

it. The following are the members of the Government Commission:—Dr. Beclard, the Dean of the Paris Faculty; M. Paul Bert, Professor of General Physiology at the Faculty of Sciences; M. Bouley, Professor of Comparative Pathology at the Museum of Natural History; Dr. Villemin, Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Military Pharmacy; Dr. Vulpian, Professor of Comparative and Experimental Pathology at the Paris Faculty of Medicine; and M. Tisserand, Director of the Agricultural Department.

PROF. HUXLEY has undertaken to be President of the Marine Biological Association. It is stated that Plymouth will probably be selected as the site of the first laboratory and experimental station erected by the Association. The Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Sutherland, and Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys, F.R.S., have given their names as vice-presidents. Mr. Chamberlain has joined the Association, and subscribed twenty guineas towards building the sea-coast laboratory. Mr. Thomasson, M.P. for Bolton, has subscribed 100*l.*

WE understand that the Scottish Fishery Board have obtained sufficient funds to enable Prof. McIntosh to carry on a number of important preliminary inquiries at St. Andrew's as to the possibility of increasing by artificial means the supply of flat-fish, and also as to the spawning habits and life-history of food fishes in general. This work is in the meantime being carried on in a temporary building which for some time served as a hospital. It is hoped, however, that when the importance of the work and the many advantages which St. Andrew's offers for a marine station are recognised, that both in the interest of science and by way of developing further the great fishing industry, a well-equipped laboratory and hatching station will be provided. Dr. McIntosh has already succeeded in hatching from artificially fertilised eggs the flounder, whiting, haddock, and cod, and in determining the nature of the eggs of the gurnard and other fish. Prof. Hubrecht of Utrecht is expected to work at the St. Andrew's Marine Station during the autumn.

THE Davis Lectures upon zoological subjects will be given in the lecture-room in the Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, on Thursdays, at 5 p.m., commencing June 5, as follows:—June 5, Man, zoologically considered, by Prof. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S.; June 12, Hands and feet, by Prof. Mivart, F.R.S.; June 19, Instinct, by G. J. Romanes, LL.D., F.R.S.; June 26, Hedgehogs, moles, and shrews, by Prof. Parker, F.R.S.; July 3, Dogs, ancient and modern, by J. E. Harting, F.L.S.; July 10, Birds' nests, by Henry Seebohm, F.L.S.; July 17, Reptiles, by P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.

THE Municipal Council of Paris has, at the instigation of the Société d'Anthropologie, given its sanction to the projected erection of a monument to Paul Broca. The spot chosen is a triangular plot of ground on the Boulevard Saint-Germain, immediately opposite the entrance gate of the new wing of the École de Médecine. A Commission has been appointed to decide upon the terms and conditions to be observed by those who desire to enter into the competition shortly to be opened for the honour of executing the work.

THE eighth meeting of the French National Congress of Geography will open on August 8 at Toulouse, where the local Geographical Society is organising an international exhibition, to be held from June 1 to August 15.

IN reference to his "Prize Records of Family Faculties" Mr. F. Galton writes to the *Times*:—"Permit me, as the last day for sending in the records has just gone by, to send you a brief estimate of the value of the response to my offer, so far as a very hasty inspection warrants. This value has far exceeded my expectations. I have received very little trash, and upwards of 150 good records of different families. Many of these are admirably drawn up; concise, full of information, and offering numerous opportunities of verification. As each of these returns refers to fourteen direct

ancestors of the children of the family, and to many of the brothers and sisters of each of them, the mass of anthropological material may be inferred. It certainly refers to more than 5000 persons, and as the data are all entered in my bound tabular forms, the records form a long row of thin quarto volumes, severally labelled, and easily accessible. It is a unique anthropological collection. The writers are chiefly persons of the upper and middle classes of society; they are male and female in nearly equal proportions, and the two sexes write equally well, so far as I can thus far judge. The letters that accompanied the records are full and friendly, expressing a trust that I can assure them will not be misplaced of my treating the information as strictly confidential. In many cases they express the great interest that the inquiry into their own family history has been to them. Permit me to add that I do not think it possible to determine the prizes in much less than two months, and that besides publishing the awards I propose to send a copy of them to the private address of every substantial competitor."

NO. 16 of the Bibliographical Contributions of the Library of Harvard University consists of a classified index to the maps in *Petermann's Geographische Mittheilungen*, 1855-81, by Mr. Richard Bliss. The index consists of 1340 entries, and has evidently been made with the greatest care. Mr. Bliss has done a work of great utility.

IN two papers entitled "Le Ceneri dei Volcani di Giava supposta Causa dei Bagliori Crepuscolari," and "L'Isola di Giava ed i Crepuscoli del Novembre e Dicembre 1883," recently published at Vicenza, Alvise G. Mocenigo discusses the various theories put forward to explain the late remarkable crepuscular lights that have been observed in every part of the world. He thinks the phenomena should probably be attributed to extraterrestrial, interplanetary, or cosmic conditions naturally recurring only at long intervals, and which may possibly have never before arisen since the appearance of man on the earth.

THE Mitchell Library at Glasgow still labours under that most satisfactory of difficulties—want of room in which to carry on the amount of work it could otherwise do. Seldom has this want been more heavily felt than here, where not one-tenth of its founder's bequest of 70,000*l.* has yet been expended, while an additional legacy of 11,500*l.*, exceeding the entire expenditure in books hitherto, lies unused for sheer want of space to make available any such treasures as it would secure. The moderate increase of between 4 and 5 per cent. in its total issues of books is reasonably attributed to this limitation. Glasgow has not yet adopted the Free Libraries Act, but the Corporation has placed the complete publications of the Patent Office at another library founded by Walter Stirling, a merchant of that city, in 1791. As a reference library this also is free, and a recent reorganisation has reduced the subscription to its circulating department to 10*s.* 6*d.* a year, or half that where four members of a firm enter together. This arrangement has led to a large increase of readers at both branches of this library, but that has not interfered with the use made of the Mitchell Library, and it is satisfactory to find in the Report of the latter a notice in large type referring all persons who wish to take books home to the moderate terms of the sister establishment. Still the subscribers to the latter form but a small fraction of the numbers who would be sure to avail themselves of rate-supported libraries in a great town like Glasgow, and the Mitchell Report strongly and wisely urges the adoption of the Act.

VISITORS to Canada during the forthcoming meeting of the British Association will find many useful hints and considerable practical guidance in Mr. T. Greenwood's "Tour in the United States and Canada." Mr. Greenwood went out and back in six weeks, and evidently made good use of his time.

THE demonstration by Dr. Herbert Carpenter of some points in the minute anatomy of Crinoids at the last meeting of the