

SCIENCE AT BUFFALO.

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION. PROSPECT OF AN USUALLY LARGE AND IMPORTANT MEETING—PRESENCE OF MANY OLDER MEMBERS—REAPPEARANCE OF PROF. W. B. ROGERS AFTER A LONG ILLNESS—ORGANIZATION—INVITATIONS TO MORE SOUTHERLY CITIES.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] BUFFALO, Aug. 23.—This promises to be the best meeting held by the American Association for the Advancement of Science since it assembled in Albany. This is true both as to numbers and eminence of those who are gathering here. Among them are many whose faces have been exceedingly rare in recent years. Some have come from the South for the first time since the separation caused by the war. There is a very considerable sprinkling of foreign men of science, who have been attending the Centennial Exhibition, though the number from this source is not so large as had been hoped for. This is probably due to the circumstance that their labors at the Exhibition, where many of them were employed in an official capacity, were far more exhausting than they or anybody else had anticipated. In a majority of instances, after concluding their work in Philadelphia and taking a very brief tour for purposes of sight-seeing, the foreigners have returned home. Before the close of the Buffalo meeting a list of the visitors from across the Atlantic will be furnished. It is known now that several are on the way who have not yet arrived. Among these is Prof. Huxley, who is expected to-morrow at the furthest. As to native men of science, the presence of many of the older members is a delightful feature. Prof. Henry of the Smithsonian rarely attends these meetings, but is with us now, and in more vigorous health than he has recently enjoyed. The President for this year, Prof. Wm. B. Rogers, widely known in a variety of scientific researches, and eminent in them all, was for many years incapacitated for almost all duties outside of those which could be pursued with little mental labor, and has been for nearly a decade of years practically lost to the scientific world. To-day he is again among us, having lost nothing of his force of expression or ability to entertain an audience. He is in many respects the best presiding officer that the association has been favored with for a long while. During the period previous to his illness his personal efforts, as presiding officer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, brought it to its present high position, and do not these efforts were among the causes which occasioned his failing health.

To-day's proceedings were opened in the Common Council Chamber of the City Hall by a speech from the retiring president, Prof. G. E. Hilgard of the United States Coast Survey. He congratulated the association upon the prospect of a large attendance. There had been some fears expressed that the attractions at Philadelphia would diminish the numbers at Buffalo. This fear had been the occasion of a very close contest in the vote which finally determined the selection of Buffalo. The weather, too, was more favorable than had been hoped, and indeed than could reasonably have been expected. Not the least of the features of the meeting, which should be the source of great gratification to the members present, was that we had for a president this year Prof. Wm. B. Rogers. After briefly alluding to the record of Prof. Rogers as the presiding officer of the association when it was first formed, and to his distinguished services to science, especially in the elucidation of the geology of Pennsylvania, Prof. Hilgard introduced their new president to the association.

Prof. Rogers has a venerable aspect. As he came forward he seemed slightly bent with the weight of years. His voice at first was somewhat feeble, but as he warmed with his subject, instead of the tremulousness of age, the words vibrated with feeling. It is evident that he has lost none of his eloquence or fire since the days when he held high contest with Prof. Agassiz on the then novel questions of the Evolutionary Theory. Mentioning, in a few brief words, the ill health which had recently declared him from scientific labor, he declared that no obstacle had interfered with his love of knowledge and of those who made it their pursuit. In respect to his age, as compared with the majority of the members of the association, he made a very interesting light on present geological eras by showing the present distribution of certain moths and butterflies. They were the offspring of the Tertiary period, and were left by the extension of the glacial epoch on the tops of the highest of the White Mountains and in the lofty ranges of Colorado, which were islands in a sea of fire. Their descendants still remain, in essential characteristics, the existing forms. To these insects Prof. Rogers likened himself and the few graybeards who with him were present at this meeting. They were the relics of the past. Still he would not be understood as lacking in sympathy with the science of to-day. The love of knowledge fairly implanted in the human breast cannot die except with its possessor. No force of circumstances can diminish it; satisfy in this sense is impossible.

The opening address, probably on account of its length, attracted the attention of the assembly. It was followed with promptness and nearly unbroken attention, by the Hon. Sherman S. Rogers, with a similar, but less formal expression, on behalf of the Local Committee and citizens of Buffalo. To this President Rogers replied, saying that in consequence of its locomotive character the association had to test the hospitalities of various cities. They had tried Buffalo before, and in each instance the invitation and the warm reception were chiefly due to the exertions of the Buffalo Academy of Science. Something more than mere credit was due to Buffalo for the public spirit which sustained this society and promoted its usefulness. The association contributed to the advancement of science—as was its purpose—by its visits to various cities, and by stimulating in them the growth of learned societies. In this instance the local society reciprocated the good office. And the association has perpetual need of sympathy. Scientific men are proverbially and practically poor. Their work is not carried on for selfish aims, but for the benefit of the world at large. They have a right to expect in return the sympathy and the help of the world. Prof. Rogers took this opportunity to contrast the early condition of the settlement 90 years ago, when, in the words of a contemporary author, there were five or six trading houses on Buffalo Creek, with the present appearance of the city. The architecture of the city called for a few words of admiration, especially in reference to the buildings, science, literature, and art. He also spoke in high terms of the new City Hall in which the meeting was held. Within it is a building of elegant design, and seems to be well adapted to its purposes. Seen from without, it is a specimen of cold, gray granite look heavy, not to say clumsy.

The permanent secretary, Mr. F. W. Putnam, then read the recological list. The following are the members who died since the last meeting: Dr. Leverett Bradley of Jersey City, N. J.; Prof. Samuel D. Tilkman, Secretary of the American Institute of New York; William E. Doggett of Chicago, Ill.; Ebenezer Hantz of Fallington, Penn.; I. A. Laplan, long State Geologist of Wisconsin; Harvey S. Senter of Aleno, Ill.; Wm. E. Whitman of Philadelphia, Penn.; Prof. Henry D. Rogers, a geologist, and Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger of New York, for 40 years known as a manufacturer of rare chemicals.

The next step toward organization was the election of six members to be added to the Standing Committee. A blackboard, brought forward for the purpose of having the nominations written upon it, which were proposed in a row by the members, was the occasion of infinite merriment. It was a blackboard chiefly in name. Constant use by that Common Council had so thoroughly blackened it that the names over at frequent intervals while the nominations were made. A somewhat undue proportion of chemists were among the nominees. The six members of the committee finally selected were: Prof. Geo. F. Barker, now of Philadelphia, chemist; Prof. L. H. Moran of Rochester, archaeologist; Simon Newcomb of Washington, astronomer; ex-Chancellor Alexander Winchell, geologist; Prof. A. R. Grote of Buffalo, ontologist; Prof. F. W. Clark of Cincinnati, chemist.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE ADVANCE IN RAW SILK. EFFECT ON THE RETAIL MARKET FOR SILK GOODS—DEALERS HESITATING TO RAISE THEIR PRICES.

There is much variance of opinion among retail dry goods merchants as to the exact effect the recent rise in the price of raw silk will have upon retail prices. The general opinion is that there will be a considerable advance in silk goods, but as yet no one of the retail houses has ventured to raise its price. There is a disinclination on the part of stockholders to make any increase of charges upon the goods which they have on hand. Each seems unwilling to be the first to advance prices, and it is probable that will not take effect until it is made it to be sold off. If there should be a general advance in the price of manufactured silks there is a large number of houses which will reap a fortune by it. The principal dry goods houses in this city import their silks directly from the French manufacturers. They send over their orders early in the summer, and supply the year at the prices which ruled the market in June. If dry goods merchants decide to give their customers the benefit of early purchases in Europe the silk trade will be confined to direct importers, as the small traders can only buy at the higher wholesale prices which have prevailed recently. Whether or not merchants will take the full benefit of the consignments will depend to a great extent upon the opening of the Fall trade, and the willingness of purchasers to pay any advance in the price of silks.

A reporter of THE TRIBUNE called upon several silk importers yesterday to obtain their views in relation to the recent advance in silk. The wholesale dealers have not yet put higher figures upon the stocks which they held when the advance took place, but they will not undertake to execute new orders except at an increase of 10 per cent on former prices. The millinery and ribbon houses have raised the prices of their last consignments of ribbons 25 per cent, and state that it will be necessary on their next invoices to make a further advance of 25 per cent. These houses do a large business in cheap silks for trimmings, and for making bonnets, but no change has been made in the prices of these goods, as all on a wobble and equal to all other centenaries, at the Philadelphia Exhibition. Like the stage, so is the only hotel in the place, a very tumble-down affair, with weather-streaked wall paper and ceilings, and antique closets bent with age. Though the hotel is old and plain, its rooms are clean and good, and the fare satisfactory. Wm. S. Curtis, the present proprietor, when asked why he did not make improvements and improvements, decried the change as an infringement upon the quiet and unobtrusive old-fashionedness of the town. He simply turned the old country tavern into a hotel, and had accommodations for the guests are lodged out at neighboring cottages. The town is a very New England, with wide streets and grand old elms, and that prevailing atmosphere of quiet and rest which belongs to all villages and small towns in the New England States. It is a town of cottages, and there are not more than three or four stores in the place.

Among its institutions are a free public library and a Town Hall where there might be deemed of an evening concert or some music to be found. The gentlemen have a very handsome club-house on the main street near the hotel, which seems from its fresh paint and recent style of architecture to be of late growth. Wholly atypical of the town, it is a very modern affair. The cottages, built like a city row—two or three in front, and there is no space between them as such ugly work of man's device can be in contrast with so much of nature's finished, and the occupants get their meals at a nearby restaurant. The country surrounding Lenox is magnificent in the extreme; an amphitheater of picturesque hills, with the Housatonic River winding warily between them, with long stretches of deep, still water, and sharp turns of nobly wooded, pebbly shallows. The hills, which grow hazel and purple with distance, do not rise into any individual peaks, but are a mass of hills, with a hill and most a level horizon. Six miles from Lenox, a little town, lies Stockbridge—a very quiet, little town, right on the bank of the river, and of its unusual natural beauty, the place contains nothing of note except a monument erected in honor of the late Mrs. Charles Astor Bristow, who died in 1875. The monument is in the hands of the Stockbridge family. At present all of the name have scattered or died except two families. The one is the family of the late Mrs. Charles Astor Bristow, who died in 1875. The other is the family of the late Mrs. Charles Astor Bristow, who died in 1875. The monument is in the hands of the Stockbridge family. At present all of the name have scattered or died except two families. The one is the family of the late Mrs. Charles Astor Bristow, who died in 1875. 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