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## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, 1904.

By Prof. E. E. Prince, Dominion Commissioner of Fisheries, Ottawa.

No doubt many readers of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST will be interested to read a more adequate, if somewhat condensed, account of the remarkable address by the British Premier at Cambridge, England, last August, than the fragmentary references to it in our Canadian press. Hence the following notes have been prepared.

When that distinguished body of scientists, the British Association, met this year in England's famous seat of learning, Cambridge, it was appropriate that one of her most distinguished sons should be chosen President. The choice was unique, in that the *savant* chosen was also the Prime Minister of England. The name of Balfour is one held in special honor at Cambridge, for a younger brother of the Right Honorable Arthur Balfour was, until his tragic death in the Alps, the most brilliant biologist, excepting Darwin, that the ancient university has given to the world. The chair of Comparative Embryology, held by the late Professor Francis M. Balfour, has never been filled since his death. The reason, it has been said, is that no worthy successor has been forthcoming.

Premier Arthur Balfour has no mean reputation as a thinker and *littérateur*. The students of Scotland's oldest University (St. Andrews) elected him Lord Rector in 1886, and his rectorial address was a remarkable one in the field of literary criticism. Later, as Rector of Glasgow University, and at the present time, as Chancellor of the youngest of Scotland's Universities, viz: Edin-