

centre is very often greater than in the former, because the distance travelled from the centre to the epicentre is longer in those due to volcanic activity.

The great English seismic authority, Prof John Milne, has advanced another theory to account for the recent seismological phenomena which have been manifested in various parts of the world. He declares that the disturbances are due not to a merely normal readjustment of the earth's strata, or to the shifting of the surface to meet a gradual contraction in the size of the globe, but are caused by displacement of the globe itself from its true axis, and are really due to the jar incident to the subsequent swing back of the earth upon that true axis. It is conceivable that such a return movement to the axis as well as the original distortion would cause a tremendous strain upon the crust and could easily account for the most terrific shocks imaginable. Sir Norman Lockyer declares further that the deviation from the true axis, a fact which, by the way, can be scientifically proven, is due to the great sunspots which recently sent more energy to the earth than at any other time during the thirty-five years sunspot period, and which, through the great differences in the corresponding temperatures, caused the formation of vast ice-masses at one or the other of the poles, of such weight that the distortion takes place, to be subsequently remedied by other variations.

This ability to foretell the day or the hour that the earthquake takes place has not yet been attained, although many prophets are vaunting their alleged weather plants which not only forecast weather but predicts earthquakes. These predictions are almost invariably found to be falsified by the event. But, possibly, as more certain knowledge of the earth's interior is acquired, and when the theoretical explanations of the changes concerning the shape of the globe have been placed on a surer basis we may attempt predictions with more confidence, and also establish a certain balance between the factors that control the situation. None the less, the enormous advance in seismology, effected in late years, can but encourage further efforts not merely in the cause of science but to the practical benefit of mankind.

M. DOYLE, '08.