

fitting close to the reign of that great woman who had lent her name to what was already known as the Victorian era, if for once there were to be shown to the world an exhibition which would really claim to make clear how large a proportion of the work of the world in all its branches, on all levels, in all departments, was^o carried on by women. Should it be found possible to carry out this idea in the year 1898, in London, they hoped to have an Art Exhibition, an Exhibition of Working Machinery, a Colonial Exhibition, an Exhibition of Design, which would be unsurpassed by anything which had been held in the past forty-five years, since the era of exhibitions was inaugurated. It was known to all of them probably that a good deal was being done by women. No one could form a just idea how large that proportion was throughout the world. They felt that it was eminently desirable that the number, scope, and kinds of these industries should become better known to the world. The work done by women in industrial departments was emphatically of all kinds, from the hardest and most severe to the most delicate, difficult and exquisite, and the ladies who formed themselves into the Committee felt that it would be of enormous interest to the world, not only to the English speaking races, if these could be adequately shown in a way that would attract general attention. It was proposed that while the Exhibition should be called the Imperial, and space should be allotted to one and all of the English Colonies, that an effort should also be made to enable European nations to take some share of the space as was done by the different nations at the Chicago Exhibition; the last point, however, remained to be determined by the General Committee when appointed. The steps which had already been taken to carry out this proposed scheme, were as follows:—A pioneer Committee had been appointed, mainly of ladies who took a share in the work already spoken of in the Chicago Exhibition with some additional names. Application had been made to the Mayoresses of nearly all the provincial towns in England to ascertain and, if possible, report the views of their respective districts. In an enormous majority of cases the answers received were entirely favourable. Early in July a Meeting was held in the rooms of the Society of Arts, London. Lady Aberdeen presided over the Meeting, which was addressed by Mrs. Roberts-Austen, secretary of the pioneer Committee, Sir Richard Temple, General Webber, Mr. Liberty, Mr. Wardle, of the Macclesfield School of Art Needlework, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Sir Donald Smith, representing Canada, Miss Windyer, New South Wales, and others. The Meeting was well attended by a large number of representative persons, and three resolutions were put and carried. First, that it was desirable that such an Exhibition should be held in 1898; secondly, that the Queen should be asked to patronise it; and lastly, that a general Committee should be formed to carry out the wishes of the Meeting. It was felt that no steps could be taken which would bring the project more prominently before those likely to be interested in such a matter than that of having it laid before a section of the British Association at their meeting in Oxford. She herself was therefore asked if she would consent to put the matter very briefly before this section, as it was hoped that such an Exhibition might really have an important effect upon economic position of women in the near future.

Science Notes.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of the British Association at Oxford has been put down on all sides as an unqualified success. The attendance was large, over 2,100 members and associates being present. The papers presented were numerous and interesting, and the weather was showery, so that the rival attractions afforded by the river, and the various sights of the beautiful old city were not able to prevent the sectional meetings from drawing crowds of enthusiastic devotees. Oxford was doubly festive since a thousand University Extension Students shared, with their graver and more renowned elders, the triumph of enlivening the ancient seat of learning. On former occasions, when the Association has met at Oxford, there has been more or less apparent a certain lack of sympathy between the University and the scientific visitors. On the last occasion, thirty-four years ago, a somewhat stiff breeze arose through the determined stand made by the "old guard" of biologists on behalf of Darwin's theories of natural selection. At the opening meeting, a fortnight ago, perhaps the most interesting part of Lord Salisbury's able and witty presidential address was that in which he touched on this very point, and on the present position of the doctrine of evolution. He commented on the magnitude of the change which has come over scientific thought in this period, the result being that the advanced views then held by the few now command almost universal assent among those whose attention has been directed to the subject. Nevertheless, Lord Salisbury was by no means diffident in proclaiming his own disbelief in the efficiency of Darwin's theories, and on behalf of the University expressed the view that the part played by the design of an all-wise and all-powerful Creator had been overlooked and somewhat foolishly set aside by the present exponents of evolution. Skilfully availing himself of the facts and arguments adduced by the physicists on the age of the earth he succeeded in stating the case against the mutability of species in a way which most of the non-biologists in the audience seemed to find very convincing. The lively line taken by the President was not without its effect on the speakers who were deputed to move and second the vote of thanks accorded to him. Lord Kelvin and Professor Huxley were, to some extent, "set by the ears." The President of the Royal Society re-stated his belief that the whole history of the globe must have been comprised within a period not exceeding one hundred million years. Professor Huxley, on the other hand, while admitting that the development of the successive races of beings which have inhabited the earth must have required many millions of years, declined to discuss the question of time; as a biologist, he had nothing to do with that. In spite of his declared wish to preserve the traditional decorum and polite concordance of the general meeting, Professor Huxley, as was afterwards remarked, allowed a slight whiff of the candid criticism proper to sectional debates to enter with him. His delightfully conveyed arguments and views pleased his numerous admirers beyond measure, and he was accorded a perfect ovation both before and after his all too short speech. Lord Salisbury's some-

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