

Extraordinary Meteor

THE following account of an extraordinary meteor occurs in a letter I received from a brother who is a missionary stationed in Agra. He does not give the exact place where he was at the time, but it must have been very near to Agra. The letter is dated Agra, 24th November, 1870. A missionary from Allahabad was with him when he saw it. ROBERT GRYSO

Mills Hill, Chadderston, near Manchester

"Agra, Nov. 24, 1870

"I recently saw a marvellous meteor. I was in camp, and had risen for an early march a few minutes before 3 A.M. on Nov. 4th. I was standing under the shade of a cluster of trees, when a sudden flash of light fell around. Two or three camp fires were blazing near, and at first I thought it might be a sudden flare up from one of them, but on casting my eyes up towards the heavens, I saw a large oval light, stationary. It appeared to be composed of a large number of irregularly-shaped, differently-sized stars, yet so closely packed as to form one light, yet giving the whole a sort of dappled appearance. At first I was struck dumb with amazement—thought it must be some mental illusion, or that my eyes were playing me false. But as I gazed it remained steadily fixed. — of Allahabad was with me. I roused him. He was soundly asleep, and some seconds passed in waking him up. In the interval it appeared to have been lengthened, nearly, though not quite, by a straight line, and as we gazed it assumed the shape of a large magnet, with the upper limb rather shorter than the other. It then gradually expanded, diminishing in brightness as it increased in size, assuming a wavy, serpentine form, though keeping much to a horse-shoe shape, until it became so attenuated as to be no longer visible. It must have continued in sight five minutes. It was seen by all the servants, and one of them cried out '*Bhagwanika seela hai*,'* by which he appeared to mean that in his opinion the Almighty was amusing Himself with fireworks; literally, 'It is God's sport or amusement.'"

NATURAL SCIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE

THE following is a list of the Scholarships and Exhibitions for proficiency in Natural Science which are likely to be offered in Cambridge during the present year:—

TRINITY COLLEGE.—One or two of the value of about 80*l.* per annum. The Examination will be in Easter week, and will be open to all undergraduates of Cambridge and Oxford. Should one Scholarship only be assigned, preference will be given to the candidate who shows the greatest proficiency in Physiology and the allied subjects. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. E. Blore, Tutor of Trinity College.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—One of the value of 50*l.* per annum. The Examination (in Chemistry, Physics, and Physiology, with Geology, Anatomy, and Botany) will be on the 21st and 22nd of April, and will be open to all persons who are not entered at the University, as well to all who have entered and have not completed one term of residence. In this College, moreover, Natural Science is now made one of the subjects of the regular College examination of its students at the end of the academical year (in May); and Exhibitions and Foundation Scholarships will in consequence be awarded to students who show an amount of knowledge equivalent to that which in Classics or Mathematics usually gains an Exhibition or Scholarship in the College. In short, Natural Science is on the same footing as Classics and Mathematics, both as regards teaching and rewards. Further information may be obtained from the Rev. T. G. Bonney, Tutor.

CHRIST'S COLLEGE.—One or more, in value from 30*l.* to 70*l.*, according to the number and merits of the candidates, tenable for three and a half years, and for three years longer by those who reside during that period at the

College. The examination will be on March 28, and will be open to the undergraduates of this College, to non-collegiate undergraduates of Cambridge, to all undergraduates of Oxford, and to any students who are not members of either university. The candidates may select their own subjects for examination. Besides these there are three other Exhibitions perfectly open, which are distributed annually among the most deserving students of the College.

CAIUS COLLEGE.—One of the value of 60*l.* per annum. The examination will be on March 30, in Chemistry and Experimental Physics, or Zoology, with Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, or Botany, including Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology.—Scholarships of the value of 20*l.* each, or more if the candidates are unusually good, are offered, for Anatomy and Physiology, to members of the College.—Gentlemen elected to the Tancred Medical Studentships are required to enter at this College; these studentships are four in number, and the annual value of each is 113*l.* Information respecting them may be obtained from B. J. L. Frere, Esq., 28, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London; and respecting the other scholarships, from the Rev. N. M. Ferrers, Tutor of the College.

CLARE COLLEGE.—One or more of the value of 50*l.* per annum. The examination (in Chemistry, Chemical Physics, Comparative Anatomy, and Physiology, and Geology) will be on March 23, and will be open to students intending to begin residence in October.

DOWNING COLLEGE.—One or more, according to the merits of the candidates, of the value of 40*l.* per annum. The examination (in Chemistry, Comparative Anatomy, and Physiology) will be in March, and will be open to all students not members of the University, as well as to all undergraduates in their first term.

SIDNEY-SUSSEX COLLEGE.—Two of the value of 40*l.* per annum. The examination (in Heat, Electricity, Chemistry, Geology, Physiology, Botany) will be in October, and will be open to all students who may enter on the College boards before October 1.

Although several subjects for examination are in each instance given, this is rather to afford the option of one or more to the candidates than to induce them to present a superficial knowledge of several. Indeed, it is expressly stated by some of the colleges that good clear knowledge of one or two subjects will be more esteemed than a general knowledge of several.

Candidates, especially those who are not members of the University, will, in most instances, be required to show a fair knowledge of Classics and Mathematics, such, for example, as would enable them to pass the Previous Examination.

There is no restriction on the ground of religious denomination in the case of these or of any of the Scholarships or Exhibitions in the Colleges or in the University.

Further necessary information may be obtained from the Tutors of the respective Colleges.

It may be added that Trinity College will give a Fellowship for Natural Science once, at least, in three years; and that most of the colleges are understood to be willing to award Fellowships for merit in Natural Science equivalent to that for which they are in the habit of giving them for Classics and Mathematics.

EXPLORATION OF THE PERENE
(AMAZONS) RIVER

ON the 28th November the Peruvian Government published the report of the expedition sent to examine the capabilities of the Perene river and neighbouring country, and the slope of their territory towards the Atlantic. This river, which is a branch from the Vucyali, rises near Tarma, the capital of the Department of Junin,

* I cannot be quite sure of these words, not knowing the original language in which they were spoken.—R. G.