IV. Notes and News.

Dr. Alexander de Kegl requests us to publish the following additions and corrections to his communication printed above at p. 140:—

ADD:

After the first line of the poem:

"As drunkards, licentious fellows, and cheats have we come.

Like unto the atoms in the sunbeam our dust is encircling thee."

In the first line طال is a misprint for هلال; in the second, سبووار is for سبوار.

CORRECT:

In the translation (p. 141), instead of "We have come as the heroes of the mighty, powerful Creator," I would have it now "We have come to go around by the order of the powerful Creator."

Instead of "We have come as the mind and soul of the turning sphere," is to be read "As a soul have we come behind the turning vault."

"When it had become a curtain to us, the sun and the moon of the soul," is more correctly rendered by "When our star had become the moon and sun of the soul."

"Facts and Fancies about Java," by Augusta de Wit (London: Luzac, 1899), is the title of a chatty and readable volume, with illustrations, on the social life and customs of this interesting island. There is nothing very new in this little work, which does not rise above the level of a traveller's account of his experiences. But it gives a number of interesting details and descriptions.

From St. Petersburg comes the news of the death, on Thursday, May 10th, of the veteran Professor W. Wassiljew (Vasil'ev), many years Professor of Chinese in the University and member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Wassiljew's great work on Buddhism was written as long ago as 1856, but, being founded on original Tibetan and Chinese authorities, it retains its importance. This was translated into French and German. Amongst the chief of his other works are "History and Antiquities of the Eastern portion of Central Asia" (1857), "Mohammedan Movement in China" (1867), Manchurian Chrestomathy and Dictionary (1863–66), and "Materials for a History of Chinese Literature" (1887). Wassiljew was born in 1818 at Nijni Novgorod —From the Athenæum.

An interesting literary discovery is announced from Calcutta. Pandit Haraprasāda Śāstri, of Presidency College, has recently received from Nepal a copy of a Sanskrit poem called "Rāmapālacarita." This narrates in the same words (more indico) by an elaborate chain of double entendre the exploits of the mythical hero Rāma and of Rāmapāla, a member of the last Buddhist dynasty of India, who reigned in Bengal at the end of the eleventh century A.D. The discovery should prove to be of special value, as the Pālas are known only from a few inscriptions and colophons of MSS. and from scanty notices in Mohammedan chroniclers, mention of them in Indian literature having been as yet entirely wanting.—From the Athenæum.

Royal Asiatic Society.

GOLD MEDAL FUND.

In 1897 the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society established a Jubilee Gold Medal, to be awarded every third year, as an encouragement to Oriental learning amongst English-speaking people throughout the world; and to meet the expense contributions were invited from those interested in the scheme.

A beautiful design was prepared, and dies engraved, by Mr. Pinches; the first Medal was awarded, on the report of a Committee of Selection, to Professor Cowell, and was presented to him by Lord Reay at a Special General Meeting of the Society, the proceedings of which will be

found reported in the Journal for July, 1898.

The subscriptions (including interest on deposits) amounted to £338 15s. 10d., and the disbursements (including cost of die) to £91 5s. 10d., leaving a balance (after providing the Medal for the present year) of £247 10s. 0d., of which amount £215 6s. 0d. was expended in the purchase of £200 Nottingham Corporation 3 per cent. Irredeemable Stock (a Trustee Stock), and there is therefore a sum in hand of £32 4s. 0d. The amount invested forms the nucleus of an Endowment Fund; but as it is estimated that the cost of providing a Medal will amount to upwards of £24, and as it is to be given every third year, the annual income required will be about £8. To produce this another £100 Stock must be purchased, and the deficiency is therefore about £70.

It is hoped that this amount will be forthcoming during the next few months, so that on the presentation of the Medal in the Summer of 1900 it may be announced that the entire sum has been raised.

Contributions, which will be acknowledged in the Society's Journal, will be received by the Secretary, or the Chairman of the Committee of the Medal Fund.

A. N. WOLLASTON,

Chairman of Committee.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, 22, ALBEMARLE STREET, LONDON. June, 1900.

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WE have much pleasure in announcing that the Medal has been awarded to Dr. E. W. West, in recognition of his distinguished services to historical research in the field of Zoroastrianism. The presentation will be made on behalf of the Society by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House on July 11th at 11.30.