

ment and susceptible of education. If increasing knowledge gives us increasing power so to mould a muscular fibre that it shall play to the best part which it has to play in life, the little knowledge we at present possess gives us at least much confidence in a coming far greater power over the nerve cell. This is not the place to plunge into the deep waters of the relation which the body bears to the mind; but this at least stares us in the face, that changes in what we call the body bring about changes in what we call the mind. When we alter the one, we alter the other. If, as the whole past history of our science leads us to expect, in the coming years a clearer and clearer insight into the nature and conditions of that molecular dance which is to us the material token of nervous action, and a fuller, exacter knowledge of the laws which govern the sweep of nervous impulses along fibre and cell, give us wider and directer command over the moulding of the growing nervous mechanism and the maintenance and regulation of the grown one, then assuredly physiology will take its place as a judge of appeal in questions not only of the body, but of the mind; it will raise its voice not in the hospital and consulting-room only, but also in the senate and the school.

One word more. We physiologists are sorely tempted towards self-righteousness, for we enjoy that blessedness which comes when men revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely. In the mother country our hands are tied by an Act which was defined by one of the highest legal authorities as a "penal" Act; and though with us, as with others, difficulties may have awakened activity, our science suffers from the action of the State. And some there are who would go still further than the State has gone, though that is far, who would take from us even that which we have, and bid us make bricks wholly without straw. To go back is always a hard thing, and we in England can hardly look to any great betterment for at least many years to come. But unless what I have ventured to put before you to-day be a mocking phantasm, unworthy of this great Association and this great occasion, England in this respect at least offers an example to be shunned alike by her offspring and her fellows.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

DR. W. ERNEST THOMSON has been appointed to the chair of Physiology at Anderson's College, Glasgow, in succession to Dr. Campbell Black.

THE *Athenæum* states that Peoria, Illinois, is to have a university. A millionaire has endowed the proposed institution with 1,000,000 dollars, placing the estate in the hands of trustees to be named by himself. His instructions are that the estate shall be conserved until the interest accretions, together with the principal, amount to 1,500,000 dollars, when the buildings are to be erected, the faculty secured, and the library, laboratories, &c., equipped.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, August 25.—M. A. Chatin in the chair.—Persian truffles. Note by M. Chatin on a letter received from the late Dr. Tholozan.—The recent storms in France, July and August 1897, and the solar period, by M. Ch. V. Zenger. Further evidence in support of the author's theory of the parallelism of atmospheric, electric, magnetic and seismic disturbances, and their connection with the electro-dynamic action of the sun.—Summary of solar observations made at the Royal Observatory of the Roman College during the first half of the year 1897, by M. P. Tacchini.—Observations of the solar eclipse of July 29 at the observatory of Rio de Janeiro, by M. L. Cruls.—On the reduction of vectors and metric properties, by M. J. Andrade.—Critical constants of some gases, by MM. A. Leduc and P. Sacerdote. The authors have determined the temperature and pressure, at the critical point, of hydrogen sulphide, chloride and phosphide. The results in the first two cases are in accordance with those obtained by Dewar. The

critical constants of hydrogen phosphide are here given for the first time.—Absorption of the X-rays, by M. Abel Buguet. Methods are described by which the relation of the thickness of a substance to its opacity for the X-rays, and also its specific absorption of the latter, may be determined.—Presence of *Acari* in wines, by M. L. Mathieu. Several species of *Acari*, particularly *Glyciphagus cursor* and *Tiroglyphus farinae*, have been observed in genuine unsweetened wines.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Valves and Valve-Gearing: C. Hurst (Griffin).—Analytic Geometry: P. A. Lambert (Macmillan). P. J. van Benedin: La Vie et L'Œuvre d'un Zoologiste: Dr. A. Kemna (Anvers, Buschmann).—A Guide to Zermatt: E. Whympfer (Murray).—Durham College of Science Calendar, Session 1897-98 (Reid).

PAMPHLETS.—A Monograph on the Mechanics and Equilibrium of Kites: Prof. C. F. Marvin (Washington).—First Report upon Magnetic Work in Maryland: L. A. Bauer (Baltimore).—Report to the Local Government Board on the Preparation and Storage of Glycerinated Calf Vaccine Lymph (Eyre).

SERIALS.—English Illustrated Magazine, September (198 Strand).—Verhandlungen des Naturhistorischen Vereins, 53 Jahrg. 2 Hälfte (Bonn).—Longman's Magazine, September (Longmans).—Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, July (K. Paul).—Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University, Japan, Vol. x. Part 2 (Tōkyō).—Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, July (Stanford).—Scientific Transactions of the Royal Dublin Society, Vol. vi. Series ii. ix. (Williams).—Humanitarian, September (Hutchinson).—Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie, xxiii. Bd. 4 Heft (Leipzig).—Chambers's Journal, September (Chambers).—Good Words, September (Isbister).—Sunday Magazine, September (Isbister).—Natural Science, September (Dent).—Century Magazine, September (Macmillan).—History of Mankind: F. Ratzel, translated, Part 20 (Macmillan).—Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, August (Victoria Street).—Journal of the Anthropological Institute, August (K. Paul).

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