

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

NATURE, vol. 2, June 30, 1870

Natural Science at the Royal Academy

IN an article under this title by John Brett, some suggestions are made as to the spirit in which the student of science should pay a visit to the Royal Academy, and at the same time there are some shrewd cuts at the artist fraternity.

"The central motive of fine art may be most compactly expressed by the simple word beauty. . . . Go to the Academy to seek for it. Do not expect much of it; for amongst the four or five hundred essayists on canvas there represented, a good many, perhaps more than half of them, would repudiate that fundamental principle." The student of science should take his beauty in small doses, and enjoy it freely in his own way. Then he should examine the pictures analytically, to see whether any example of beauty depends on a violation of the laws of Nature; "whether he has come across a lovely monster". Finally, he must remember that art, in England, is in its infancy.

"What is the moral of all this? Simply that the scientific men pay too little attention to the broader aspects of the visible world; while the artists on their part pass by the clear fountain of natural beauty, and content themselves with dreamily sipping lukewarm water from the corroded vessels of their forefathers; the one group of doers standing apart from the other; whereas, if either would go to school with the other, they would, in my opinion, each stimulate and aid the labours of the other, and divide between them a far larger share of the spoils of the world."

England to India Cable Completed

THE completion of the deep-sea cable between Falmouth and Bombay was celebrated on June 23 by an entertainment given by Mr. Pender, chairman of the British-Indian Submarine Telegraph Company, at which royalty largely assisted. Complimentary messages were exchanged between the Viceroy of India and the President of the United States, the distance of 8,442 miles being accomplished in forty minutes. This is the first instance of direct telegraphic communication between India and America. Other messages were dispatched, including one from the Prince of Wales to the Viceroy, which presented "the comic side" of telegraphy; though dispatched soon after twelve at night, and only nine minutes on its way, it reached Lord Mayo at five in the morning, when his lordship was, naturally enough, fast asleep. "What will be the result when the earth is completely girded by a telegraphic cable, and a message is sent to the antipodes? The question between night and day will be expanded to one between to-day and to-morrow, to say nothing of yesterday."

THE opening portion of a paper by Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, F.R.S., entitled "Facts and Reasoning concerning the Heterogeneous Evolution of Living Things" appears. This paper was originally prepared for the Royal Society, but when Dr. Charlton Bastian found that an evening could not be allotted to its reading and discussion, he submitted it to NATURE for immediate publication. The author describes his experimental evidence for spontaneous generation of organisms.

UNIVERSITY EVENTS

LONDON.—The following degrees have been conferred: *D.Sc.* on Miss Phyllis A. Clapham (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine); Mr. J. G. Davis (University College); Mr. A. A. Miller (University College); Mr. M. C. Vyvyan, a recognized teacher at East Malling Research Station; *D.Sc.* (*Engineering*) on Mr. H. G. Taylor (Imperial College of Science and Technology and Battersea Polytechnic).

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

LECTURER IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—The Principal, Technical College, Gainsborough, Lincs. (July 5).

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN BOTANY—The Registrar, University Manchester, 13.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Mathematical and Physical Sciences. No. 796, Vol. 238: Relaxation Methods applied to Engineering Problems, 5: Conformal Transformation of a Region in Plane Space. By R. W. G. Gandy and R. V. Southwell. Pp. 453-476. 3s. 6d. No. 797, Vol. 238: Tides in Oceans bounded by Meridians, 4: Series Solutions in terms of Angular Width of Ocean, 5: Solutions by use of Finite Differences; Semidiurnal Tides. By A. T. Doodson. Pp. 477-512. 5s. 6d. No. 798, Vol. 238: Theory of the Vibrations of the Sodium Chloride Lattice. By Dr. E. W. Kellerman. Pp. 513-548. 6s. 6d. (London: Cambridge University Press.) [36]

Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. Twenty-sixth Annual Report, 1939. Pp. vi+45. (Dunfermline: Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.) [36]

Other Countries

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 88, No. 3079: Report on Certain Groups of Neuropteroid Insects from Szechwan, China. By Nathan Banks. Pp. 173-220. Vol. 88, No. 3088: The Ichneumon-Flies of the Subfamily *Neorhacodinae*, with Descriptions of a New Genus and Three New Species. By R. A. Cushman. Pp. 523-528. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [35]

United States Department of the Interior: Office of Education. Bulletin, 1939, No. 5: Bibliography of Research Studies in Education, 1937-1938. By Ruth A. Gray. Pp. xv+400. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 35 cents. [315]

American Philosophical Society. Year Book 1939. Pp. 494. (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society.) [315]

U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Education. Bulletin, 1939, No. 8: Public Education in the Panama Canal Zone. By Katherine M. Cook. Pp. v+64. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 15 cents. [36]

Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture: Low Temperature Research Station. Memoir No. 4: Studies in Tropical Fruits, 6: A Preliminary Consideration of the Solubility of Gases in relation to Respiration. By E. R. Leonard. Pp. 825-844. Memoir No. 15: Preliminary Observations on the Refrigerated Gas Storage of Gros Michel Bananas. By C. W. Wardlaw. Pp. 44. (Trinidad: Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.) [36]

Illinois Biological Monographs. Vol. 17, No. 3: The Branchiobdellidae (Oligochaeta) of North American Crayfishes. By Clarence James Goodnight. Pp. 75. (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press.) 1 dollar. [36]

Field Museum of Natural History. Report Series, Vol. 12, No. 1: Annual Report of the Director to the Board of Trustees for the Year 1939. (Publication 468.) Pp. 173+12 plates. (Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.) 1 dollar. [36]

Catalogues

Photographic Pioneers. Pp. 20. (London: Burroughs Wellcome and Co.)

The Microid Gas Generator. (GT.1298.) Pp. 2. The Microid Lever Balance. (GT.1299.) Pp. 4. The G.L.C. Constant Volume Gas Analysis Apparatus. (GT.1302.) Pp. 4. Streamlined Hydrometers. (GT.1303.) Pp. 4. 'Pyrex' Sintered Glassware. Pp. 8. (London: Griffin and Tatlock, Ltd.)

A Catalogue of Miscellaneous Books. (No. 649.) Pp. 66. (London: Francis Edwards, Ltd.)

A Catalogue of Rare and Important Works on Botany and Horticulture. (No. 575.) Pp. 24. (London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd.)

Clarification and Sterilisation. (Publication No. 366.) Pp. 12. (London: A. Gallenkamp and Co., Ltd.)