

III. OBITUARY NOTICES.

Professor Beal.—The death is announced of the Rev. Samuel Beal, D.C.L., the distinguished Oriental scholar, and Professor of Chinese in the London University. Dr. Beal was born in 1825, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1847, being made Hon. D.C.L. of Durham in 1885. He took priest's orders, and was appointed a chaplain in the Royal Navy in 1852. Placed on the retired list in 1887, he became rector of Greens-Norton, Towcester, in 1888. After holding several curacies and various clerical appointments in the Navy in the earlier portion of his career, he was rector of Falstone, Northumberland, 1877–80, and rector of Wark-on-Tyne, 1880–88. He was appointed Professor of Chinese in University College, London, in 1877. Dr. Beal was the author of "Travels of Buddhist Pilgrims," from the Chinese, 1869; "Catena of Buddhist Scriptures," from the Chinese, 1872; "Romantic Legend of Buddha," 1875; "Five Lectures delivered at University College, London," 1876; "Dhamma Pada, or Texts from the Buddhist Canon," 1878; "Sacred Books of the East," published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford; "Buddhism in China," issued in the non-Christian series of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1881; and "Records of the Western World," an important work published in Trübner's Oriental Series, 1881.

Michele Amari.—The 'Times' of the 27th July says: "Our Naples Correspondent writes: A great man has passed away in Florence in the last week, Michele Amari, well known to foreigners as to Italians by the invaluable productions of his pen. In 1834, when only 28 years of age, he published 'La Fondazione dei Normanni in Sicilia.' In 1836, by the study of documents, he threw new light on the 'Vespers.' In 1841 he published researches into the archives of the island, under the title of 'Un periodo della Storia Siciliana nel Secolo XIII.' But the author and the book were both persecuted by the Bourbons; by orders from Naples the book was prohibited and the editor imprisoned. Amari was called

to Naples, but knowing what it meant, he went to Paris, where he published the 'Vespers' under the real title; it was translated into English by Lord Ellesmere, and into German by Herr Schröder. Retaining his bodily strength and mental faculties to the last, Amari died just as he had completed his 83rd year, honoured and lamented by all as a true patriot and a man of great literary distinction.'” Senator Michele Amari was an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society.

IV. NOTES AND NEWS.

The Oriental Congress at Stockholm.—The Congress has passed off with great success. The numbers in attendance were unusually large; the hospitality with which they were entertained most generous. A list of the papers read has reached the Society, but a detailed criticism is reserved until they are published in full.

Indian Chess.—Professor Weber has just published, in the Introduction to Bilgner's 'Handbuch des Schachs,' the matured results of his researches into the history and details of Indian Chess, or Caturanga.

The 'Arabian Nights' in India.—In the 'Sitzungs-Berichte' of the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences for July, 1889, Professor Albrecht Weber publishes an analysis of the *Samyaktva-Kaumudi*, a Jain story book (existing in several recensions), which bears a striking resemblance, more especially in its framework and introduction, to the 1001 Nights. The distinguished Professor, after discussing with his usual acumen and mastery of detail, the relation of the recensions one to another, and of the oldest form of the story with the famous Arab work, comes to the conclusion that the Indian story book must have been derived from the same Buddhist sources as the Arabian one, so far that is as the resemblance between the two extends. As is well known the Arabian Nights were probably written in Egypt about 1400 A.D., and were based on material derived from Persia. A great deal of this material again, according to Persian tradition, came