewster meets us in the University quadrangle. The chair now set apart for the President of Section A was occupied for many years by James David Forbes, while for one brief year Natural History in Edinburgh was identified with Edward Forbes, to whom the Association owes, among many greater things, the evolution of the Red Lion. Viewed through the vista of years, the intellectual life of Edinburgh seems to have been marked by the combination of the love of science and letters with the full enjoyment of social intercourse, and we have before us such evidence of the persistence of this trait as bodes well for the success of the meeting.

The reception rooms are in keeping with the dignity of the Association, and afford every facility for the transaction of business. The programme of local arrangements which has been put in the hands of members indicates ample variety of occupation for hours of leisure. This pamphlet is of convenient size and easy of reference. In one point of detail it is worthy of remark; its maps do not require to be unfolded; these are two, one showing clearly, although on a small scale, Edinburgh and its suburbs, and the other giving, on a large scale, the part of the city which will be most frequently traversed by visitors. The Excursion Handbook has evidently been compiled with much care, and it will prove an interesting and artistic souvenir of the meeting.

Sir Archibald Geikie, the President of the Association, was President of the Geological section at the 1871 Edinburgh meeting. His address, suggested by the centenary of Hutton's "Theory of the Earth," deals with a subject in which Scottish geologists have ever been well to the front. The last decade of geological work in Scotland has done much to unlock the secrets of rock structure, and there could be no more fit exponent of the results than the president.

In the section programmes we hear promise of many welcome papers and several important discussions; in Section A, on Monday, the question of a National Physical Laboratory will be dealt with; while Tuesday will be devoted to a discussion on electrical units, in this Prof. von Helmholtz is expected to take part; Section B and D will consider bacteriology, with special reference to Brewing; Section D, "Fisheries"; Section F, "Old Age Pensions." In Section C, the feature of the meeting is likely to be the review of recent work in the geology of Scotland, and the presence of a considerable number of foreign geologists is sure to lead to interesting discussions. The Prince of Monaco will give in Section E the results of his observations on ocean currents. Section G will this year devote some attention to the subject on which there is much difference of opinion, the education of engineers.