

it can be tracked completely across the Atlantic to our islands, and eventually to central Europe on November 20. Several vessels keeping logs for the Meteorological Office, with standard instruments on board, have recorded observations on the storm during its passage across the Atlantic, and the Cunard steamship *Lucania* was under the influence of the disturbance during the whole of her passage from America to England. During the storm no fewer than 335 lives were reported as lost on or near our own coasts, this number being the result of reports received during the four weeks subsequent to the storm.

CHAS. HARDING.

#### PAUL HENRI FISCHER.

THE Museum of Natural History of Paris has suffered a great loss in the person of Dr. Paul Henri Fischer, the well-known zoologist and palæontologist, who died on November 29, after a long and painful illness. Born at Paris, on July 7, 1835, he received his early classical and medical education at Bordeaux. He became *Interne des Hôpitaux* of Paris in 1859, and obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1863. The study of medicine did not prevent him from devoting himself also to that of the natural sciences; for in 1861 he entered as Demonstrator in the Laboratory of Palæontology of the Museum of Paris, under the direction of M. d'Archiac. His researches chiefly concerned the living and fossil mollusca, and from 1856 he edited the *Journal de Conchyliologie* in collaboration with M. Crosse. From the position of Demonstrator he rose to be *aide-naturaliste* (assistant), and studied with great success the marine animals of the coasts of France, their geographical and bathymetric distribution. He indicated the depths at which a large number of foraminifera, cœlenterata, echinodermata, mollusca, bryozoa, &c. can be collected on the coasts of the west of France. In collaboration with the Marquis de Folin he undertook the study of the animals dredged in the extremely interesting region of the Gulf of Gascony, to which the name "Fosse du Cap Breton" has been given. The two savants discovered a large number of forms hitherto unknown, and many which recalled species only known in the fossil condition. With M. Delesse he made researches on the submarine sediments of the French shores. He was elected member of the Commission of Dredging, and took part from 1880 to 1883, on board the *Travailleur* and the *Talisman*, in the celebrated expeditions directed by Prof. Milne Edwards. In the course of these expeditions he noted the enormous extension of a cold fauna characterised by boreal and arctic species, and reaching as far as Senegal, where it lives beneath a superficial fauna with intertropical characters. Among the writings of Dr. Fischer, which number not less than 300 titles, including books, pamphlets and memoirs, we may cite: "Palæontologie de l'Asie mineure" (in collaboration with MM. d'Archiac and de Verneuil); "Mollusques de Mexique et de l'Amérique Centrale"; "Species général et iconographie des coquilles vivantes"; "Animaux fossiles du Mont Léberon" (in collaboration with MM. Gaudry and Tournouer); "Palæontologie de l'île de Rhodes"; "Cétacés du Sud-Ouest de la France"; "Catalogue et distribution géographique des mollusques terrestres, fluviales et marins d'une partie de l'Indo-Chine"; "Sur les caractères de la faune conchyliologique terrestre et fluviale récemment éteinte du Sahara"; "Sur la faune conchyliologique de l'île d'Hainan"; numerous memoirs on the malacological fauna of Lord Hudson Island (Pacific Ocean), of Cambodge, of the islands of the Caledonian Archipelago, of Aleutian islands, of the Bay of Suez, &c. In collaboration with M. E. L. Bouvier he published papers on the anatomical peculiarities of certain groups of

molluscs. Finally, he wrote a remarkable treatise on conchology which has become classical ("Manuel de Conchyliologie et de paléontologie conchyliologique ou histoire naturelle des mollusques vivants et fossiles, suivi d'un appendice sur les Brachiopodes par Ehlert." In this manual the author showed that the classification of molluscs ought to be based not alone on the form of the shell, but primarily on the anatomical characters.

Dr. Fischer was *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* and *Officier de l'Instruction publique*. He obtained several prizes at the Paris Academy of Sciences, and had been President of the Zoological and Geological Societies of France. He possessed deep erudition, was a charming conversationalist, and after having treated a subject belonging to the domain of the natural sciences or of medicine, he was far from embarrassed if he had to discuss philosophy, literature, or æsthetics. The death of this savant, who was as affable as he was modest, has been a cause for general regret and for deep mourning among his large circle of friends.

EDMOND BORDAGE.

#### NOTES.

THE Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has awarded the Hayden Medal to Prof. Huxley. The medal is of bronze, and, with the balance of the interest arising from a sum of 2,500 dollars given to the Academy by the widow of the late Prof. F. V. Hayden, is awarded annually "for the best publication, exploration, discovery, or research in the sciences of geology and palæontology, or in such particular branches thereof as may be designated." The recipient in 1892 was Prof. E. Suess, and in 1891, Prof. E. D. Cope. Prof. J. Hall had the distinction of receiving the first award of the medal in 1890.

SIR HENRY ROSCOE has been appointed to the vacancy in the Senate of London University caused by the death of Sir William Smith.

AN Elliott Cresson Medal has been awarded to Mr. Nikola Tesla, by the Franklin Institute, for his researches in high frequency phenomena.

M. GUYON has been elected a member of the Section de Géographie et Navigation of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in the place of the late Admiral Paris.

DR. E. ZACHARIUS, Extraordinary Professor of Botany in Strasburg University, has been appointed Director of the Hamburg Botanical Gardens.

DR. J. K. HASSKARL, who introduced the cinchona plant into Java, died at Cleves, Germany, on January 5, at the age of eighty-two. In 1852 he was sent by the Dutch Government to South America to collect cinchona seeds and plants. He did not confine himself to collecting *Calisaya*, but gathered seeds and plants of other varieties, some of which were new. In 1854 he successfully carried about four hundred *Calisaya* plants to Java, but two years later he left Java, owing to differences between Dr. Junghuhn and himself on many vital principles of the system of cinchona culture. It is a singular fact, remarks the *Chemist and Druggist*, that the most valuable of all cinchonas, the *Ledgeriana* variety, was not introduced into the Indies by any of the collectors specially appointed by the British or Dutch Governments, but by a private trader in South America, the late Mr. Ledger.

THE annual general meeting of the Geologists' Association will be held at University College, London, on February 2. After the reading of the report and election of officers for the ensuing year, the President will deliver an address on "Geology in the Field and in the Study."