gress, and a general report on the work of the past year up to March 31.

The whole matter is another triumph of German organisation. Throughout the committees, which are interacting, are zoologists, ornithologists, botanists, geologists, and archæologists. The useful term "natural monument"—Alexander von Humboldt seems first to have employed it—includes practically everything indigenous which possesses scientific interest. In this report, for instance, which is well illustrated, there are accounts, not only of the *Porta Westfalica*, a human monument, but of interesting trees, "erratic" blocks of stone, moraines, diluvial sandstone formations, many characteristic specimens of the flora and fauna of the country, including various subdivisions, such as lichens and Lepidoptera. The term and the whole conception of the scheme are absolutely comprehensive. Many charts have already been prepared showing the local distribution of the "monuments"; such publications are of the highest scientific interest, especially when their subjects may still be counted on by the observer as existing in actuality.

It is to be hoped that this report may find its way to the hands of some English statesman. It gives an object-lesson of what can be done, and of how it may be done, to preserve the natural character of a country. In England the enclosure of sites and preservation of scenery too often result in the destruction of both fauna and flora. Where are the denizens, vegetable and animal, of White's Selborne? The present writer for many years had the privilege of research in a certain wild corner of Wensleydale which was as rich in rare plants and birds as any district in Great Britain. The ownership changed hands, and the whole of the wild life of the place was destroyed, first, by drainage for the purpose of making a coursing-ground, and later by operations connected with the water-supply of a great manufacturing town. This was vandalism no less brutal than the destruction of an exquisite statue.

It would be a profound satisfaction to lovers of nature if our country could be preserved in an efficient and comprehensive way. It is a work that could well be initiated by the Board of Agriculture. Dr. Conwentz, by the publication last year in English of his book "The Care of Natural Monuments, with Special Reference to Great Britain and Germany," has already given us a guide to both principle and execution. The present report—which can be read at one sitting—justifies his guidance. A. E. CRAWLEY.

THE MIGRATIONS OF PLAICE.[1]

THE marking of plaice was commenced on the east coast of Ireland in August, 1905, and in a recent report Mr. G. P. Farran deals with such recaptures as have been made up to the end of 1907.

The principal plaice grounds on the coast of Ireland considered are within the areas prohibited to steam trawling, and the recaptures have been chiefly made by the local sailing trawlers and by line fishermen. In these circumstances it seems possible that here, as in other "prohibited" areas, some cases of recapture by steam trawlers may, for obvious reasons, be suppressed by the fishermen concerned.

Omitting certain fish liberated under unfavourable conditions, the total proportion of recaptured marked plaice stands at 46 per cent., from which Mr. Farran concludes that the local fishermen remove no inconsiderable portion of the stock of plaice on their fishing grounds. As an instance of how heavily a small area can be fished may be noted an experiment made in Skerries Bay. One hundred and eighty plaice were marked in April, 1906, out of which number no fewer than one hundred and nineteen, or 66 per cent., had been reported before the end of 1907.

In contrast to the long migrations which have been observed in the North Sea and at Iceland, very little tendency to extensive wanderings is shown by the plaice in these experiments. The majority were retaken within ten miles of the position of liberation. It is interesting to note that an inshore movement in the Dublin Bay area was evident in the autumn. A similar tendency has been noticed at this time of the year in some other parts of the British Isles, and is a well-known feature of the small plaice grounds off the Danish coast.

The choice of a suitable label for these experiments seems to have presented some difficulty. The German pattern of Dr. Heincke was found satisfactory for the size of fish most frequently met with, but unsatisfactory experiments were made with one or two other kinds. It seems curious that no attempt was made with the Petersen form of label, which has been successfully employed in the Danish, English, and other investigations, and, in Dr. Schmidt's classic experiments at Iceland, continued to be returned with the fish more than three years after their liberation.

Mr. Farran's mode of tabulating his data has certain disadvantages. The usual method adopted in recording recaptures is to take them in chronological order. Had this plan been followed instead of taking the consecutive numbers of the labels (an arrangement which seems to have little to recommend it), reference and comparison with the experiments of other investigators would have been facilitated.

[1] Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Fisheries Branch. Scientific Investigations, 1907, No. iii. "Plaice Marking Experiments on the East Coast of Ireland in 1905 and 1906." By G. P. Farran. Pp. 86+xxxiii plates. (Dublin, 1909.)

NOTES.

POLITICAL, municipal, industrial, and philanthropic activities are liberally represented in the list of Birthday Honours published on Tuesday, but science and other intellectual interests receive scant recognition. There are six new privy councillors, six new baronets, and thirty-two new knights in the list. Among the privy councillors is Sir Henry Roscoe, F.R.S., and among those who have received the honour of knighthood are Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., and Mr. E. H. Shackleton, the leader of the recent Antarctic expedition. Prof. A. H. Church, F.R.S., has been appointed a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (K.C.V.O.). Mr. T. L. Heath has been promoted to be Knight Commander of the Bath (K.C.B.), and Dr. Sven Hedin has been appointed an honorary Knight Commander of the Indian Empire (K.C.I.E.).

THE following is a list of fellows who have been recommended by the president and council of the Royal Society for election into the council for the ensuing year:—*President*, Sir Archibald Geikie, K.C.B.; *treasurer*, Mr. Alfred Bray Kempe; *secretaries*, Sir Joseph Larmor, Prof. J. R. Bradford; *foreign secretary*, Sir William Crookes; *other members of the council*, Dr. H. B. Baker, Dr. W. H. Gaskell, Prof. E. H. Griffiths, Prof. Horace Lamb, Prof. H. M. Macdonald, Major P. A. MacMahon, Dr. C. J. Martin, Sir Andrew Noble, Bart., K.C.B., Prof. W. H. Perkin, Prof. E. B. Poulton, Prof. J. H. Poynting, Lieut.-Colonel David Prain, C.I.E., Prof. R. A. Sampson, Dr. A. E. Shipley, the Right Hon. Sir James Stirling, Dr. A. Strahan.

WE regret to see the announcement of the death of Dr. W. H. Dallinger, F.R.S., on Sunday, November 7, at sixty-seven years of age.