

DR. MAWSON AND PHOTOGRAPHY.
 Dr. Mawson and Professor David were responsible for most of the very successful photographs obtained by Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole. The photographic apparatus and supplies to be taken for use on Dr. Mawson's coming tour to the Antarctic regions will cost nearly £3,500. Dr. Mawson, who is a keen photographer, personally supervised the selection of cameras and supplies while he was in London. He is an expert in color photography, having had the advantage of tuition from one of the leading exponents in London, and wonders are expected as a result of the Autochrome process. For the expedition Newman & Guardia have supplied ten cameras fitted with specially adjusted parts to suit the Arctic regions. They are mostly of the reflex type, including two special Sybils fitted with carriers for autochrome work. A cinematograph camera and outfit will be taken. There are several cases of plates in all speeds, and complete dark room outfits for the ship Aurora, and for each base or hut on land. The chemical shelf is composed almost exclusively of "scaloids," the new photographic tablets. Messrs. Lumiere, of Paris, are supplying 7,000 ft. of cinematographic films, and a case of Lumiere autochrome plates. Dr. Mawson (says "Harrington's Photographic Journal") intends to develop most of his plates on the spot, but will send the cinematograph films to London to be developed. It is therefore certain that with the return of this expedition, about April 1913, much will be learnt not only concerning many problems in the geological history of Antarctica, but also the flora and fauna of the region by the medium of the camera.

Advertiser, Oct. 20/11

The Rhodes Scholarship Committee in England has given permission to Mr. C. T. Madigan, this year's South Australian Rhodes scholar, to resume his studies at Oxford University under the terms of his scholarship after his return from the Antarctic regions, whether he is going as a member of the staff of Dr. Mawson's expedition.

Register, Oct. 20/11

THE GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

From "Not a Politician":—"With respect to the appointment of a Government geologist the Treasurer has made no mention of seeking Mr. Brown's advice in the selection of his successor, though Mr. Brown has for years been the chief geological adviser of the Ministries of the State. The University authorities have been asked to advise the Government. Recent correspondence in The Register on matters geological and otherwise has shown that the scientific staff of the University is far from unbiassed with regard to a certain candidate for the position. The representative of the Ministry in the Legislative Council stated that the Treasurer was by no means satisfied with Dr. Basedow's work as Assistant Geologist. Whence this happy inspiration that is in discordance with previous utterances on the same subject, and that allows an easy answer on the Treasurer's part to a somewhat difficult question? It was only fair to Dr. Basedow that the intended snub should have consisted of a specific statement, and not a generality that carries the face value of fictitiousness."

THE GLACIAL CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor.

Sir—In The Register of October 27 appears a letter by "Fritz Noetling" in which he tries to detract from Dr. Basedow's high qualifications by rushing into print before he has made sure of his facts. The less one knows of a subject frequently more vividly does the imagination work, and in this respect Fritz Noetling's imagination is colossal. Had "Fritz Noetling" confined himself to the glacial theory I should not have troubled to reply to him, as I am content with the late Professor Tate's own theory—Professor Tate was selected by the great Professor Huxley, of London, and I had the good fortune to study under him—and until one greater than he can disprove this theory I shall not worry whether a glacial period ever existed or not. But as a former student in Göttingen that's another matter, and herein can I testify to the high standard of the Göttingen M.D. I went to Göttingen solely on Professor Watson's advice—Professor Watson being an M.D., Göttingen—and soon realized the herculean task before me. In my time 10 semesters or a five years' course were, and still are, necessary. Having previously studied in Australia, my time of five years was accepted; and as soon as I knew enough German, and wrote my thesis, on a subject of which at that time there were but 14 published cases in the world, I was allowed to sit for my examination, which took me 3 semesters to accomplish. Noetling says the M.D., Göttingen, is an "ornamental handle to the name," but it does not give the licence to act as a medical practitioner in Germany. So far as I personally am concerned, this is a mis-statement. In my time in Prussia the M.D. and Staats examen were two distinct degrees, comparable with the M.D. (Lond.) and the M.R.C.S. (Eng.), both of which allowed one to practise, but only the M.D. allows one to be called Doctor. I obtained the M.D., Göttingen, in 1898, and am allowed to practise there. Six years later, in Berlin, Professor Orth told me that, had I passed my examination then, I could not have practised, as Germany, with its 2 universities, produced too many German doctors to allow of competition by foreigners. The same holds good in Paris; and even Sir Frederick Treves, of England, could not practise in Germany now, any more than Professor Orth could in England, without qualifying in those lands. My professors were Rosenbach, of bacteriology fame; Merkel, the greatest living anatomist; Professor Orth, who succeeded Virchow in Berlin; Ebstein, the physician; and Meissner, the physiologist, as well as several others less known. Among a few of the celebrities who studied there were V. Bismarck Bunsen (the great chemist), Benjamin Franklin, Lessing, Longfellow, Heine, Goethe, Grimm, Wagner, Bancroft, Ira Rensch, the various Prussian Kings and the present German Empress. As a matter of fact, the Göttingen University is the stepping stone to the medical faculty in Berlin. Between 1890 and 1900 Professors König, the surgeon; Krause, the anatomist, who visited Australia; Orth, the pathologist; and Sultan, the first surgeon to operate the living heart, went to Berlin from Göttingen. So much for the high standard of the Göttingen M.D., which their professors so rigidly and zealously guard. Dr. Basedow spent five years in Adelaide studying science (10 semesters), also three years (six semesters) in Germany—a total of 16 semesters, or eight years; three years longer than an Australian takes to pass his medical examination. Dr. Basedow started off with a complete knowledge of German; and had he been an ignoramus, would Prof. Klaatsch, the greatest living anthropologist, have invited him to study with him in Breslau? Dr. Basedow is only very slightly known to me; therefore, I hold no brief for him. What was "Fritz Noetling's" object in writing a long letter headed "A Glacial Controversy," when he does nothing but try to belittle Dr. Basedow's M.D., although he says cheap witticism, boasting, verbosity, and personal abuse do not stand for arguments—and in this I totally agree? In conclusion, I wish to ask Fritz Noetling these questions:—1. As a German why does he try to belittle his own German universities? 2. Did he study for the M.D., Göttingen? If so, with what results—as he is not a doctor of medicine, although he is a Doctor of Philosophy? 3. Is he a candidate for the position of Government Geologist in South Australia, and likes to see his name frequently before the public? I agree entirely with Dr. Henry, who so lucidly and fairly sums up this subject, and I advise these geologists at variance to settle the matter finally, as advised by Bret Hart, in "Truthful James."

I am, Sir, &c.,

E. ANGAS JOHNSON, M.D., Ch.D., Göttingen.

Adelaide, October 28.

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Departure of Members.

Lieut. Watkins to Return to England.

Dr. Douglas Mawson, Mr. G. F. Ainsworth, and Mr. Webb, members of the expedition being organized by Dr. Mawson to explore the Antarctic continent, were passengers to Melbourne by the express on Monday. They will proceed immediately to Hobart, where the other members of the party are gathered. Dr. Mawson stated to a representative of The Register that he expected to be back in Adelaide in about a fortnight, but the other members of the expedition would remain in Tasmania until the departure of the Aurora early in December. Mr. Ainsworth is the meteorological officer delegated to take charge of the wireless and weather stations to be established on Macquarie Island, and Mr. Webb is one of the officers appointed by the Carnegie Institute to make magnetic surveys of various parts of the world. Among those present on the platform to witness the departure of the party was Lieut. Watkins, who came out as aviator to the expedition, but it has been decided that he will not make the trip, and in consequence Lieut. Watkins will return to London by the next P. & O. steamer. The engine of the aeroplane was repaired after the accident at Cheltenham, but Dr. Mawson decided that he would not use it again for flying, although efforts were made locally to induce him to have the wings repaired with a view of giving Lieut. Watkins an opportunity of making another flight. Dr. Mawson will now use the machine solely for sleighing purposes, and as the services of an aviator will not be required, Lieut. Watkins will return to England.

Lieut. Watkins Disappointed.—

When interviewed some time ago Dr. Mawson said:—"The aeroplane would be used chiefly for reconnoitering from the various bases to be established, as 100 miles could be traversed in three hours. Heavy ice crevices and floes could be negotiated, and plateaus could be searched without difficulty." When it was known on Monday that Lieut. Watkins, who had been brought out specially for this work was to return to England, a representative of The Register had a chat with him. Lieut. Watkins is an officer of an Essex regiment, and is well known in the flying world. He admitted that he was greatly disappointed at not accompanying the expedition. The machine he had at his disposal was of the finest type it was possible to procure for this particular class of work, and he naturally felt he would have liked another opportunity to prove the capabilities of the monoplane before he left Australia. The accident he met with was most unfortunate. Many of the accidents and deaths to aviators which occurred in the old world were due to air pockets such as was encountered at Cheltenham on the day of the trial, and they existed in various conditions of atmosphere. Partial vacuums were caused through air rising and descending. They resulted through the meeting of currents of air from various directions and of different temperatures, and they had a tendency to force the flying machine up or down. These pockets were particularly dangerous when the machines were close to the ground, although they might be encountered at higher altitudes. For example, Lieut. Reynolds, of the Army Air Battalion, England, was overturned at a height of 1,500 ft., and while the machine was totally wrecked, the aviator escaped by a miracle. "This was my first accident," continued Lieut. Watkins. "I had had one or two minor mishaps in landing, but those were of no account. There are few experienced airmen who have not wrecked six or seven machines, but during 16 months, when I took up 400 passengers, I never wrecked a machine. It was chiefly on this account that I was selected by Dr. Mawson for the arctic expedition. In these circumstances it will be readily understood how disappointed I am, not only to miss the opportunity of joining the expedition, but also to lose the chance of being the first aviator to fly in the antarctic. Had the machine, which is a Vickers, been repaired, I am confident that no further mishap would have occurred, as I regard this as the finest type of machine ever turned out."