

ation, and no one who has seen the development of the reptilian material from its matrix under the care of Prof. H. G. Seeley can regret that certain specimens, at any rate, have travelled across the sea to England.

G. A. J. C.

### THE CLIMATE OF SOUTH AMERICA.<sup>1</sup>

**I**N the volume mentioned below, all the mean values of the meteorological elements which constitute the climate of the country in question are brought together, these values being deduced from a long series of observations terminating with the year 1900. When it is mentioned that the country embraces 33° of latitude, the surface of which slopes from the shores of the Atlantic on the east to the snow-clad summits of the central range of the Andes on the west, the reader must not be surprised if he finds great differences in the atmospheric conditions that prevail in the various parts of the Republic.

A thorough knowledge of the changes in the meteorological elements in this the South American portion of the globe will prove of great importance to us dwellers in the Old World, for although we are separated so widely as regards distance, we are intimately connected meteorologically. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that our great dependency India and the region about it (and indirectly the British Isles and Europe generally) may be able to check their long period forecasts on observations made in the Argentine Republic.

In this volume an English translation accompanies the Spanish text, so that the book is available to those who cannot read the latter language. In addition to the numerous tables showing the mean daily and annual variations of the elements, accompanied by an excellent statement in each case, Prof. Davis has given a set of twenty-six plates which illustrate graphically not only these variations, but the mean conditions which prevail over this extensive area.

For many of the elements the monthly and yearly values for each year since the commencement of observation are included, but an omission is made in the case of atmospheric pressure. Recent investigations have indicated that the variations from year to year over the South American continent, more especially about the region of Cordoba, are the inverse of those about the region surrounding the Indian Ocean, that is, when the mean pressure for the year is high in Cordoba it is low in India; the insertion of the pressure values in this volume for one station, namely, Cordoba, would have been very useful.

For climatological reasons it is necessary to study the readings of many barometers well scattered over a country, hence the statement on p. 45 that "observations of atmospheric pressure, however complete, are of little practical value if confined to a single place. . . ." It is important, however, to bear in mind that complete series of barometric observations at two stations, one set to check the other, are quite sufficient in many parts of the world to study the changes over large areas from year to year.

The publication of this volume will undoubtedly be welcomed by meteorologists and those who wish to make themselves acquainted with the weather of the region surveyed, and the very complete manner in which the information has been brought together in this convenient form should add to its usefulness.

W. J. S. L.

<sup>1</sup> "Climate of the Argentine Republic." Compiled from Observations made to the end of the Year 1900. By Walter G. Davis, Director of the Argentine Meteorological Office. Pp. 154; 26 plates. (Published by the Ministry of Agriculture.)

### NOTES.

A CIRCULAR signed by Prof. A. Tonelli and Prof. V. Cerruti announces that it is proposed to erect a memorial in honour of the late Prof. Luigi Cremona, professor of higher geometry in the University of Rome, and director of the engineering school. The fame of Prof. Cremona is world-wide, and his works have exercised a great influence on research in fields of pure and applied mathematics. It is intended that the monument to his memory shall be an international one; and the hope is expressed that all who have been inspired by his discoveries, or have regard for his genius, will contribute to the fund being raised. Subscriptions should be sent to Signor I. Sonzogno Piazza San Pietro in Vincoli, 5, Rome.

At a meeting of the Bath Town Council on Tuesday, mention was made of the fact that helium has been found in gases from the largest and perhaps the best known of the city's hot mineral springs, the King's Bath. The deposits that collect in the tanks and pipes at the three springs have also been investigated. A few weeks ago a quantity of the deposit from the new Royal spring was obtained and sent to the Hon. R. J. Strutt, who, in a communication to the Baths Committee, remarks:—"My experiments have led to some conclusions which may, I hope, interest the committee. I have found that the deposit contains radium in appreciable quantities, though I am sorry to say not enough to pay for extraction. It will be remembered that the gas which bubbles up from the springs contains a small proportion of helium. Sir William Ramsay has recently made the most important discovery that radium slowly evolves helium by a spontaneous change. I think there can be little doubt that the helium of Bath owes its origin to large quantities of radium at a great depth below the earth's surface. A little of this radium is carried up by the rush of hot water and is found in the deposit. My experiments promise further interesting developments, which I shall have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the committee in due course."

A MEETING was held in the house of the Zoological Society on Tuesday to consider proposals for the organisation of zoologists. Forty-one zoologists from England, Scotland and Ireland attended the meeting. The following resolution was carried by a large majority:—"That it is desirable that the zoologists of Great Britain and Ireland be organised for the consideration of all matters affecting the interests of zoology and zoologists, and to take such action as may seem desirable." A committee consisting of Prof. Cossar Ewart, Prof. Bridge, Prof. Hickson, Dr. Scharff, Dr. G. C. Bourne, Dr. Ridewood, and Mr. Cunningham was appointed to draw up a scheme.

WE are glad to see among the New Year honours gazetted by the India Office the name of Dr. W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., who has been made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire. Dr. Blanford, whose services to Indian geology and zoology are known to all our readers, joined the Geological Survey shortly before the outbreak of the mutiny, and is one of the few civilians entitled to wear a Mutiny medal.

ON New Year's Day we had the pleasure of inspecting a series of the well-known animal photographs of the Messrs. Kearton now being exhibited to the public at 175 Bond Street. All these reproductions from the original photographs have been considerably enlarged, although not to such an extent as to impair the sharpness or blur the