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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1895.

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Subscriptions and advertisements should be sent to SCIENCE, 41 N. Queen St., Lancaster, Pa., or 41 East 49th St., New York.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MUSEUMS.*

In an article on 'The use and abuse of Museums,' written nearly fifteen years ago

* Part of a paper on 'The Principles of Museum Administration,' read before the *Museums Association*, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, July 23, 1895.

by Professor William Stanley Jevons, attention was directed to the circumstance that there was not, at that time, in the English language a treatise analyzing the purposes and kinds of museums, and discussing the general principles of their management and economy. It is somewhat surprising that the need then made so evident has not since been supplied and that there is not at the present day such a treatise in the English or any other language. Many important papers have in the interval been printed in regard to particular classes of museums and special branches of museum work. Notable among these have been those written by Sir William H. Flower, Professor W. A. Herdman, Dr. J. S. Billings, Dr. H. H. Higgins, Dr. Albert Günther and General Pitt Rivers, and there had previously been printed the well known essay of Dr. J. E. Gray, Edward Forbes' suggestive paper on 'Educational Uses of Museums,' in 1853, and the still earlier one by Edward Edwards on 'The Maintenance and Management of Public Galleries and Museums,' printed in 1840.

No one has as yet attempted, however, even in a preliminary way, to formulate a general theory of administration applicable to museum work in all its branches, except Professor Jevons, who, in the paper already referred to, presented in an exceedingly impressive manner certain ideas which should underlie such a theory.