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EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN his Presidential Address to the British Association at Cardiff, Professor Herdman gave an admirable summary of the modern developments of his special subject, *Oceanography*. This new science comprises portions overlapping from many other fields of research, and Professor Herdman naturally dealt at length with the biological side of it, but even the biology of the deep sea affords evidence as to geological problems, while the geological value of physical oceanography needs no extended demonstration.

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THE President of Section C, Dr. F. A. Bather, devoted his address to a comprehensive review of the present position of biological science from the point of view of evolution. This subject naturally appeals very strongly to a palæontologist, but Dr. Bather did not by any means confine himself to extinct forms. He also quoted modern instances where necessary. We hope to give in a later number a summary of some of the main points brought forward in this admirable address, which should do much to stimulate interest in the newer and more philosophical ideas which are now exerting so much influence in the development of palæobiology.

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IN our correspondence columns we print a letter from Professor Marr, inquiring whether any of our readers can assist him in discovering the whereabouts of certain implements found by the late Mr. S. B. J. Skertchly from deposits around Brandon and Mildenhall, in Suffolk, and supposed to be of Mid-Glacial age. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the importance of these implements, if still in existence, and we hope some information may be forthcoming.

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THE loss last month of Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., deprives us of a distinguished astronomer and physicist and the founder, in 1869, of the well-known weekly scientific journal *Nature*, whose "jubilee" was held last year. Born at Rugby in 1836, he was appointed a clerk in the War Office in 1857, Director of the Solar Physics Observatory, South Kensington, 1885-1913, President of the British Association 1903-4, Director of eight English Eclipse Expeditions (between 1870 and 1905),

and author of numerous books and papers on astronomy and physics.

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DEATH has deprived us of Professor John Perry, D.Sc., F.R.S., late of the Royal College of Science, South Kensington (1850-1920), who, with Professors Ayrton and John Milne, was among the first on the staff of the Imperial College of Science, Tokio, Japan; Professor of Mathematics and Engineering, City and Guilds of London Technical College, Finsbury; President of the Physical Society; for many years General Treasurer of the British Association; author of numerous scientific papers, a most popular lecturer, and beloved by a wide circle of men of science.

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THE Mining Industry Act, 1920, which is the latest version of the measure for the establishment of a Ministry of Mines, has undergone a good deal of modification in its passage through Parliament. Some of these changes have to a certain extent met the objections raised in a former issue of the Magazine. Thus we find that it is now provided that two advisory committees must be appointed by the Board of Trade, one to deal with coal, the other with metalliferous mining. The constitution of the coal committee is set out in detail; out of a total twenty-four members only one is to be a mining engineer, and there is provision for the inclusion of a number of faddists of various kinds. There is a delightful vagueness about the clause "three [members] shall be persons with expert knowledge of medical or *other science*": the italics are ours. As to the constitution of the committee on metalliferous mining nothing is said. Section 21, subsection 2, provides that no information with respect to any particular undertaking shall be included in any published report. This is a retrograde step, since in Section 10 of the Metalliferous Mines Act of 1872 power is given to the Secretary of State to collect statistics, and there is no limitation of his power to publish them. If this new provision is enforced no details can be given as to the output of particular mines, as has hitherto been done, for example, in the case of hematite mines.