part of his discourse was occupied with a review of the light thrown upon the constitution of atoms by spectroscopic results. Mr. Fowler, in the Mechanical Section, had no difficulty in interesting his audience with remarks about channel and river tunnels, the achievement of modern railway engineering, and the gigantic Forth Bridge which is about to be constructed on his own plans. In the Geographical Section, Sir R. Temple discoursed eloquently on the mountains, rivers, and inhabitants of the great plateau of Central Asia, the meeting-place of the three great mountain chains of that continent, and the mother land of the hordes which, under Chinghiz Khan, achieved the greatest conquests known to history. Prof. Boyd Dawkins, in the Anthropological Department, discoursed on the present phase of our knowledge on the antiquity of man, drawing graphic sketches of the earth as it was in the days of the river-drift man and the far later days of the cave man, who was in a higher stage of the hunter civilization. Mr. Etheridge, in the Geological Section, was less sensational, contenting himself with a disquisition on the geology and history of Hampshire; while Mr. Sclater Booth, in the Economic Section, brought us still nearer to the prose of life as it is by an address on Local Government Boards.

The first of the evening lectures was that given by Sir William Thomson on the tides. It was delivered with but few notes and without much regard to exact logical consecution of topics; but the intense energy of the lecturer and the startling points he made sustained the attention of the audience. The subject is one which, as chairman of the Tidal Committee of the Association, he has worked at for many years, and one result of his labours has been the publication of very complete tide tables for the principal Indian ports. Another result, of great importance to the geologist, is a determination of the amount by which the solid earth yields to the same distorting forces which produce tides in the sea. If it were of indiarubber, or, what amounts to much the same thing, if it had a crust only twenty or thirty miles thick, with fluid within, its yielding would be so great as practically to prevent any tidal currents from being formed in the water, for the formation of these depends upon the water yielding more than the land. Sir William's calculations show that the actual amount of yielding on the part of the land is less than it would be in a solid globe of