

## NOTES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

**W**HEN the British Association which held its meeting at Leicester last month was founded more than a century ago, there was a disposition to disparage its aims. Dickens described it as "the Muding Association for the Advancement of Everything," where "Professors Snore, Doze and Wheezy" held forth on "Umbology" and similar subjects, says the London "Daily Telegraph." Scientists a century ago were inclined to be stodgy, but whatever other failings present-day professors may have, they have lost much of their dullness. Wit may not often enliven the meetings of the British Association, but it finds full outlet at the Red Lion Club, of which few know. This club was founded in 1850 by Edward Forbes, and always invites special guests to dinner at least once during its annual meetings. The chairman is known as the "Lion King," new members as "Cubs," and the organisers as "Jackals." Whenever a member rises to speak he has to flourish his coat-tails and roar.

Before the echoes of the Wilberforce celebrations die away it might not be amiss to recall the part played by a book in bringing about the abolition of slavery in America thirty years after England had freed the slaves in her colonies, says a contributor to the "Manchester Guardian." In 1852, when the slavery controversy had reached its bitterest heights, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published as a serial in the "National Era," a Washington weekly magazine. When she wrote the first instalment, Harriet Beecher Stowe thought she might be able to keep her story running through twelve issues, but actually it ran through forty numbers. She was pleased with a payment of about £60, with another £50 for which she sold the English rights to a London publisher. As a serial it does not seem to have attracted much attention, but in book form it took the world by storm. In a short period its sale had reached 400,000 copies in the United States, and there was a constant demand for further issues. When North and South, in 1861, came to face an issue in which one must triumph and the other surrender, there was in the North a vast body of young men who had come to their first vote in 1860, and had read Mrs. Beecher Stowe's story when they were lads and had seen it dramatised on the stage. They were Abolitionists to a man, and, although they fought primarily to prevent the secession of the South, they fought also to put down slavery, which "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had taught them to regard with a fierce hatred.

There is another side to the picture painted in the preceding paragraph of the merit of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Another

merit of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Another contributor to our Lancashire contemporary throws a new and disconcerting light on the authoress's own mature view of her work. This contributor writes:—"A friend of mine, now an old lady, had the good fortune to be present at a dinner party given in honor of the famous American when Mrs. Stowe visited England. 'A little, birdlike woman,' she recalls, 'with the brightest eyes I ever saw in any human head.' But what remains chiefly in my friend's memory is the strict injunction which her hostess gave her to avoid all mention of 'Uncle Tom'; 'Mrs. Beecher Stowe is sorry now she ever wrote the book. The sufferings of the slaves in it are grossly exaggerated—she thought all that was permissible when fiction was her medium—and no one was more surprised than Mrs. Stowe when her book was accepted with such terrible seriousness.'"

Thirty thousand boys, representative of the Boys' Brigade at home and abroad, paraded in Glasgow on 29th September before Prince George, to commemorate the jubilee of the movement after two years of preparation for it. It was in a small church in the Cowcaddens district of Glasgow that the B.B. movement commenced, says the "Weekly Scotsman." In very humble circumstances, the late Sir William A. Smith gathered together several of the poorest children in Glasgow,

who were his pupils as a Sunday school teacher, and by practising habits conducive to the advancement of the welfare of the youths, he founded the world-wide organisation known as the Boys' Brigade, the membership of which is numbered by the hundred thousand. The Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, has explained how the Boys' Brigade led to the Boy Scouts:—"It was my privilege to inspect the Boys' Brigade at Glasgow on their 21st birthday, when the total strength of the brigade was 54,000. On that occasion Sir William Smith suggested to me the idea of rewriting my little book for training soldiers for service called 'Aids to Scouting,' so as to apply to boys' training for good citizenship. So I wrote 'Scouting for Boys,' intending it mainly for use in the brigade. But so many boys outside the organisation took up the idea, until it became necessary to organise them as the Boy Scouts."

The Gloucestershire girl water diviner, whose feats equal those of many professional "dowsers," is said to have discovered her powers by accident, writes the London Diarist of the "Evening Standard." That is so in most cases, I imagine, except where the gift runs in a family. I have a friend who, when building a house in Scotland, employed a dowsers to find water for him. The attempt was unsuccessful, but my friend, who was idly examining the hazel twig, suddenly thought he felt it move in his hand. He proceeded to experiment, and in a short time had considerably better results than the expert. The gift is much more widely possessed than is generally realised, and any reader of these lines

more widely possessed than is generally realised, and any reader of these lines may quite well be a dowsing without knowing it.

The commendable impartiality of the Guernsey magistrate who tried himself for a motoring offence and inflicted the maximum fine reminded "Peterborough," of the London "Daily Telegraph," of the following story from Kenya:—In an upland district a doctor acts as deputy to the magistrate, and recently the pair of them broke the law by driving at night without a light. They agreed that the law must be vindicated, and each appeared before the other to answer the charge. The magistrate, taking precedence, tried the doctor and fined him five rupees. The doctor then tried the magistrate, and fined him fifty rupees! He justified his severity by pointing out that, since this was the second case of the kind that day, obviously the offence was becoming far too common!



**WOMAN OF THE SUBUANOS.**  
The Subuano women wear tightly-buttoned clothing.  
—(Photo, Philippine Bureau of Science.)