produced at the surface. In his remarks on the great storm (at Nassau, October 1866), Captain Chatfield observed, "that (during the calm) while the vortex of the storm was passing over the harbour, the atmosphere was most oppressive, and the clouds in the zenith appeared to be revolving rapidly." Under certain modifying circumstances, the same *vera causa* will, I believe, account satisfactorily for the phenomena of "hail-storms," "water-spouts," &c. But I am unwilling to trespass too much on your space.

Glenville, Fermoy HENRY HUDSON, M.D.

A Cyclone in England.

IT is so seldom we get a cyclone so well developed in these latitudes, that I have thought the following observations would interest the readers of NATURE.

Noon.	Barometer,	29.678.	Wind,	S.S.W.	Estimated force,	4
4 P.M.	,,	29.304.	,,	S.W.	,,	9
6 P.M.	,,	29.205.	,,	W.	,,	10
9.40 P.M.	,,	29.342.	,,	W.N.W.	,,	9
11 P.M.	,,	29.391.	,,	N.W.	,,	7

It will be observed the wind began to freshen from the S.S.W. with a falling barometer; it then veered to S.W., W.S.W. to W., the barometer falling the whole time. When the wind arrived at W. the storm was at its height and the barometer a minimum. The wind then veered W. by N., W.N.W. to N.W., gradually becoming less violent, and the barometer rose during that time. The storm lasted about twelve or fourteen hours.

From the above, I deduce that Plymouth must have been in the southern half of the cyclone which travelled eastward; hence, probably, more damage must have been done further north than here.

I should feel obliged by any reader of NATURE living in the North or East of England, giving the results of his observations during the storm. F.R.A.S.

Plymouth, 17th December, 1869.

Lectures to Ladies

I HAVE only just seen the letter in NATURE, signed "M.A.B.," on the subject of the hour chosen for lectures to ladies. I most sincerely hope that the morning hour will be continued. It is certainly to be regretted if this arrangement is inconvenient to ladies engaged in teaching; but to the far larger number who are not so engaged, any other hour would be prohibitory.

In addition to the constant inconvenience entailed on ladies by the necessity (or supposed necessity) of their being "fetched and carried" every time they go out after dark, all ladies living ordinary lives in quiet homes, know very well that it behoves them to get their "occupations" done in the day-time, and that if they began attending courses of lectures in the evening, their fathers, husbands, and brothers would be apt to raise a pretty forcible outcry against the advance of female education.

If I might venture to make a suggestion, it would be that South Kensington is a very long way from everywhere else, and that a more central situation would add very much to the convenience of those who come from a distance. I am sure that no one who attended Professor Huxley's course of lectures just concluded, begrudged the time and trouble it cost them to get there, or thought it anything but well bestowed; at the same time a shorter and more manageable expedition would be a great boon to many. M. T. G.

NOTES

THE Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has, we are informed, been this year awarded to M. Delaunay, one of the greatest of living mathematicians and astronomers, for his many important investigations. We are sure that English astronomers will hail this award with the liveliest satisfaction.

THE question of Meteorological Standards is, we learn, now occupying the attention of the Royal Society Council. We may hope, therefore, that the revision which has so long been needed will now take place.

THE Lecturers named for the Friday Evening Meetings at the Royal Institution, before Easter, are Prof. Tyndall, F.R.S., Prof. Odling, F.R.S., Prof. Ruskin, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, F.R.S., Mr. W. K. Clifford, Colonel Sir Henry James, F.R.S., Mr. E. J. Reed, C.B., Chief Constructor of the Navy, Prof. Sylvester, F.R.S., Mr. P. W. Barlow, F.R.S, Prof. Rolleston, F.R.S., Prof. Roscoe, F.R.S., and Prof. Huxley, F.R.S. Prof. Tyndall's discourse will be on "Haze and Dust," and will probably be delivered on the 21st of January. Dr. Odling proposes to lecture on "Prof. Graham's Scientific Work;" Dr. Carpenter on "Temperature and Life in the Deep Sea," and Prof. Sylvester on "Chance."

THE Keith Prize of the Royal Society of Edinburgh was awarded on Monday to Professor Tait, for his paper on the rotation of a rigid body about a fixed point.

THE Professorship of Botany in the Royal College of Science, Dublin, is now vacant, Professor Wyville Thomson's resignation having been accepted by the Science and Art Department.

THE following lectures will be given in the course of the present session of the Chemical Society:—On Vanadium, by Dr. Roscoe; on Refraction Equivalents, by Dr. Gladstone; and on the Platinic Ammoniums, by Dr. Odling.

THE subscriptions to the Faraday Monument Fund, received up to Dec. 7, amount to £1,400. The object of the fund is to provide a public memorial to Faraday, and the subscription from one person is not to exceed five guineas.

PROFESSOR CARL VOGT, of Vienna, is actively engaged in the formation of an Anthropological Society for Austria.

DR. S. COULL MACKENZIE has been appointed to the professorship of Hygiene in the Calcutta Medical College.

IN a new quarterly journal devoted to public hygiene, and produced at Brunswick, in Germany, we find a carefully-written article upon English institutions for hygiene, and English factories. There are also contributions upon army hygiene, barrack reform, and drainage. The journal is edited by Prof. Riclam, of Leipzig.

THE Argenteuil Prize has been awarded by the Academy of Medicine of Paris in the following way:—To Mr. Corradi, of Florence, 5,000 francs; to MM. Mallez and Tripier, 2,000 francs; to M. Reliquet, 1,000 francs.

THE General Secretary of the Academy of Vienna has published as a *tirage apart* from the almanack of the Academy, a biographical sketch of Karl Ludwig Freiherr von Reichenbach, who, after a long and distinguished scientific career, died in January last at the advanced age of eighty-one. Dr. Schrotter divides the period of Reichenbach's scientific activity into three parts: the first, that of practical work and exact research, during which he enriched mankind by the discovery of paraffin and creosote; the second, that which he devoted to the study of meteorites, a study in which his enthusiastic mind led him beyond the boundary of accurate science; and, lastly, the time when he gave himself up to the investigation of so-called animal magnetism and the imaginary odic force by which he sought to explain the phenomena he thought he had discovered. Dr. Schrötter rightly concludes, that however far astray Reichenbach may have been led by his odic notions, he earned for himself an honourable place in science, his very errors being those of a highly-gifted man.

WE have received the first part of the volume recording the scientific results of the travels of Baron Claus von der Decken in East Africa, during the years 1857–1865. The materials have been worked up by Peters, Cabanis, Hilgendorf, Ed. von Martens, and Semper, and comprise Mammalia, Birds, Amphibia, Crustacea, Mollusca, and Echinodermata. The part before us is illustrated by thirty-five lithographic plates of great beauty, most of them being carefully and delicately coloured. The second part, which is to contain the Insects and Spiders, has been entrusted to Gerstäcker.

DR. OLDHAM, the president, has communicated to the Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal some interesting notes on remains found in a Cromlech at Coorg. This Cromlech was