

sections there is a glut of papers, and it is amusing to see the anxiety of some claimants for fame to get their papers in a good place on the list, while the committee is usually desirous to secure for good or popular papers the best places. On the whole, considering the hurried manner in which the work is done, there seems to be much fairness, though many who are disappointed complain of cliques and favoritism.

Prof. Phillips, the president of the year, and one of the founders of the Association, is a man of marked features, florid and light complexion, full eye, and large bald head, with thin whitened hair. His countenance is full of genial kindness and quick intelligence, and his step and manner are almost boyish in their elasticity and vivacity. His first scientific work was done on the Yorkshire coast, and he is now professor of geology at Oxford. He is remarkable for that width of information and accuracy of detail which characterise Dana among the American geologists; and, like him, he is a conscientious man, and a cautious generaliser; always to be found in the right place on moral questions, and never carried off his feet by the rush of novel speculations and hasty conclusions. In such questions as the much controverted glacial theories, he busies himself with accurate experiments and calculations of the crushing weight of columns of ice and similar essential data; and he has a little astronomical observatory in which he applies, not his hammer, but his telescope to the planets, and has worked out some interesting points in what may be called, for want of a better name, the physical geography of the planet Mars, showing approximately the distribution of its land and water, the movements of its clouds, the advance and recession of its polar snow-patches, and the constitution and temperature of its atmosphere. He is equally at home, and a diligent worker in fossils. Phillips is also a teaching geologist. I spent a most pleasant day with him and his able colleagues, Dr. Acland and Prof. Rolleston, at Oxford, in studying the admirable arrangements in the new museum and scientific library of that university—institutions which are now, thanks to these eminent men and their colleagues, second to none in England, in facilities for the study of physical and natural science. In all that relates to the arrangement of specimens for study, and affording due facilities to the student, Prof. Phillips is as careful and enthusiastic as in his original investigations; and I can imagine no man better suited to cultivate scientific enthusiasm among students, and to send