

only quite recently suffered at the hands of one of the greatest authorities in cranology. Geheimerrath Professor Dr. von Luschan, Berlin, speaks in a most uncomplimentary way of this paper, in which Dr. Basedow used as a thesis for his medical degree. He calls it "eine Entgleisung." The meaning of the word is difficult to translate. Literally it meant "derailment of a train," but metaphorically it is used as a polite form of saying that the contents are of no scientific value. As Dr. Basedow has used this paper as a thesis to obtain his medical degree, and as he refers to his medical appointment, I wish to ask him a simple, plain question. Has he passed that examination which alone would entitle him to act as a medical practitioner in Germany, viz., the "Staatsexamen?"

I am, Sir, &c., FRITZ NOETTLING.

To the Editor.

Sir—It had been my intention not to continue this controversy any longer, but Mr. Howchin's last letter, in which he refers to mine as a "perversion of facts" and as "a controversy which is carried on with such recklessness as to facts," calls for the production of still more evidence in support of my statements. I must then leave it to others who will take the trouble to analyse the contents of our letters, to judge who has spoken "in the interests of truth," and who has adopted "objectionable methods."

1. Was it necessary that I should have told you that "the morning after our paper was read at the Royal Society the substance of that paper appeared in the daily press?" I thought it was a well-known fact that your reporters are always present at meetings of the society when papers of public interest are likely to be read. On April 5, 1905, you, sir, honoured us by devoting a column to our paper, read at the society the night before. Your journal distributes among the general public, in a legible way, scientific material which would otherwise be lost to all but specialists. On the other hand, it would be asking much of scientists, especially those on the other side of the globe, to peruse all the daily papers in existence, in the vain hope of finding something of scientific interest contained therein. For this reason opportunity is afforded scientists to publish their papers in recognised journals of learned societies. That is why I thought I was justified in writing to you that, "without giving the scientific world a chance of listening to our evidence, the volumes of the Royal Society were distributed all the world over."

2. I regret that Mr. Howchin added that these reports by pressmen appeared in the dailies "much to the surprise of the council of the Royal Society." I have to remind you of the occasion when the Royal Society censured me for the paragraph you had kindly published in your paper relating to my observations on the aborigines of the Northern Territory, after I read my paper at a meeting of the society. You were kind enough to exonerate me on that occasion by referring to the matter as "strange conduct of the Royal Society" (vide The Register, October 24, 25, and 26, 1906). This censure was subsequently withdrawn, when the Secretary of the Royal Society wrote to me officially as follows:—"I am directed by the council of the Royal Society to express their regret that their letter referred to by you (the censure) was written under a misapprehension of the facts as now explained by you. They desire to withdraw the letter." In addition to this official withdrawal of the censure, one of the influential members of the society wrote to me privately:—"I sympathize with you in the row about the newspaper. I should not regard newspaper publication as publication at all in a scientific sense. It is very good for all scientific work that the papers should popularize it as much as possible. Often substantial help may result from interest thus aroused in wealthy and influential people. The object of the rule that papers are property of societies is to prevent the same article simultaneously being given to another scientific periodical. As I am a member, it would not be seemly for me to criticise the society's executive, so please do not quote me as saying this."—It, therefore, seems a pity that Mr. Howchin should have drawn the council of the Royal Society into the discussion of this case, which is precisely similar, and so forced me to revive an almost forgotten and most unpleasant incident.

3. If my statement that "remarks appeared in the official records of the Royal Society of South Australia simply because Mr. Howchin happened to be editor," is "an unwarranted attack, not only on himself, but also on the society referred to," how is it that the Royal Society officially admitted their mistake by instructing their editor (Mr. Howchin) to include the following paragraph, signed by the editor himself, in their volume of Transactions for the year 1906, page 343:—"In April, 1905, Messrs. Hiffe and Basedow read a paper before the society on 'The formation known as glacial beds of Cambrian age in South Australia.' This paper came on for discussion at the following evening meeting, and the report of such discussion was included in the printed proceedings. As the paper in question was not accepted for publication, it was obviously unfair to the author to publish criticisms on it. That such should have been done was an oversight and a matter of regret." Two letters were also received by us from the secretary of the society, stating respectively that "The council wish to express its regret that comments on the paper should have been printed in the society's transactions," and "that they expressed regret that a technical error should have been committed in publishing adverse criticism on an unpublished paper."

As regards the discussion at the Australasian Association's meeting in Adelaide, if Dr. Mawson "has no remembrance whatever" of the interruption by the President, I have the assurance of two other members who do remember, but they prefer not to be drawn into this discussion. Other matters mentioned by Mr. Howchin in his last letter have already been dealt with; I must therefore again beg you to be good enough to include this letter, which will be my last of the series, in your correspondence columns. Occidit miseris crambe repetita magistros.

I am, Sir, &c.,

H. BASEDOW.

Kent Town, September 29.

Advertiser, Oct 3rd, 1911

MISSIONARY AND SCIENTIST.

Dr. Karl Kumm, F.R.G.S., the celebrated African explorer and missionary, who returned from Brisbane to Melbourne last week, will reach Adelaide on Saturday. He will be the guest of Mr. W. Herbert Philipps. Dr. Kumm is to speak in Melbourne on Thursday on "The Menace of Islam in Africa." He is director-general of the Sudan mission, and is well known throughout the world as an author and explorer. He is an accomplished speaker, and his address in Melbourne on "The Destiny of the Negro Race" was described by the press of that city as being both eloquent and highly instructive. He gave in it a taste of his powers of leadership, combined with a grip of the missionary problem, which is exceedingly rare. In referring to his address in Sydney last week the Sydney Morning Herald says:—"Dr. Kumm modestly styled himself a student of African affairs, yet he has explored in the face of extraordinary difficulties some of the most inaccessible parts of Africa." In his address on that occasion Dr. Kumm said from a political, national, business, religious, and commonsense standpoint, the only thing possible to stem the tide of Islam was to Christianise the Pagan millions in Africa, and establish a chain of missions from the Niger to the Nile. But the negro should not be Europeanised. There should not be superimposed on them a civilisation that could not fit them. It was a time of crisis in Africa. Unless the missions Christianised these 35,000,000 pagans who could be easily won, the whole of Africa would go. The Sudanese must be saved from the grip of Islam. It was a challenge to Christendom. He paid a high tribute to General Gordon. Gordon, he said, was only three years Governor-General of Egypt, but he put his stamp on Africa. His memory was revered by white and black alike. Kitchener would be forgotten, and Cromer and Cecil Rhodes, but Africa would never forget Gordon. There was a new call to the Christian manhood of Australia, and that was to help in the task of saving Africa from Islam. Dr. Kumm is to lecture to Melbourne University students to-morrow, and in the afternoon is to be entertained by the Lord Mayor. A number of engagements have been made for him in Adelaide. He will conduct the Rev. Henry Howard's service in the Adelaide Town Hall on Sunday evening.

ANTARCTIC TRAVEL.

DR. MAWSON'S PROJECT.

OFFICERS OF THE EXPEDITION.

In response to a question in Sydney on Thursday whether he had selected all the officers for his expedition to the Antarctic regions, Dr. Mawson said:—

"I have selected some of them, but a lot of good men have still to find out definitely whether they can make arrangements for their absence during the period of the expedition—about 16 months. Besides those I have selected there are at least 25 whose applications are still under consideration. Those who have been definitely selected are:—

"Mr. Frank Wild (who was a member of Shackleton's Farther South party).

"Lieutenant Watkins, in charge of the aeroplane.

"Lieutenant Ninnis, surveyor.

"Mr. Bickerton, assistant aviator.

"Mr. Joyce, in charge of the dogs, stores, and zoological collections.

"Dr. Mertz, the eminent ice expert.

"Mr. Watson, geologist, from the Sydney University.

"Mr. Laceron, collector, from the Technical College, Sydney.

"Mr. Stilwell, geologist, from the Melbourne University.

"Mr. Murphy, from Melbourne, who was the sledging expert of the Russian expedition in Siberia, which was led by Baron von Toll.

"Mr. Hodgeman, from Adelaide, artist, draughtsman, and surveyor.

"Mr. Webb, from Christchurch, N.Z., who will be the magnetician of the party.

"Lieutenant Bage, R.A.A., from Melbourne, who will act as surveyor.

"Dr. McLean, of the Coast Hospital, Sydney."

"Is there any possibility of your deciding at the last moment, to make a dash for the South Pole?" asked the reporter.

"No," said Dr. Mawson. Then he added:—"There is only one circumstance—and that a remote one—which might lead us to do that. We intend to follow along the coastline, and to chart it. If that coastline should be found by us to extend to the South Pole we will still follow it. Of course, that is unlikely. Still, very little is known of the land in those regions, and ships have at times sailed over places which were charted as mountains."

Dr. Mawson stated that some of the scientific instruments and also the aeroplane had arrived in Adelaide. The aviators were in Adelaide, and an exhibition flight would be given in that city in aid of the expedition before the machine was taken to Sydney.

There is a great deal of work still to do, and Dr. Mawson is still confronted with the difficulty of finance. He arrived in Sydney on Wednesday morning, lunched at the University with Professor David, and in the afternoon caught the Brisbane express to conduct a campaign in the northern State. "But," said he, "my fears of failure are over. I am confident now that I will get the £50,000 that I am aiming at."