

with passages giving access to cells, and store-chambers, most of the houses being wholly or partly underground. In this country we have examples of similar constructions in the Dene-hole chalk quarries of Darenth Wood and those near Chislehurst, the Cornish excavations known as Fogous, the cave in the Isle of Egg, one of the Hebrides, the scene of the terrible massacre of the Macdonalds by the Macleods, and that on Rathlin Island, where a similar tragedy occurred during the campaign of Essex in 1575, of which Froude supplies a graphic narrative.

From structures such as these Mr. Baring-Gould passes on to the cliff castles occupied by the ruffianly Routiers and Free-Companions in France, and the many caves and similar shelters tenanted by hermits and ascetics, robbers, and outlaws in other parts of Europe. The church has also utilised many subterranean excavations of the same kind, such as the monolithic chapel of St. Emilion in Dordogne, and the still more remarkable underground churches at Plouaret in Côtes-du-Nord, and the Spanish example at Cangas-de-Ones, near Oviedo, where a prehistoric dolmen is used as a crypt.

The value of this interesting, if rather discursive, book is much increased by the series of excellent sketches, most of which were drawn by the author on the spot in his exploration of this remarkable series of monuments.

MAJOR GEORGE LAMB, I.M.S.

WE regret to record the death, which took place at Edinburgh on April 11, of Major George Lamb, director of the Pasteur Institute of India, Karauli (Punjab), in his forty-second year. He was a distinguished graduate of the University of Glasgow, and for some time demonstrator of anatomy in that university, but resigned this post in order to enter the Indian Medical Service. From the first he strenuously applied himself to research, and the extent and nature of his published work strikingly attest his great ability and originality, and his indefatigable industry. Within a few years after joining the service, he had made his mark by researches on Mediterranean fever in India, typhoid fever, and anti-typhoid vaccine, and other subjects connected with the scientific treatment of disease. He was subsequently continuously employed in important scientific inquiries initiated by the Government of India.

Nearly ten years ago Major Lamb was appointed head of the laboratory for the investigation of snake poisons, and became one of the chief authorities on this subject. The results of his observations appeared in about a dozen papers, which deal with the venoms of Russell's viper, the cobra, and the banded krait, their action on the blood plasma and corpuscles and on the nervous system, and with the specificity of their antisera. He was joint author (with Dr. C. J. Martin, F.R.S.), of the section on "Snake Poison and Snake Bite" in the "System of Medicine," edited by Sir Clifford Allbutt and Dr. Rolleston.

Major Lamb's greatest work was done in connection with the Plague Commission to which he was appointed, as senior member, in 1905. He was responsible for the carrying out of that detailed and widespread inquiry into the mechanism of the epidemic spread of plague in India, the results of which have been published in five reports, the last only recently issued. He initiated and throughout bore a prominent part in the long series of experiments and observations which resulted in the conclusive proof of the transference of plague from rat to rat, and from rats to man by the agency of fleas.

Since his appointment as director of the Pasteur Institute of India, which took place when the plague inquiry was nearing its close, Major Lamb devoted himself largely to the subject of hydrophobia, and introduced important modifications in the treatment of the numerous cases annually dealt with at that institute.

Major Lamb has left an enduring mark upon three main lines of research—snake venoms, plague, and hydrophobia—each of outstanding importance in Indian medical work, to which he devoted himself successively with characteristic zeal, patience, and skill. His frank and genial manner, his clear grasp of, and self-sacrificing devotion to, the work he had in hand called forth, in those privileged to work with or under him, loyal and enthusiastic cooperation. His wide knowledge of medical science in its application to Indian problems will be much missed in medical and scientific circles both at home and in India, and his friends will deplore the loss of one who had a most genial and captivating personality.

J. H. A.

NOTES.

A PRELIMINARY programme has been issued for this year's meeting of the British Association, which, as already announced, is to be held at Portsmouth on August 30 and following days. The opening meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, August 30, when Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., will assume the presidency and deliver his inaugural address. In the same hall the first evening discourse will be delivered on Friday evening, September 1, by Mr. Leonard Hill, F.R.S., on "The Physiology of Submarine Work," and the second on Monday evening, September 4, by Prof. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., on "Links with the Past in the Plant World." The reception room and administrative offices during the meeting will be established in the Connaught Drill Hall, which is centrally situated close to the Town Hall, and within easy access of all the meeting rooms which will be occupied by the sections. The president will have the assistance of a strong body of representatives of the administrative, ecclesiastical, naval and military interests of the town and neighbourhood, headed by H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg and the Mayor, Alderman T. Scott Foster. An afternoon reception and an evening *fête* are announced to be given by the Mayor, and facilities will be arranged for members to visit sites and objects of scientific, historical, and national interest in Portsmouth and the neighbourhood.

A COMMITTEE for the study of the sea was appointed in 1909 by the Italian Society for advancement of science. Its work was so active and promising that a few months later the committee was converted by an Act of Parliament into an institution of the Italian kingdom. The Regio Comitato Talassografico Italiano is to be concerned with investigations of the Italian seas from the physical and chemical points of view as well as from the biological. Great importance will be attached to practical questions concerning the navigation and the fisheries. Investigations of the high atmosphere will also be made in connection with aviation. The president of the committee is the Marine Minister, and representatives of the chief institutes, academies, and societies which take interest in sea investigations have been appointed as members. In addition the committee has a scientific staff of its own; it receives a yearly grant from the Italian Government of 60,000 lira (2400l.); and the ships for the cruises are supplied by the Italian Royal Navy. Four cruises in the Adriatic sea have