

costly. The poles alone are estimated to cost \$1,152, or £200. If the plugs were withdrawn—and, according to Dr. Stevens, there is nothing but the expense to prevent—the whole well would be available for observation. The committee will make every effort to prevent so rare an opportunity from being lost.—*From third report of the Underground Temperature Committee submitted to the British Association in 1870.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

SCRAPS FROM "NATURE."

—We are glad to be able to state that Dr. Wyville Thompson has entirely recovered from the attack of gastric fever which prevented his taking part in the *Porcupine* expedition this summer. He is at present going over the zoological collection brought home in that vessel, at the University of London, with Dr. Carpenter, and he reports some very remarkable additions to his new group of vitreous sponges, mainly from the coast of Spain and Portugal. These, with some others procured by Mr. Saville Kent, in Dr. Marshall Hall's yacht, will nearly double the number of known forms referred to the order. They are no pigmies. One of them forms a lovely lace-like vase upwards of three feet in diameter at the lip!

—Owens College, Manchester, has lately received a very valuable donation to its large geological collection, in the shape of a collection of fossil Marsupials from Australia. This collection was to have been presented to the British Museum, but the donor ultimately decided 'o bestow it on Manchester instead.

—In the aquarium of the Dublin Zoological Gardens there are several specimens of the blind fish (*Amblyopsis spelæus*) lately brought from the Kentucky caves by Prof. Mapother. The small specimens, being very transparent, show the vertebral column, the heart, and the optic bulbs very distinctly. In the largest there are dark red spots over the optic bulbs, probably due to their having been kept in an iron vessel, which may have given colour for a rudimentary pigment membrane.

—The *American Journal of Science and Arts*, which has from its commencement been the leading vehicle for the original papers of the scientific men of America, will be continued after the close of the present year as a monthly journal. This increased frequency of publication will, it is believed, meet a wish often ex-