

MISCELLANEOUS.

NOTE ON SIR GEORGE DARWIN.

BY PHILIP E. B. JOURDAIN.

In the biographical sketch of the late Sir George Darwin, which appeared in *The Open Court* for April, I stated that Sir George's mathematical talent appears to have come from his mother's family rather than his father's. On this point, which is interesting both from the general point of view of the heredity of genius and from the particular point of view, I have some further information from Mrs. Litchfield and Mr. Horace Darwin—of both of whom Sir George was a brother. Mrs. Litchfield says: "I only know one mathematical Wedgwood, Hensleigh, who took a good double degree. I thought there was some evidence—but I forget what—that mathematical ability came through the Darwins." Mr. Horace Darwin writes: "Erasmus, my father's brother, had, I think, a mathematical mind. He never did any serious mathematical work, but read differential and integral calculus for pleasure long after he had finished his education. He had a very decided mechanical bent of mind too. But his mother was a Wedgwood. Erasmus, my great grandfather, as you know, was of a decidedly scientific turn of mind and had a very strong bent towards mechanics. How much of a mathematician he was I do not know, but I expect he had that turn of mind. He was a Senior Optime in 1757 about; not that this goes for much and perhaps points to his not being really mathematical. Francis Galton, descended from the old Erasmus, was decidedly mechanical, and had, I think, a mathematical turn of mind. What he did at Cambridge in the way of mathematics I do not know—not much I guess."

Major Leonard Darwin says that Francis Galton got some of his mathematics from the Galton side.

Mechanical ability seems to have characterized many great mathematicians—Newton, for instance—especially in boyhood. It may further be remarked that the name "Wrangler," "Senior Optime," and "Junior Optime" are still preserved in Cambridge to mark the class—the first, second, or third respectively—of a man who had taken mathematical honors for his B.A. degree. Erasmus Darwin, the author of the *Botanic Garden*, *Zoonomia*, etc., and grandfather of Charles Darwin, was first Junior Optime in 1754. A "Wedgwood" of Christ's College was a Wrangler in 1824 and, in the same year, took a third class in the Classical Tripes; a "Wedgwood" of Trinity was last Junior Optime in 1860; and a Darwin of Christ's was Junior Optime in 1862. I have been unable to find any other Darwin or Wedgwood in the

lists of men who took mathematical honors up to 1867. In 1868 Sir George was second Wrangler.

THE POPE OF TAOISM.

At the time of the Parliament of Religions in 1893 an essay was received on Taoism which was especially delightful on account of the sincerity in which it was written, but the author was not known. In the rush of business the name and address of the sender seem to have been misplaced, and there was the manuscript alone to speak for itself.

In a report of a recent meeting of the International Institute of China at Shanghai on page 567 it is related that Dr. Timothy Richard on that occasion mentioned that he himself procured the consent of the Taoist pope to furnish an explanation of his religion for the Religious Parliament. Accordingly we can state definitely that the article received at that time (and now republished on another page of this issue) comes from no less an authority on Taoism than the pope himself. If it was not actually written by the Heavenly Master Chang, it was certainly furnished and authorized by him. We note in it the candid spirit of acknowledging the faults of the Taoist priesthood and the sincere desire for reform. What a remarkable concession from the head of an ancient, powerful, and firmly established church!

The papacy of the Taoists is a very ancient institution; it is hereditary and the oldest member of this venerable papal clan, Chang Liang, is known to history as having lived about 200 B. C.

It must be remembered that Chang Liang of the Chang family was a friend of Emperor Lin Pang, the founder of the Han dynasty, and assisted in putting him on the throne in 208 B. C. Chang Liang would accept no honors or rewards for his services but withdrew and devoted himself to meditation. After about two centuries Chang Tao-Ling (born 34 A. D.), one of Chang Liang's descendants in the 8th generation, was as much averse to worldly power as his ancestor and is reported to have discovered the secret of the elixir of life. The story goes that at the age of 123 years he swallowed it and ascended to heaven. The respect to the Chang family as the representatives of Taoist wisdom and the official honors bestowed upon them by imperial protection continued, and it is reported that in 423 A. D., K'ö K'ien-Che was recognized as the legitimate successor to the dignity of his ancestors under the title *T'ien She* which means "Heavenly Master," implying that he was the head of Taoism. His successors have all been descendants of Chang Liang even down to our day, the present incumbent being the 62d Chang T'ien She. There is no dynasty in Europe which can boast of the same antiquity and uninterrupted prosperity as these Taoist popes.

There are two branches in Taoism. In one the priests marry, and are subject to the so-called Taoist pope. In the other celibacy is obligatory. Its priests are not subject to the pope, but are under the control of the head abbot of a Taoist temple in Peking.

We will further state that the so-called pope has more political than spiritual power. His selection from the members of the Chang family is always ratified by the government. The present pope holds his office still on the authority of the late Emperor or rather Empress Dowager. It is probable that