

migration of birds. Dr. J. G. McPherson gives a popular description in *Good Words* of Mr. John Aitken's fog-counter and the results that have been obtained with it. Finally, Miss Agnes Giberne expatiates upon celestial photography and spectroscopy in the *Monthly Packet*. The article is in continuation of an easily-worded series she is contributing under the title of "Sun-rays and Star-beams."

MARIÉ-DAVY.

DR. G. H. MARIÉ-DAVY, who died at Clamecy on July 16, distinguished himself in various branches of physical science. Astronomy, electricity, general physics, and meteorology, all occupied his attention from time to time, and to all of these branches of knowledge he made important contributions. Born at Clamecy in 1820, Marié-Davy entered the Higher Grade Normal School in 1840. Five years later he was appointed to the Chair of Physics at the Montpellier Faculty of Sciences, and also to the Professorship of Medicine. In 1862 Marié-Davy began his connection with the Paris Observatory. At first he had charge of the terrestrial magnetism service, but in 1863 he became the head of the international meteorological department that he had organised. While occupying this position he published a large number of meteorological memoirs and initiated the periodic distribution of reports and bulletins. He devoted himself chiefly to the study of the atmosphere and its changes, with special reference to the bearing of such matters upon agriculture and hygiene. In 1857 Marié-Davy invented a mercurous sulphate battery which was adopted by the French telegraph authorities, and also by some of the services in other countries. About this time he contributed numerous papers on statical, dynamical, and physiological electricity to various scientific societies and journals. During the revolution of 1870 he left the Paris Observatory and accepted a Professorship at the Polytechnic School—a post that he retained until the return of the Government to Paris. In 1887 he was nominated honorary director of Montsouris Observatory. Marié-Davy was a doctor of medicine and a doctor of physical and mathematical science. Among other honours he was a corresponding member of the Bureau des Longitudes, and an honorary president of the Société d'Hygiène. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1877, and possessed the Brazilian Order of the Rose, as well as a number of other orders and dignities. The many and varied researches carried on by him, alone and in collaboration with other workers, testify to his greatness. He had a keen sense of right, and dared to give his opinion even when his material welfare was likely to be injuriously affected by so doing. A life so rich in results and void of dissimulation is one well worthy of being imitated.

NOTES.

M. PASTEUR has been elected an honorary member of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

ON August 4, at about 6.45 in the evening, a distinct earthquake tremor was felt in Leicester and the neighbourhood. The wave passed from about south-west to north-east, and produced the maximum effect in Charnwood Forest. It is reported that the shaking lasted for about five seconds, during which a loud rumbling noise was heard.

A REUTER'S telegram from Vienna reports that a disastrous cloudburst occurred in Middle Styria on August 5. A number of houses were wrecked and several persons lost their lives. Two railway bridges were thrown down on the Grazkoeflach

Railway. At about half-past ten in the morning of August 8 two shocks of earthquake were felt in the Mur Valley. The tremors travelled from north to south.

A SINGULAR occurrence has recently been reported from Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire. What appeared to be a dense cloud was observed, but to the astonishment of the villagers the cloud suddenly broke up and showered myriads of ants and flies upon them. So numerous were the insects that they almost covered the ground like a carpet.

THE southern counties are suffering from a plague of wasps. Judging from the correspondence in the newspapers, the insect has been unusually abundant, and has done a large amount of damage in certain districts. At Heathfield, Sussex, more than a thousand nests have been destroyed this summer, and the work of destruction is still going on.

A GOLD medal of the value of 1000 Italian lire is offered by the Royal Academy of Science of the Institute of Bologna, to the author of the best memoir describing a new and efficacious system, or a new apparatus, for preventing or extinguishing fires. The memoir may be written in Italian, Latin, or French, and must be sent in before May 7, 1894.

THE Report of the Postal and Telegraph Conference held in Brisbane in March last has just reached us. At one of the meetings Sir Charles Todd strongly urged the desirability of adopting a uniform method of reckoning time, and after a short discussion the following resolution was passed:—"That it is desirable in the public interests that the hour zone system should be adopted in a modified form, so that there should be one time throughout Australia, viz. that of the 135th meridian or nine hours east of Greenwich."

MR. EDWIN E. HOWELL describes in *Science* a meteorite observed to fall on May 26, 1893. The meteorite entered the ground to a depth of about three feet at an angle of 58° with the horizon. It is an aërolite of very pronounced chondritic structure, and has the usual black glazed appearance. The weight of the mass is 22½ pounds, and dimensions 6 × 7 × 9½ inches. Mr. Howell proposes to give it the name of Beaver Creek, from the stream by the banks of which it fell.

THE *Reale Accademia dei Lincei* has issued a circular in which is given a list of the published papers of the late Prof. E. Betti. In honour of his memory it has been decided to collect and publish the whole of his scientific works, with an account of his life, written by the president of the Academy, Prof. F. Brioschi. In order that the collection may be as complete as possible, the circular asks all who have any unpublished letters of the famous geometrician, or a knowledge of works not included in the list, to communicate with Signore V. Cerruti, R. Accademia dei Lincei, Roma.

THE Society for Promoting Agricultural Science in Vienna will hold an international exhibition between April 20 and June 10, 1894. The exhibition will include specimens of economical food for the people, army supplies, appliances for saving life, means of transport, and sport in all its branches. This exhibition is being promoted by the Archduke Francis Ferdinand. Detailed information on the subject can be obtained from the Consul-General for Austria-Hungary, 11, Queen Victoria Street.

THE Board of Agriculture have been authorised by the Treasury to make arrangements, by way of experiment, for the transmission by telegraph of the weather forecasts, issued each afternoon by the Meteorological Council, to the telegraph offices in the rural districts of two typical counties, for exhibition in the office windows. The experiment will extend over the months of