

de l'héroïque capitaine s'y croisera, au travers d'une large couronne de lauriers, avec le glaive de la grande époque gauloise que l'archéologue a si bien fait revivre." Nor can one abstain from quoting from the circular, which has been sent out by our colleagues in France, the following sentence:—"C'est l'unité d'une carrière riche d'œuvres, plus pleine encore de promesses, que rappellera la légende: GALLIAE RELIQUIAS ILLUSTRAVIT • PRO • GALLIA • MILES • CECIDIT."

There is not a British archaeologist or anthropologist who is not indebted to M. Déchelette, and I am certain they will be only too glad to participate in a movement which has been rightly initiated by their French colleagues. Subscriptions should be sent to M. le Comte O. Costa de Beauregard, Sainte-Foy, par Longueville (Seine-Inférieure). Those sending a subscription of 10 francs are entitled to a replica of the plaque in bronze, those giving 50 francs to one in silver, and those giving 80 francs to one in enamel, should they so wish.

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#### A Sunset Phenomenon on July 22.

AN interesting sunset phenomenon was visible here at 8.10 p.m. G.M.T. on Saturday last, July 22. Two very well-marked dark bands were seen rising from the south-eastern horizon across the pale pink counter-glow. On the north-western horizon the tops of two very distant cumulo-nimbus clouds were visible, the tops being about half a degree above the horizon; the clouds were dark against the sunset, but their upper edges were bright. The dark bands were the shadows of these clouds projected right across the sky. The shadows could be followed for some distance from the clouds, but were not visible in the plane at right angles to the direction of sunset. They were visible for quite ten minutes after I first noticed them, by which time the twilight arch was some way above the horizon and the dark bands rose from it. The two cumulo-nimbus clouds and a small patch of cirrus were the only clouds visible; their bearings were 302° and 305° respectively. An inquiry by telephone elicited the fact that no clouds were visible at Benson Observatory, and the cumulo-nimbus must have been at a great distance. It would be of some interest to know this distance, and I should be very grateful to any readers of NATURE in Herefordshire, Wales (especially Anglesey and the west coasts), and any part of Ireland roughly between Co. Dublin and Sligo and Donegal Bays, if they could let me know the character of the weather at the time mentioned, whether any cumulo-nimbus clouds were noticed, and especially if rain or thunderstorms were experienced, or even merely whether the sky was clear or cloudy. I fear the weather of a week ago is not often remembered, but it is possible that some of your readers may recollect it or have recorded it.

Had the clouds been more numerous the shadows would have encroached more on the sunset glow and on the counter-glow, and the appearance would have resolved itself into crepuscular rays, the explanation of which has been a matter of some discussion.

C. J. P. CAVE.

Meteorological Office, South Farnborough, July 24.

#### Silvanus P. Thompson as a Painter.

THE late Prof. S. P. Thompson was a man of such extraordinary versatility and power that his artistic side was scarcely done justice to in the Press. It

may therefore be interesting to put on record what our friend, George Flemwell, the well-known painter, naturalist, and writer, living in Switzerland, says in a letter from Zermatt:—

"To my mind enough has not been said of his power for rendering ice in water-colour. I knew nobody to touch him in the painting of glacier ice at close quarters." (I believe Mr. Flemwell, himself a distinguished painter of Alpine scenery, has seen little of Edw. Compton's work.) "And his method was, considering the excellence of the result, the simplest and most direct I have ever seen. With the utmost care he worked with great quickness and facility. A few simple washes, and there was the ice: its form, its structure, and its quality. His values were right and his colour clean; he got the body and substance of the glacier. I am happy to think I have two or three pencil sketches I made of him when he was working on the Glacier d'Argentière and at the Mer de Glace; and I was with him when he painted the original of the Christmas-card of which you speak. . . ."

H. S. T.

Bristol, July 17.

#### The Utilisation of Waste Heat for Agriculture.

MR. C. TURNBULL'S scheme (NATURE, July 20, p. 422) for artificially heating the soil, if feasible, would tend to encourage the insect pest. As all farmers and fruit-growers are aware, this has of recent years increased to an alarming extent. But for the seasonal lowering of the soil temperature it would become more serious still.

C. CARUS-WILSON.

Casterton, Kirkby Lonsdale, July 22.

#### THE INDIAN BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE.

THE Report for the year 1914-15 of the Board of Scientific Advice for India consists almost entirely of isolated summaries of the work done during the year by the several scientific departments and scientific institutions of the Indian Government. As most, if not all, of these departments and institutions issue independent annual reports of their own, it is, to say the least, disappointing to find these technical summaries filling the report of a scientific body styled advisory; unless, indeed, the term "advice" be understood in the commercial or notificatory sense as merely indicating the existence in working order of these various departmental instruments of research.

The advisory proceedings of the Board occupy only thirty-seven lines of the 180 pages of the report, and all the information they afford is that the Board accepted the programmes of the several scientific departments, but would rather not have them in so much detail in future; and that it recommended (a) that officers attending the next Indian Science Congress should be regarded as on duty, (b) that a catalogue of scientific serials prepared by the Asiatic Society of Bengal should be published at the expense of Government, and (c) that experiments should be undertaken, as requested by the Punjab Veterinary Department, to determine the vitality of rinderpest virus under Indian conditions—all three mere departmental