

of resistance at the temperature of liquid hydrogen was made by Dewar on platinum, and he found that the resistance decreased to a certain value and then became constant. Thus from this result and from the behaviour of bismuth it is not altogether unexpected that a rather impure specimen of iron should show a definite turning power.

The present experiments, so far as they go, show that the resistance of iron at the temperature of -253° is actually greater than that at -191° (liquid air), a turning point on the curve occurring just below -200° . Several readings were taken of the resistance of the iron spiral when immersed in liquid hydrogen, and the readings in liquid air were consistent with my previous results. But the observations lack confirmation, and I am induced to publish them owing to the small chance of getting any more liquid hydrogen until next year. E. PHILIP HARRISON.

University College, London, July 31.

Retention of Leaves by Deciduous Trees.

I HAVE read with much interest the various communications in NATURE on this subject, as the phenomenon was the subject of much conjecture to me last winter in Northumberland. In one particular instance which I had constant opportunity of observing, the cause of the retention of the leaves could hardly have been "protection," as the beech hedge in question was in a very exposed, though by no means an elevated, situation. The hedge was a high one, probably 12 or 15 feet high, and formed a protection to the garden to the south or south-east of it, and in spite of the severe winds to which it was exposed it retained its leaves long after those of the beech trees of the neighbourhood had fallen.

I am inclined to think that it is much more probable that the frost theory brought forward by "P. T." in NATURE of May 15 is the true solution of the phenomenon than that the retention is a "protective device."

It would be interesting to know whether "P. T." or any other readers of NATURE can produce any further proof of early frosts causing the premature drying up of the leaves in the case of beech hedges and young small trees. If, as "P. T." suggests, the early freezing prevents the formation of the abscission layer of cork at the base of the petiole, it should also cause the leaves of hedges and small trees to display their autumn tints, or at least to show signs of drying up earlier than the leaves of the larger trees.

If this can be shown to be generally the case where the leaves are retained, I think "P. T.'s" theory would be considerably strengthened. A. F. G.

Henzada, July 1.

Campanulate Foxgloves.

IN the issue of NATURE for July 24 (p. 306) is a paragraph which is somewhat misleading. It is distinctly stated therein that "the terminal flower of each inflorescence was not a foxglove blossom, but a Canterbury bell (Campanula)," and again, "the combination of two flowers other than the foxglove and Campanula, if it occurs, would, however, be worth recording." There is no telling what hybridisers may do in the future, but it is quite certain they have not yet succeeded in crossing the foxglove with a Campanula, nor does it seem likely they will ever accomplish such a feat. Bigeneric hybrids (if they are really bigeneric) are not uncommon nowadays, but the union is always between nearly allied genera, not between groups so widely different one from the other as the foxglove and the Canterbury bell. The confluence of several of the uppermost flowers of the foxglove into a large cup-shaped blossom is not uncommon. Indeed, the peculiarity is so far "fixed" that a large percentage of the seeds from this form may now be relied on to "come true." Is this a case of the inheritance of an acquired character?

The synanthic condition of the foxglove flowers is mentioned in my "Vegetable Teratology," p. 40, or p. 59 of the German editions, and has repeatedly been recorded, but I am not aware that the cause of the deviation has been ascertained.

MAXWELL T. MASTERS.

Forestry.

IN my paper on forestry which appeared in NATURE of July 17 (p. 283) I was wrong in stating that *cueillettes* means "production of all kinds from baskets and fishing rods to sponges

and caviare." The term means articles of forest produce, collected and utilised, though not specially made the object of the working of the forest.

Fruits and seeds, grasses, flowers, bark, medicinal products, and so on, all belong to *cueillettes*.

This correction is due to Mr. J. S. Gamble, F.R.S., who wrote the article in the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society *Proceedings*, which I noticed in the paper referred to.

Coopers Hill, Englefield Green, Surrey. W. R. FISHER.

THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT BELFAST.

SECTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THOUGH several of the sections of the British Association have not completed their programmes, it is possible to make a preliminary statement of some of the subjects to be brought before the Belfast meeting. Up to the time of going to press, the following particulars of sectional arrangements have reached us.

In Section A (Physics) there is to be a department in astronomy and cosmical physics, to be presided over by Prof. Schuster. To this department papers on the work on Eros, on the Moon and on Nova Persei will be presented, and some discussion on points connected with the nebular theory will, it is hoped, take place. Photographs from Yerkes Observatory will probably be shown, and several seismological communications will be made. In the section itself, Lord Rayleigh will probably raise the question of the conservation of weight in chemical reactions; Prof. Trouton will describe his experiments to detect the rotation of the ether with the earth, and Dr. Larmor will have something to say on the temperature of radiant energy. Belfast will be represented in the programme, Profs. Everett, Morton and Dixon having several communications to make.

The presidential address in Section C (Geology), by General C. A. McMahon, F.R.S., will deal with the general principles of rock metamorphism. Among the papers received or promised for the section are the following:—(1) "The Geology of the District around Belfast, including the Mourne Mountains"; (2) lecture on "The Structure of Ireland," by Prof. Grenville A. J. Cole; on "The Viscous Fusion of Rock-forming Minerals," by Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S.; "List of Minerals known to occur in Ireland," by Mr. H. J. Seymour; note on "The Scenery of Ceylon," by Mr. A. K. Coomaraswamy; on "A Lower Carboniferous Fish-fauna from Victoria, Australia," by Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S.; on "The Graptolites of the Belfast District," by Mr. R. Clark; on "The Valleys at the Head of the Hardanger Fjord, Norway," by Mr. H. W. Monckton; on "The Marine Fauna of the Boulder Clay," by Mr. Joseph Wright; on "The Original Form of Sedimentary Deposits," by Rev. J. F. Blake; on "A Stage in the Evolution of the Brittle Stars," by Prof. W. J. Sollas, F.R.S.; on "The Fishes of the Lower Devonian 'Roofing Slate' of Gemünden, Germany," by Dr. R. H. Traquair, F.R.S.

Prof. Howes is president of Section D (Zoology) this year, and it is believed that he will devote his address to a general consideration of the importance of the morphological method in zoology. As regards the subsequent work of the section, several papers of a morphological and more or less technical character have already been promised. The president will show, on behalf of Dr. Hill, an interesting series of photographs of segmenting eggs and other early stages in the development of *Dasyurus*. Prof. Johnson Symington will read a paper on the "Cetacean Larynx." Prof. MacBride will describe the development of *Echinus*, and Mr. Bles, whose exhibit of living larvæ of *Xenopus* (*Dactylethra*) excited so much interest at the Royal Society's soirée