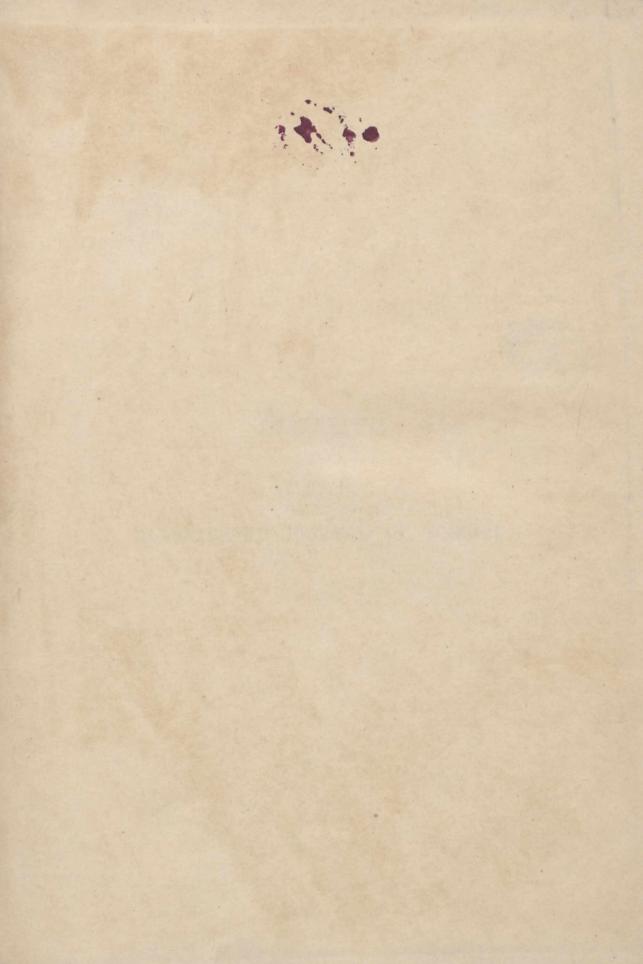
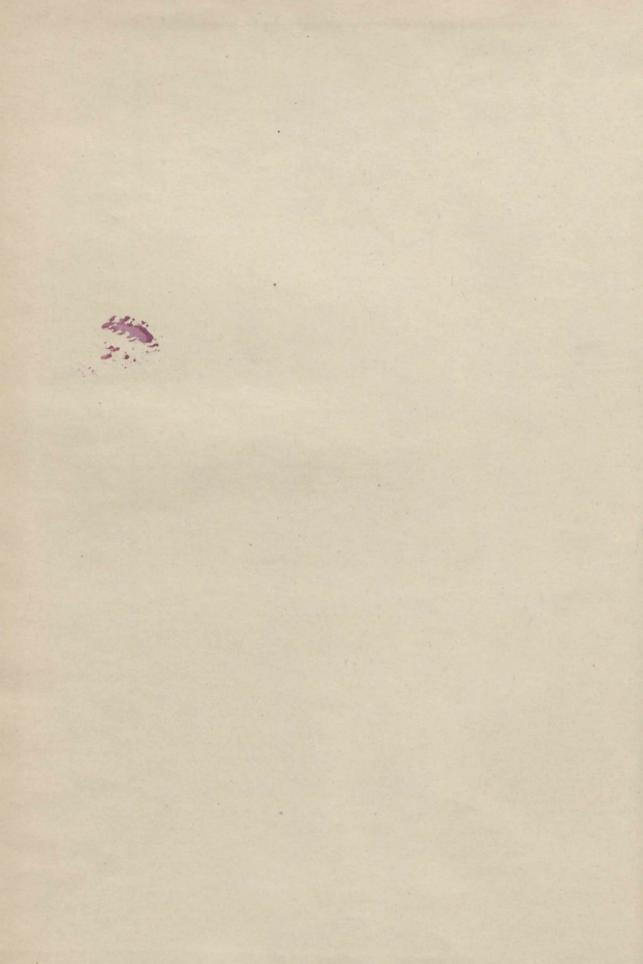
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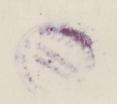




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#### INDEX

ABBE Diffraction Theory of Microscope, Examination of the, J. W. Gordon, 320

Abell (R. D.), the Condensation of Ethylphenylketone with Benzaldehyde, 175

Aber Valley Colliery, Coal Dust Explosion at, 111

Absinthe, Motor Car worked by, 213
Abydos, the Earliest Inhabitants of, a Craniological Study,
D. Randall-Maciver, 647

Aecidium berberidis, Specimens of, J. Lewton Brain, 77 Achard (M.), Influence of Feeding, Work and Dust on Tuberculosis, 71; Influence of variations of Temperatures on Tuber-

culosis, 644.

Ackroyd (W.), Origin of Combined Chlorine in Moorland Waters, 46; Computation of the Age of the Earth from the Amount of Salt in the Sea, 566; on the Inverse Ratio of

Chlorine to Rainfall, 612

Acoustics: the Song of Birds, Henri Coupin, 20, 62; the Musical Arc, W. Duddell, 58; the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, E. Hurren Harding, 103, 181; Prof. F. J. Allen, 182, 301; G. W. Hemming, 182; E. C. Sherwood, 233; Suggested Experiment, G. W. Hemming, 308; Nernst's Phonograph, 164; Ruhmer's Phonograph, 164; Monaural Levil Street Levil Park J. P. Angella J. W. Fire and J. W. F Localisation of Sound, Prof. J. R. Angell and Dr. W. Fite, 263; Behaviour of small closed Cylinders in Organ Pipes, B. Davis, 547; Interesting Phenomenon in connection with Theory of Sound, Bergen Davis, 554; Death of R. Koenig, 579; Obituary Notice of, 630

Adams (E. P.), Electromagnetic Effects of moving Charged

Spheres, 415

Adams (John Couch), the Collected Scientific Papers of, 576 Adaptation among the Deer, an instance of, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 257
Addresses of Authors of Scientific Papers, Prof. Sydney J. Hickson, F.R.S., 601

Adulteration, the New Milk Standard, 432; the Work of the Government Laboratory, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, 553

Aeronautics, the International Balloon Ascent of April 19, 88; Hoffmann's Flying Machine, 112; the Balloon Ascents of May 14, 189; the Kress Flying Machine, 190; the Santos Dumont Airship, 286, 489; the Deutsch Prize won by M. Santos Dumont, 635; High Balloon Ascent by Drs. Pierson and Suering, 356; the William Beedle Airship, 489; "How to cross the Atlantic in a Balloon," Prof. S. A. King, 582; On the Exploration of the Upper Strata of the Atmosphere by means of Kites, A. Lawrence Rotch, 590; Recent Inter-national Balloon Ascents, 608

Africa: the Climate of Pemba, T. Burtt, 20; a Report on German East Africa, A. C. Hollis, 67; Veterinary Work in British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, R. J. Stordy, in British East Alrica and Uganda Frotectorates, N. J. Soldy, 67; the difference between Memphis and Thebes Mummies, Mr. Harting, 70; Scientific Work in Egypt, 318; the Farafra Oasis, Egypt, H. J. L. Beadnell, 359; the Dakhla Oasis, Egypt, H. J. L. Beadnell, 581; Gold Mining in Egypt, C. J. Alford, 636; the Natives of South Africa, their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Sidney Hardend, 73; Problements in the Transvall their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Stalley Hartland, 73; Prehistoric Implements in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, Stanley B. Hutt, 103; South African Philosophical Society, 144; Medical and Surgical Experiences in the South African War, 346; New Mammals from Uganda, Oldfield Thomas, 142; West African Studies, Mary

H. Kingsley, 231; Poison of Lotus Arabicus, W. R. Dunstan, F.R.S., and T. A. Henry, 367; Fauna of North-East Rhodesia, C. P. Chesnaye, 383; Carboniferous Goniatites in Sahara, M. Collot, 392; the Anti-Mosquito Campaign in Signry Leone 480, 570; Major P. Post F.P. S. Control Major Research Control Sierra Leone, 489, 579; Major R. Ross, F.R.S., 489; the West African Campaign against Malaria, Major Ronald Ross, 636; Simultaneity of Mosquitoes and Malaria at Con-Ross, 930; Simultanelly of Mosquitoes and Malaria at Constantine, A. Billet, 524; Magnetic and Meteorological Observations at Mauritus, 582; the Origin and Birthplace of the Proboscidea, Dr. C. W. Andrews, 582; Essays and Photographs, Some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, H. E. Harris, 603; Chemical Analysis of Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, MM. Lortet and Hugounen, 668 Figure 1997.

After-Images and Colour-Vision, Negative, Shelford Bidwell,

F.R.S., 216

Agitation of the Sea, Unusual, Hon. Rollo Russell, 6

Agriculture: Agricultural Seeds, Dr. Maxwell T. Masters, F.R.S., 30; Agriculture in New South Wales, 106; Report of Royal Agricultural Society, 111; the Scientific Study of Commercial Crop Cultivation, R. H. Wallace, 164; Cultura del Frumento, 1899–1900, Prof. Italo Giglioli, 229; Wheatgrowth favoured by Potassium Salts, H. Coupin, 248; the South-eastern Agricultural College at Wye, 283; Death and Obituary Notice of Miss Eleanor A. Ormerod, 308, 330; Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1900, Prof. R. Warington, F.R.S., 372; Agricultural Experiments, 364; Agricultural Statistics of India, 407; the Colorado Potato Beetle, W. F. Kirby, 450; Relations between Climate and Crops, H. B. Wren, 493; Nature Teaching, Francis Watts, 550; on the Application of Geology. to Agriculture by the Preparation of Soil Maps, J. R. Kilroe, 565

Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, the Discourse delivered at the Royal Institution by Dr. R. T. Glazebrook,

F.R.S., 290

Alaska, the Cape Nome Gold Region, F. C. Schrader and A. H. Brooks, 409

Alcock (Major), Instances of Commensalism, 190
Alford (C. J.), Gold Mining in Egypt, 636
Algebraic Potential Curves, Dr. E. Kasner, 221
Algol Variables: Orbits of RR Puppis and V Puppis, 384;

New Algol-Type Variable, 78 (1901) Cygni, 583; New Southern Algol Variable, 639
Allbutt (Prof. T. Clifford, F.R.S.), Science and Mediæval

Thought, 76
Allen (Prof. F. J.), the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, 182, 301
Sattlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Allen (H. S.), the Settlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, 279

Allen (Dr. J. A.), the Wood Bison of Great Slave Lake, 135 Alloys, Copper-tin, Results of Chilling, C. T. Heycock and F. H. Neville, 221

Almy (J. E.), Discharge Current from Surface of large Curvature, 547

Aluminium, on the Commercial Importance of, Prof. E. Wilson, 613; Aluminium and its Uses, 650

Amalitzky (Prof. W.), Gigantic Permian Anomodonts at Sokolki, Russia, 239 Amazon: Album de Aves Amazonicas, Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi,

America: Von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen: Reiseskizzen

vi

eines Naturforschers, F. Doflein, 2; the Fishes of North and Middle America, a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama, David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Evermann, 4; American Journal of Mathematics, 92, 295, 572; American Journal of Mathematics, 92, 295, 572; American Journal of Science, 92, 221, 365, 415, 547; Public Health in America, Mrs. Percy Frankland, 117; the Biology of Mount Shasta, 242; an American Introduction to Botany: Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, John M. Coulter, 300; Stanford Compendium of Geography and Travel in Central and South America, A. H. Keane, Colonel George Earl Church, 353; American Agricultural Researches, Prof. R. Warington, F.R.S., 372; the Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 425; Address at American Society of Civil Engineers: Progress of Civil Engineering, J. J. R. Cross, 438; the Denver Meeting of the American Association, Address by Prof. R. S. Woodward, President of the Association, 498; the Insect Book: a Popular Account of the Bees, Wasps, Ants, Grasshoppers, Flies and other North American Insects, exclusive of the Butterflies, Moths and Beetles, with full Life-histories, Tables and Bibliographies, Leland O. Howard, 549; Zoology of the Twentieth Century, Address at American Association for Advancement of Science at Denver, Prof. C. B. Davenport, 566; Nernst Lamp in America, A. J. Wurt's Paper read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 632

Amesbury and Stonehenge, a Sentimental and Practical Guide

to, Lady Antrobus, 465

Amphibia and Reptiles: the Cambridge Natural History, Vol. viii., Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401

Analytical Chemistry: Die wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt, Prof. W.

Ostwald, 5

Anatomy: Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Giulio Bizzozero, 59; the Anatomy of the Cat, Jacob Reighard and H. S. Jennings, 155; the Name of the Sensorium Commune Region of the Brain, Prof. G. E. Smith, 435; Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. James Foulis, 635 Anderson (Prof. R. J.), on the Relationships of the Premaxilla

in the Bears, 587 Anderson (Dr. W. C.), on Aluminium-tin Alloys, 612 André (Ch.), Duration of Period of Variation in Luminosity of Planet Eros, 368

André (M.), Formation of Acids in Plants, 596 Andrews (Dr. Charles W.), a New Name for an Ungulate, 577; the Origin and Birthplace of the Proboscidea, 582

Andrews (E. C.), the Caves of Fiji, 143
Angell (Prof. J. R.), Monaural Localisation of Sound, 263
Anglo-American Work on the Market Garden, an, L. H. Bailey, 122 Animal Life: a First Book of Zoology, President D. Starr

Jordan and Prof. V. L. Kellogg, 525 Animals, the Feeding of, W. H. Jordan, 625

Annalen der Physik, 118, 246
Annandale (Nelson), Natural History Notes, 331
Annandale (Mr.), on the Half-Siamese Half-Malay-Community of Sai-Kau, 614

Annual of the British School at Athens, 11

Ant-gardens in Amazon Region, E. Ule, 553 Ants, American, Social Symbiosis among, W. H. Wheeler, 409 Antarctica: the National Antarctic Expedition, 131, 182, 233; Prof. Edward B. Poulton, F.R.S., 83, 156, 206; the Resignation of Prof. J. W. Gregory, 58, 132; Prof. J. W. Gregory, 181; Snow Conditions in the Antarctic, C. E. Borchgrevink, 257; First on the Antarctic Continent, C. E. Borchgrevink, 279; the Meteorological Arrangements on board the Discovery, Dr. H. R. Mill, 554; on the Methods and Plans of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, W. S. Bruce, 591; Polar Exploration, Civilian, 626; the best Ship for Exploration, 656

Anthropogeography of Argentina, on the, Dr. Francisco

Moreno, 590
Anthropology: the Older Civilisation of Greece, 11; H. R. Hall, 280; Anthropological Institute, 47, 119, 142, 223, 271; the Natives of South Africa: their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Sidney Hartland, 73; the Language and Origin of the Basques, 90; Death and Obituary Notice of Anthony Wilkin, 110; the Golden Bough: a Study in Magic and Religion, J. G. Frazer, 201; Dr. J. G. Frazer's

Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, J. S. Stuart-Glennie, 615; West African Studies, Mary H. Kingsley, 231; Historical Development and Problems of Anthropology, Dr. B. Hagen, 239; Folk Customs in India, 264; Boomerangs, Gilbert T. Walker, 338; Ottavio Zanotti Bianco, 400; the Mediterranean Race: a Study of the Origin of European Peoples, G. Sergi, 370; New Methods of Obtaining Cubic Index of Skull, M. Pelletier, 490; a New Record of Totemism, Hon. Auberon Herbert, 522; the Cave-dwellers of North-west Mexico, Dr. Carl Lumholtz, 522; the Decorative Symbolism of the Arapaho Indians, A. L. Kroeber, 582; the Possible Improvement of the Human Breed under the Existing Conditions of Law and Sentiment, Dr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., 659 (see also Section H., British Associa-

Anti-Vivisection Society, the National, and Lord Lister, 55;

Hon. Stephen Coleridge, 101; Editor, 101

Antiseptics: Tannoform, 113 Antrobus (Lady): a Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and Stonehenge, 465; the Recent Work at Stonehenge,

Applied Science, Prize Subjects in, 438 April Meteors of 1901, W. F. Denning, 21

Arapaho Indians, the Decorative Symbolism of, A. L. Kroeber,

Arbitrages, Expertises et, F. Rigaud, 648 Archæology: the Older Civilisation of Greece, 11; the Oldest Civilisation of Greece: Studies of the Mycenaean Age, H. R. Hall, 280; the Difference between Memphis and Thebes Mummies, Mr. Harting, 70; the Picts' Houses of Scotland, D. McRitchie, 311; Egyptology in Egypt, 319; Wooden Human Efficies from German New Guinea, D. R. Poch, 358; Aboriginal Grave in Darling River, N.S. W., Graham Officer, 416; the "Onvar" of Malekula, New Hebrides, W. R. Harper, 416; Palæolithic Implements found on Knowle Farm, 432; the French Stonehenge: an Account of the Principal Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, T. Cato Worsfold, 465; a Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and Stonehenge. Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and Stonehenge, Lady Antrobus, 465; the Recent Work at Stonehenge, Lady Antrobus, 602; Folklore about Stonehenge, Rev. O. Fisher, 648; Exploration of the Tinnevelly (Madras) District, Mr. Rea, 489; Yorkshire Earthworks, Mrs. E. S. 'Armitage, 531; the Flemish Giant Festivals, 531; Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Caves in Dordogne, L. Capitan and H. Breuil, 572; Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Cave of La Mouthe, Émile Rivière, 596; on the Chronology of the Stone Age of Man, Dr. W. Allen Sturge, 615; Sir John Evans, 615; Prof. Kendal, 615; Report on the Age of Stone Circles, 615; on Excavations on Report on the Age of Stone Circles, 615; on Excavations on Neolithic Sites in the Isle of Arran, Drs. Duncan and Bryce, 615; Dr. Munro on a "Kitchen Midden" near Elie in Fife, 615; on the Age of Ogham Writing in Ireland, R. A. S. Macalister, 615; on the Bones of Hen Nekht, an Egyptian King of the Third Dynasty, C. S. Myers, 615; on the Neolithic Settlement which underlies the Mycenæan Palace at Knossos, 615; on the Præsos Excavations, Mr. Bosanquet, 615; on a Mycenæan Site Excavated at Zakro, Mr. Hogarth, 615 Arctica: the Late Mr. Seebohm's Travels in Arctic Europe and

Asia, 32; the Rise and Fall of Smeerenburg, Spitzbergen, Sir Martin Conway, 40; the Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-96, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Le Esplorazioni Polari nel Secolo xix., Luigi Hugues, 158; on the Determination of Polarition, 1904 Exploration F. Plumeted mination of Positions in Polar Exploration, E. Plumstead, 278; Death of Baron von Nordenskjöld, 381; Obituary Notice of, W. S. Bruce, 450; Polar Exploration, Civilian, 626 Arctowski (H), the Climate of Glacial Periods, 238; the Belgica

Soundings, 238

Argentina: on the Anthropogeography of, Dr. Francisco Moreno, 590

Arizona, Excavations in, Dr. Walter Fewkes, 425 Armitage (Mrs. E. S.), Yorkshire Earthworks, 531

Armour-clad Whales, 652

Armstrong (Dr.), Educational Experiment and Research, 591; on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593
Armstrong (T.), a New Principle in Wireless Telegraphy Discovered, 636

Army Education Committee, the, 55

Arnold (Prof. J. O.), the Properties of Steel Castings, 64, 316 Arran Geology, on Recent Discoveries in, W. Gunn, 564

Arrhenius' Electrolytic Dissociation Theory, Prof. Kahlenberg,

Arsenic, on the Detection and Estimation of, in Beer and Articles of Food, W. Thomson, 612

Arsonval (M. D'), Osmotic Pressure as Protection from Cold in Living Cell, 295

Artesian Water, on the Conditions under which it is obtained

in Queensland, Dr. R. Logan Jack, 565 Artillery, Hailstorm, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 159

Artini (E.), Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia, 640

Arts, Society of, Medal Awards, 213
Ascarza (Sig.), Wave-length of Green Corona Line, 289
Ashton (A. W.), Mechanical Electrification of Dielectrics, 141; Model Imitating Behaviour of Dielectrics, 141

Aso (Mr.), Causes of Difference in Colour between Green and

Black Tea, 607

Astral Gravitation, Essays in Illustration of the Action of, in Natural Phenomena, W. L. Jordan, 155

Astronomy: Magnetic Observations during Total Solar Eclipse of May 28, 1900, Dr. William Ellis, F.R.S., 15; Observations at Santa Pola of the Total Eclipse of the Sun on May 28, 1900, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., 343; Obituary Notice of Dr. A. Hirsch, 18; Comet 1901 I (a), 21, 42, 63, 114, 191, 436, 557; E. C. Willis, 55; J. Cresswell, 410; Observations at Algiers, MM. Rambaud and Sy, 143; Definitive Orbit of Comet 1894, II (Gale), 89; Encke's Comet, 359, 384, 583; Elliptic Elements of Comet 1900, c, M. Perrotin, 644; April Meteors of 1901, W. F. Denning, 21; the Meteoric Epoch of July and August, W. F. Denning, 240; the August Meteors, W. F. Denning, 410; W. E. Rolston, 411; the October Qrionids, W. F. Denning, F.R.S., 651; Auroræ and Meteors, Alex. C. Henderson, 527; Our Astronomical Column, 21, 42, 63, 89, 114, 136, 527; Our Astronomical Column. 21, 42, 63, 89, 114, 136, 167, 191, 216, 240, 265, 289, 311, 335, 359, 384, 410, 436, 456, 491, 523, 532, 556, 583, 609, 639, 659; Stellar Photography with a Siderostat, 42; Forms of Images in Stellar Photography, 191; the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox 1875, David Gill, F.R.S., J. C. Kapteyn, 257; a Photometric Durchmusterung, including all the Stars of the Magnitude 7'5 and brighter North of Declination – 40°, Edward C. Pickering, 257; Formulæ for Variation of Latitude, 42; Nova Persei, 42, 191, 410, 437, 491; Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., 69, 341; Prof. Copeland and Dr. J. Halm, 119; Spectrum of Nova Persei, 240, 456, 556, 639; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova Persei, 639; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova Persei, 639; Photographs of the Zodiacal Light, 42; Publications de PObservatoire Astronomique et Physique de Tachkent: Etudes sur la Structure de l'Univers, W. Stratonoff, Howard Payn, 56; the Vatican Observatory, 61; Washington Observations, 1891–92, 63; Stellar Photometry, B. Baillaud, 63; New Nebulæ, 63; Variability of Eros, 63, 359, 384; Opposition of Eros in 1903, 491; Duration of Period of Variation in Luminosity of Eros, Ch. André, 368; Hipparchus and the Precession of the Equinoxes, Rev. H. M. Close, 71; Astronomical Society, 71, 247; the Recent Total Solar Eclipse of May 18, 1901, 79, 114, 136, 289, 311; Spectrum of ξ Puppis, 89; New Variable Star 71 (1901) Aurigæ, Stanley Puppis, 89; New Variable Star 71 (1901) Aurigæ, Stanley Williams, 89; Hisgon's Variable 13 (1900) Cygni, 114; Two New Variable Stars, Prof. W. Ceraski, 167; New Variable Stars, 191; Orbits of Algol Variables, RR Puppis and V Puppis, 384; New Variable Star 77 (1901) Herculis, 532; New Algol-type Variable 78 (1901), Cygni, 583; New Southern Algol-Variable, 639; Climate and Time and Mars, 106; the Planet Saturn, W. F. Denning, 114; Astronomical Occurrences in June, 114; in July, 216; in August, 335; in September, 436; in October, 532; in November, 659; the Supposed Ultra-Neptunian Planet, Prof. George Forbes, F.R.S., 119, 587; Evidence of the Existence of an Ultra-Neptunian Planet, 524; the Centenary of the Discovery of Ceres, 129; Snow on the Moon's Surface, 136; Oxford Neptunian Planet, 524; the Centenary of the Discovery of Ceres, 129; Snow on the Moon's Surface, 136; Oxford University Observatory, 136; the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 136; Uniform Transmission of Astronomical Telegrams, 167; Photography of Corona, 167; the Solar Activity, 1833–1900, Papers read before Royal Society, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 196; Black Spot on Jupiter, 216; Dark Spot on Jupiter, 216; Markings on Luniver, W. F. Dark Spot on Jupiter, 240; Markings on Jupiter, W. F. Denning, 351; Influence of Magnification on Apparent Value of Diameters of Jupiter, J. Guillaume, 668; on the Theory of Temporary Stars, Dr. J. Halm, 253; Opening of Tycho Brahe's Tomb, 261; Death and Obituary

Notice of Sir Cuthbert Peek, 261; Death of Prof. T. H. Safford, 261; Light Variation of the Minor Planet (345) Tercidina, 265; the Minor Planet Tercidina, 289; United States Naval Observatory, 265; on the Determination of Positions in Polar Exploration, E. Plumstead. 278; Tenyear Greenwich Star Catalogue for 1890, 216; New Nebulæ, 216, 336; G. Bigourdan, 312; Parallax of  $\mu$  Cassiopeiæ, 216; Wave-length of Green Corona Line, Signor Ascarza, 289; Deformation of the Sun's Disc, Signor A. Ricco, 289; the Twelve Movements of the Earth, M. Flammarion, 12; the Paris Observatory in 1900, 335; Photography by the Light of Venus, 336; Death of Prof. Wilhelm Schur, 356; Obituary Notice of, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 380; Celestial Objects having Peculiar Spectra, 359; Motion of α Persei in the Line of Sight, 359; Observations of Mars, 384; Variations of the Magnetic Needle, 384; the Cape Observatory. Sir David Gill 410: Period of the Cape Observatory, Sir David Gill, 410; Period of Mira Ceti, Prof. A. A. Nijland, 410; Period of Mira (6 Ceti), 659; a Text-book of Astronomy, Prof. George C. Comstock, 424; Brightness of the Solar Corona, January 22, 1898, Prof. Turner, 436; the Spectroscopic Binary "Mizar," 437; the Spectroscopic Binary η Pegasi, 609; the Spectroscopic Binary Capella, 639; Density and Figure of Close Binary Stars, Dr. Alex W. Roberts, 468; Réunion du Comité international permanent pour l'exécution de la Carte photographique du ciel, tenue à l'Observatoire de Paris en 1900, 449; Death of Dr. Charles Meldrum, F.R S., 452; New Double Stars, 456; Six Stars with Variable Radial New Double Stars, 456; Six Stars with Variable Radial Velocity, 456; Causes of the Variability of Earthshine, 456; Solar Radiation, J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., 456; Radial Velocity of 1830 Groombridge, 491; Histoire du Ciel, Clemence Royer, 497; Variable Radial Velocity of 8 Orionis, 491; Diameter of Mercury, 523; Periodicity of the Inequalities of Mercury, 524; Observations at Algiers of Planet GQ, F. Sy, 524; Fireball of September 14, 1901, 532; Diameter of Venus, 556; the Collected Scientific Papers of John Couch Adams, 576; Fireball of September 14, 1402. John Couch Adams, 576; Fireball of September 14, 1492, C. E. Stromeyer, 577; the International Survey of the Heavens, Prof. A. Ricco, 582; on the Rotation of Faculte on the Sun's Surface, Father Cortie, 587; Photograph of the Spectrum of Lightning, 583; Micrometric Observations of Neptune and its Satellite, 639; Prehistoric Astronomy: the French Stonehenge: an Account of Principal Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, T. Cato Worsfold, 465; a Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and

Stonehenge, Lady Antrobus, 465
Astrophysics: Scientific Worthies, Sir William Huggins, K.C.B., Prof. H. Kayser, 225; Astrophysical Researches at Smithsonian Institution, Prof. S. P. Langley, 269; Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, Measurements of Solar Radiation, S. P. Langley, 352; Density and Figure of Close Binary Stars, Dr. Alex W. Roberts, 468

Astruc (A.), Acidimetry of Arsenic Acid, 272; Distribution of Acidity in Stem, Leaf and Flower, 572

Athens, the Annual of the British School at, II

Athletes, Photographic Analysis of the Movements of, 377 Atmosphere: Mémoires originaux sur la Circulation générale de l'Atmosphere, Marcel Brillouin, 396; on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere, and the Causes of Glacial Period, H. N. Dickson, 590
Atmospheric Air, on the Separation of the Least Volatile Gases of, and their Spectra, Prof. G. D. Liveing, F.R.S.,

and Prof. J Dewar, F.R.S., 294

Atmospheric Electricity, Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and, made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the year 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151 Atwater (Dr.), Food Consumption and Metabolism, the Mechanical Efficiency of Bicyclists, 382

Aubel (E. van), Density of Alloys, 143 Auger (V.), Manganic Phosphates, 296 August Meteors of 1901, the, W. F. Denning, 410; W. E.

Rolston, 411 Auks and Puffins, Position of, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, 408 Aurigæ, New Variable Star 71 (1901), Stanley Williams, 89 Auroræ and Meteors, Alex. C. Henderson, 527

Australia: Australian Marsupials, B. A. Bensley, 88; Science in Australia, Prof. Liversidge, 296; Boomerangs, Gilbert T. Walker, 338; Ottavio Zanotti Bianco, 400; the Jarrah and Karri Woods of West Australia, 453

Automobiles, Mode of Action of Brakes of, A. Petol, 464 Avebury (Lord, F.R.S.), Notes from a Diary 1889-1891, Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff, 228

Axis-vectors, the Use of, Prof. F. Slate, 54

Ayrton (Hertha), Mechanism of Electric Arc, 365 Ayrton (Prof. W. E., F.R.S.), Death and Obituary Notice of Viriamu Jones, 161

Bacteriology: Luminous Bacteria, 57; the Diagnosis of Plague, Dr. E. Klein, F.R.S., 91; Cement-disintegration, R. Greig Smith, 144; Vibrio denitrificans, R. Greig Smith, 144; New Method of Examination for Typhoid Bacillus, R. Cambier, 200; Glucoproteins as Culture-media, Charles Lepierre, 296; Bacteriology of Healthy Animal Organs, Dr. Ford, 333 Oxidation of Propylglycol by Mycoderma Aceti, André Kling, 344; the Life-work of Dr. G. A. Hansen, 433; Bacterial Disease of Potato, G. Delacroix, 464; the Report of the Thompson Yates Laboratories, 604; on the Chemical and Biological Changes occurring during the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Prof. E. A. Letts and R. F. Blake, 612; on Humus and the so-called Irreducible Residue in Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Dr. S. Rideal, 612; Neutral Red as Test for Colon Bacillus, Messrs. Makgill and Savage, 637; Bacteroids of Leguminous Nodules and Culture of Rhizobium Leguminosarum, R. Greig Smith, 272

Bactrian Camel, the Origin and Habits of, 355 Baeyer (M. v.), Researches on Organic Peroxides, 64 Bailey (L. H.), the Principles of Vegetable Gardening, 122

Baillaud (B.), Stellar Photometry, 63 Bakerian Lecture at Royal Society; the Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 24 Balachowski (D.), Electrolytic Separation of Nickel and Cobalt, 224

Baldwin (E. B.), Meteorological Observations in Franz-Josef Land, 357
Balfour (Mr.), on Scientific Research, 109

Balfour (Prof. J. Bayley, F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section K at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 557; on the Cuticular Structure of Euphorbia Abdelkuri, 618

Balland (M.), the Voandzou plant, 48 Ballistic Experiments, Testing of some, Rev. F. Bashforth, 445 Ballooning: the International Balloon Ascents of April 19, 88; the Ascents of May 14, 189; High Balloon Ascent, Drs. Berson and Suering, 356; the Santos Dumont Airship, 286, 489; the Deutsch Prize won by M. Santos Dumont, 635; the William Beedle Airship, 489; Recent International Ascents, 608

Ballore (F. de M. de), the Non-existence of Isophygmic Curves

in Seismography, 524
Baly (E. C. C.), Spectrum of Cyanogen, 247
Bancroft (T. L.), the Intermediary Host of Filaria immitis, 416

Banks (Right Hon. Sir Joseph), Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768-1771, 374
Barac (M.), Analysis of Red Rain, 489

Barbados, Landslip at, 635 Barnett (P. A.), on the Scope of Educational Science, 591 Barr (Prof.), on a Folding Range Finder for Infantry, 613 Barr (M.), on a Machine for the Manufacture of Type, 613,

Barrett (Charles G.), Lepidoptera of the British Islands, 444 Barrett-Hamilton (Captain G. E. H.), the Colours of Guillemots' Eggs, 600

Barrow (George), Silurian (?) Rocks in Forfar and Kincardine, 142; on Lateral Variations of Composition in Zones of the Eastern Highland Schists, 565

Batrachians and Reptiles in the Cambridge Natural History,

G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401
Baud (A.), Capillary Constants of Organic Liquids, 224, 248
Baxandall (F. E.), Enhanced Lines in Spectrum of Chromosphere, 45; the Arc Spectrum of Vanadium, 45 Baxendell (J.), Observations at Fernley Observatory, 112

Bashforth (Rev. F.), Testing of some Ballistic Experiments,

Basic Rocks, Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., Prof. Edw. Suess, 629 Basques, the Language and Origin of the, 90

Basset (A. B., F.R.S.), Problems of Geometry, 400 Beadnell (H. J. L.), the Farafra Oasis, Egypt, 359; on the Discovery of Bone-beds of Early Tertiary Age in the Fayum

Depression, 566; the Dakhla (Egypt) Oasis, 581
Bears, on the Relationships of the Premaxilla in the, Prof. R. J. Anderson, 587
Beat, a Simple Model for Demonstrating, K. Honda, 626
Beaumont (Prof. Roberts), Le Coton, Prof. H. Lecomte, 124
Beauverie (J.), Attempt to Render Vegetables Immune against Cryptogamic Diseases, 296

Becquerel (H.), Physiological Action of Radium Rays, 175; Radiation of Uranium Constant at very Low Temperatures,

Bedford (Duchess of), Photograph of Greenland Musk-ox, 63 Bee, the Life of the, Maurice Maeterlinck, 231 Bee, Variation in a, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 158

Beedle (William), Airship, the, 489 Beetle, the Colorado Potato, W. F. Kirby, 450 Behaim (Martin), and the History of Geography, 589

Behrend (B.A.), the Induction Motor, 252

Beilby (G. T.), on the Minute Structure of Metals, 612; on the Action of Ammonia on Metals at High Temperatures, 612 Belgian Expedition to Ka-Tanga, Captain Lemaire, 590

Belgian Soundings, H. Arçtowski and A. F. Renard, 238

Bell (A. M.), on Plants and Coleoptera from a Pleistocene

Deposit at Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, 565

Bell (Dr. Robert, F.R.S.), a Canadian Geological Explorer,

81; on the Topography and Resources of Northern Ontario, Canada, 590

Bénard (Henri), on the Cellular Distribution of Eddies produced in Liquid Films when Convection Currents are set up,

Benedict (Francis Gano), Chemical Lecture Experiments,

Benham (Dr. W. B.), Viscera of Cogia Whale, 142 Benoit (Dr.), Mass of Cubic Decimetre of Distilled Water, 112; Best Alloy for Measures of Length, 112

Bensley (B. A.), the Australian Marsupials, 88 Benson (Claude E.), the Cape Viper, 126 Benthall (Dr. W.), Reflex Action Instinct, Paper read at Derby

Medical Society, 459 Berkeley's Drei Dialoge Zwischen Hylas und Philonous, Dr. R.

Richter, 4 Berkeley's Abhandlung über die Prinzipien der Menschlichen

Erkenntnis, Dr. F. Ueberweg, 4 Berlin, the International Zoological Congress, 405

Bernadou (John B.), Smokeless Powder, Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose Molecule, 600

Berson (Dr.), High Balloon Ascent, 356 Bertainchand (E.), Analysis of Tunis Red Rain, 72

Bertrand (G.), Biochemical Differentiation of two ferments of

Vinegar, 224
Berthelot (A.), Origin of the Loue River, 440
Berthelot (Daniel), the Neutralisation of Phosphoric Acid, 175;
Berthelot (Daniel), Acids to Indicators, 100: Formation of Behaviour of Amino-Acids to Indicators, 199; Formation of Insoluble Phosphates by Double Decomposition, 224; Reaction of two bases added simultaneously to Phosphoric Acid, 248; Acetylometallic Radicles, 248; Phosphoric Acid and Chlorides of Alkaline Earths, 271; Formation of Acids in Plants, 596; Action of Hydrogen Peroxide Solution on Silver Oxide,

Bertsch (E.), Synthesis of Aromatic Aldeximes by Fulminating Silver, 191

Betterave à Sucre, La, L. Malpeaux, 28

Beyer (Prof.), Protection of Sea Birds of Louisiana Gulf Coast, 19

Bianco (Ottavio Zanotti), Boomerangs, 400

Biblical Encyclopædia, A, Prof. T. K. Cheyne and Dr. J. Sutherland Black, 3

Bibliography of Chemistry, A Select, 1492-1897; Henry Carrington Bolton, 430

Bibliography, An Essay in Critical, G. Rudolf, 51

Bicyclists, the Mechanical Efficiency of, Drs. Atwater and Sherman, and R. C. Carpenter, 382
Bidwell (Shelford, F.R.S.), Negative After-images and Colour-

vision, 216

Bigourdan (G.), Le Système Métrique, 250; New Nebulæ, 312 Billet (A.), Simultaneity of Mosquitoes and Malaria at Constantine, 524 Biltz (H.), Dissociation of Sulphur Molecules, 638

Binary Stars, Close, Density and Figure of, Dr. Alex. W. Roberts, 468

Binary Stars, Spectroscopic, Mizar, 437; λ Pegasi, 609; Capella, 639

Capella, 039
Binet (Alfred), Psychology of Reasoning, 325
Biology: the Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S.,
by Leonard Huxley, Prof. W. T. Thiselton Dyer, F.R.S.,
145; Some Recent Work on Diffusion, Lecture at Royal
Institution, Dr. Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., 171, 193; Binary
Fission in Ciliata, Dr. J. Y. Simpson, 199; Die Mutations
Theorie, Versuche und Beobachtungen über die Entstehung von Arten im Pflanzenreich, Prof. Hugo de Vries, 208; Biology of Mount Shasta, 242; In-Breeding, Prof. Cossar Ewart, 271; Osmotic Pressure as Protection from Cold in Living 271; Osmotic Pressure as Protection from Cold in Living Cell, M. D'Arsonval, 295; B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformend des Tier-und Pflanzenreiches, Dr. Walther Schönichen und Dr. Alfred Kalberlah, G. S. West, 301; Les Problèmes de la Vie, Essai d'une interprétation scientifique de phénomènes vitaux, La Substance Vivante et la cytodiérèse, Dr. Ermanno Giglio-Tos, 321; Blütengeheimnisse: Eine Blütenbiologie in Einzelbildern, Georg Worgitzky, 444; Death of Martin Fountain Woodward, 528; Hamburg Meeting of German Association, 609; Marine Biology: the Marine Resources of the British West Indies, Dr. J. E. Duerden, 31; Luminous Bacteria, 57; Coloration of Marine Animals, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, 62; Marine Biology in Liverpool, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 115; Rate of Growth of Corals, J. S. Gardiner, 143; The Second International Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, 218; the national Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, 218; the Marine Mollusca of Tasmania, Prof. Ralph Tate and W. L.

May, 548; Marine Poisons and Burrowing Habit, G. Bohn, 644
Birds: the Song of Birds, Henri Coupin, 20, 62; Der Gesang der Vögel, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52; the Birds of Siberia,
A Record of a Naturalist's Visit to the Valleys of the Petchora and Venesei, Henry Seebohm, 32; Bird-destruction in New South Wales, A. J. North, 165; How to know the Indian Ducks, F. Finn, 278; A Handbook of British Birds, J. E. Harting, 297; Bird Watching, Edmund Selous, 325; Album de Aves Amazonicas, Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi, 397; Manual of the Birds of Iceland, Henry H. Slater, 443; the Colours of Guillemots' Eggs, Captain G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, 600; Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), E. W. Oates, 600; Bird Life in the Canaries and South Africa, H. E. Harriss, 603

Bison at Woburn Abbey, Musk-Ox and, 63
Bison of Great Slave Lake, the Wood, Dr. J. A. Allen, 135
Bituminous Deposits of Cuba, the, H. E. Peckham, 365 Bizzozero (Prof. Giulio), Death and Obituary Notice of, 59

Black Spot on Jupiter, 216
Black (Dr. J. Sutherland), Encyclopædia Biblica: Critical
Dictionary of the Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archæology, Geography and Natural History of the Bible, 3 Black (Dr. Sinclair), Empusa acrides, the Locust-destroying

Fungus, 357
Blackman (Dr. F. F.), Recovery of Foliage Leaves from Surgical Injuries, 143; on Natural Surgery in Leaves, 619
Blake (R. F.), on the Chemical and Biological Changes occurring during the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, 612

Blanc (M.), Conversion of Uncoloured into Coloured Compounds of Sodium Tetrazotolylsulphite with Ethyl-B-Naphthylamine,

Blatchford (T.), Geology of Kanouna Gold-mining District, 61 Bleicher (Prof.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 164

Bles (E. J.), on a Method for Recording Local Faunas, 588

Blondel (André), Oscillographs, 308, 408 Blood, a Contribution to the Study of the, and Blood-pressure,

George Oliver, M.D., I Blood-rain, F. H. Perry-Coste, 55; the Dust of Blood-rain, Prof. Arthur W. Rücker, F.R.S., 30 Blount (Bertram), Electro-chemistry, 77 Blue Sky Light, the Colour and Polarisation of, Dr. N. E.

Dorsey, 138 Blütengeheimnisse: Eine Blütenbiologie in Einzelbildern,

Georg Worgitzky, 444
Blyth (Sir James), Viticulture, 432
Bôcher (Prof.), Non-oscillatory Linear Differential Equations of

Second Order, 198
Second Order, 198
Bodding (Rev. P. O.), Thunderbolts as Charms, 264
Bodroux (F.), Action of Isobutylene Bromide on Benzene in
Presence of Aluminium Chloride, 176

C. L'Evolution du Pigment, 28; Marine Poisons

Bohm (Dr. G.), L'Evolution du Pigment, 28; Marine Poisons and Burrowing Habit, 644

Bolton (Henry Carrington), Evolution of the Thermometer, 1592-1743, 25; a Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-

Bone-beds: on the Bone-beds of Pikermi, Attica, Dr. A. Smith Woodward, 566; on a Newly-discovered Bone-bed at Achmet Aga, North Eubea, Dr. A. Smith Woodward, 566; on the Discovery of Bone-beds of Early Tertiary Age in the Fayum Depression, H. J. L. Beadnell, 566 Bongert (A.), Product of Nitration of Aceto-acetic Ether, 296

Books of Science, Forthcoming, 593 Boomerangs, Gilbert T. Walker, 338; Ottavio Zanotti Bianco,

Borchgrevink (C. E.), Snow Conditions in the Antarctic, 257; First on the Antarctic Continent, 279

Bordier (M.), Electrolysis of Animal Tissues, 120

Börnstein (Dr. R.), Leitfaden der Wetterkunde, 180 Borradaile (L. A.), on the Land Crustaceans of a Coral Island,

Borthwick (A. W.), on the Diameter Increment of Trees, 619 Bosanquet (Mr.), on the Praesos Excavations, 615

Bose (R. C. L.), Karabin, 47

Botany: Assimilation Chlorophylienne et la Structure des Plantes, Dr. Ed. Griffon, 28; the Voandzou plant, M. Balland, 48; Two New Genera of Chinese Trees, W. B. Hemsley, F.R.S., 70; the Flora of Tibet, W. B. Hemsley, F.R.S., and H. H. Pearson, 70; Linnean Society, 70, 142, F.R.S., and H. H. Pearson, 70; Linnean Society, 70, 142, 223; Specimens of Aecidium berberidis, J. Lewton Brain, 77; Chlorophyll Assimilation, Jean Friedel, 88; the Sporulation of Yeasts, A. Guilliermond, 96; Glucoside Characteristic of Germinating Period of Beech, P. Tailleur, 120; New South Wales Linnean Society, 143, 272, 416, 548; Recovery of Foliage Leaves from Surgical Injuries, F. F. Blackman and G. L. C. Matthaei, 143; a Raid on Wild Flowers, Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S., Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 126; a Raid upon Wild Flowers, David Houston, 186; Dr. George Raid upon Wild Flowers, David Houston, 156; Dr. George Watt, the Hanbury Medallist for 1901, 162; the Scientific Study of Commercial Crop Cultivation, R. H. Wallace, 164; Study of Commercial Crop Cultivation, R. H. Wallace, 164; Die Mutationstheorie, Versuche und Beobachtungen über die Entstehung von Arten im Pflanzenreich, Prof. Hugo de Vries, 208; Death and Obituary Notice of Maxime Cornu, Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S., 211; Biochemical Differentiation of Two Ferments of Vinegar, G. Bertrand and R. Sazerac, 224; Catalase, a New Vegetable Enzyme, Dr. O. Loew, 239; Vitality of Seeds, Dr. Henry H. Dixon, 256; Shade in Coffee Culture, O. F. Cook, 264; Sources of Insect Attraction in Flowers, Prof. F. Plateau, 264; Chemical Relationship between Hæmoglobin and Chlorophyll, Herren Nencki and Marchlewski, 265; Saccharification of Leguminous Seeds Favoured by Sodium Fluoride, H. Hérissey, 272; Vegetation of Punctiform nostoc in Presence of Carbo-272; Vegetation of Punctiform nostoc in Presence of Carbohydrates, R. Bouilhac, 272; Generality of Metal-fixation by Cell-wall in Plants, H. Devaux, 272; Bacteroids of Leguminous Nodules and Culture of *Rhizobium leguminosarum*, R. Greig Smith, 272; Osmotic Pressure as Protection from Cold in Living Cell, M. D'Arsonval, 295; Attempt to Render Vegetables Immune against Cryptogamic Diseases, J. Beauverie, 296; Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, J. Beauverie, 296; Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, John M. Coulter, 300; Possible Provision of Nature against Hybridisation, Dr. W. Burck, 310; the Story of Wild Flowers, Rev. Prof. G. Henslow, 350; Empusa acridis, the Locust-destroying Fungus, Dr. Sinclair Black, 357; the Prothalli of Ophioglossum pendulum, Helminthostachys zeylanica and Psilotum, W. H. Lang, 365; Poison of Lotus arabicus, W. R. Dunstan, F.R.S., and T. A. Henry, 367; Die Reizleitung und die Reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, Dr. B. Nemec, 371; Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768–1771, Right Hon. Sir Inustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's voyage Round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768-1771, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Daniel Solander, W. Botting Hemsley, F.R.S., 374; Flowers and Ferns in their Haunts, M. O. Wright, 375; Curious Incrustations on Roots in Littoral Sand-dunes of Victoria, 409; the Mechanism of Etherification in Plants, E. Charabot and A. Hébert, 440; Blütenge-kinning. Fine Platochickein in Fine Platochickein Communication of the Platochickein of Plantskiewick Fine Platochickein in Plantskiewick. heimnisse, Eine Blütenbiologie in Einzelbildern, Georg Worgitzky, 444; New Garden Plants: a Study in Evolution, 446; the Jarrah and Karri Woods of West Australia, 453; the Moon and Vegetation, 454; Bacterial Disease of Potato, G. Delacroix, 464; Stream Invasion by Jussiæa Grandiflora in France, P. Carles, 464; the "Weeping" Habit in Trees the Result of Diminished Vitality, T. Meehan, 528; Botany of Interior of New South Wales, iv., R. H. Cambage, 548; Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. A. F. W. Schimper, Percy Groom, 551; Ant Gardens in Amazon Region, E. Ule, 553; Distribution of Acidity in Stem, Leaf and Flower, A. Astruc, 572; Death and Obituary Notice of William West, 579; Botanical Laboratory of Hakgala (Ceylon) Gardens, 580; Theine in the Tea-plant and Organic Iron Compounds in Plants, U. Suzuki, 582; on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, Prof. Bower, 592; Prof. Miall, 593; Prof. Marshall Ward, 593; Prof. Withers, 593; Prof. Armstrong, 593; Dr. D. H. Scott, 593; Dr. Kimmins, 593; Sir John Gorst, 593; on the Teaching of Botany in Schools, Harold Wager, 592; the Formation of Acids in Plants, MM. Berthelot and André, 596; Causes of Difference in Colour between Green and Black Tea, Mr. Aso, 607; Double Flowers and Parasitism, Marin Molliard, 620; Diotis Candidissima, C. P. Hurst, 644; Chemical Effects of Light on Plant Life, Herren Ciamician and Silber, 658; see also Section K British Association.

Bottomley (Dr. J. T.), on Radiation of Heat and Light from a

Heated Solid, 586
Boudouard (M.), Aluminium-Magnesium Alloys, 176
Bouffé (F.), Psoriasis and Neurasthenia, 440
Bouilhac (R.), Vegetation of Punctiform Nostoc in Presence of

Carbohydrates, 272
Boulenger (G. A., F.R.S.), the Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii., Amphibia and Reptiles, Hans Gadow, 401
Boulud (M.), the Sugars from Blood, 320

Bourcet (P.), Iodine in Blood, 248

Bouty (E.), the Dielectric Cohesion of Gases, 344
Bouveault (L.), Product of Nitration of Aceto-acetic Ether, 296
Bower (Pos., F.R.S.), on the Teaching of Botany in Universities (1998). sities, 592; on a Specimen of *Ophioglossum simplex* collected by Mr. Ridley in Sumatra, 617
Boyle (Sir Courtenay, K.C.B.), Death and Obituary Notice

of, 82

Boys (C. V., F.R.S.), the Comptometer, 265; British Instru-

ments at the Paris Exhibition, 576
Brain (J. Lewton), Specimens of Aecidium berberidis, 77
Braum (Prof. Dr. Ferdinand), Drahtlose Telegraphie durch Wasser und Luft, 497

Brebner (George), on the Anatomy of Danaca and other Mara-

thaceæ, 617
Bredig (G.), the Inorganic Ferments, 135
Breglia (Prof. Ernesto), Il Calcolo Grafico applicato alla
Misura delle Volte, 27
Bretschneider (Dr. E.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 87
Breuil (H.), Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Caves in Dordogne, 572

Brillouin (Marcel), Mémoires Originaux sur la circulation générale

de l'atmosphère, 396 Brinell's Method of Determining Hardness of Iron and Steel, A. Wahlberg, 64

British Association Meeting, the, Prof. Magnus Maclean, 78,

British Association Meeting at Glasgow, 403, 470, 502; Inaugural Address by Prof. Arthur W. Rücker, Sec.R.S.,

President of the Association, 470

Section A (Mathematics and Physics).—Opening Address by Major P. A. MacMahon, D.Sc., F.R.S., President of the Section, 477; on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, Dr. Crémieu, Dr. H. A. Wilson, Lord Kelvin, 586; on the Proposed New Unit of Pressure, the Megadyne per Square Centimetre, Dr. Guillaume, 586; on Optical Glass, Dr. Glazebrook, Mr. Hinks, 586; the Seismological Committee on Certain Frequent Small Movements of the Seismograph Trace, 586; on the Determina-tion of Magnetic Force on board Ship, Captain Creak's Modified Dip Circle, 586; on the Absolute Amount of Gravitational Metters in the Computational Methods in the Gravitational Matter in any Large Volume of Interstellar Space, Lord Kelvin, 586, 626; on Radiation of Heat and Light from a Heated Solid, Dr. J. T. Bottomley, 586; on Determining the Influence of Water Vapour on the Energy Lost by a Heated Body placed in an Enclosure containing Air, Hydrogen or Water Vapour, Prof. Morley and Mr. Brush, 586; a New Pressure Gauge, Prof. Morley, 586; on Determining the Depression of the Freezing Points of Extremely Dilute Solutions, Mr. E. H. Griffiths, 586; a New Argument for the Existence of an Ether, Mr. B. Hopkinson, 586; Experiments on the Passage of Electricity

through Mercury Vapour, Prof. Schuster, 587; the Latest Form of Prof. Minchin's Photo-electric Cell, 587; on the Effects of Sea Temperature and Wind Direction on the Seasonal Variation of Air Temperature in these Islands, Messrs. W. N. Shaw and R. W. Cohen, 587; the Depression of the Earth's Crust due to an Area of High Barometric Pressure can be Detected by a Seismograph at Great Distances from the Centre of the Depression, Mr. F. N. Denison, 587; on a Planet beyond Neptune with a Mass

about Equal to that of Jupiter, Prof. G. Forbes, 587; on the Faculæ on the Sun's Surface, Father Cortie, 587

Section B (Chemistry).—Opening Address by Prof. Percy F. Frankland, F.R.S., President of the Section, the Position of British Chemistry at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century, 503; on Duty-free Alcohol, Dr. W. T. Lawrence, 611; Dr. T. E. Thorpe, 611; Prof. A. Michael, 611; on Enzymic Action, Prof. Adrian Brown, 611–12; on the Chemical and Biological Changes occurring during the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Prof. E. A. Letts, Mr. R. F. Blake, 612; on Humus and the so-called Irreducible Residue in the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Dr. S. Rideal, 612; on Sulphuric Acid as a Typhoid Disinfectant, Rideal, 612; on Sulphuric Acid as a Typhoid Disinfectant, Dr. S. Rideal, 612; on the Inverse Ratio of Chlorine to Rainfall, Mr. W. Ackroyd, 612; on the Minute Structure of Metals, Mr. G. T. Beilby, 612; on the Action of Ammonia on Metals at High Temperatures, Prof. G. G. Henderson, Mr. G. T. Beilby, 612; on Aluminium-Tin Alloys, Dr. W. C. Anderson and G. Lean, 612; on the Properties of Radium, Prof. Willy Marckwald, 612; on so-called "Phototropic" Substances, Prof. Willy Marckwald, 612; on the Three Stereoisomeric Cinnamic Acids, Prof. A. Michael, 612; on the Condensation of Benzil with Prof. A. Michael, 612; on the Condensation of Benzil with Dibenzilketone, Prof. G. G. Henderson, Mr. Corstorphine, 612; on Some Points in Chemical Education, Prof. Joji Sakurai, 612; on the Detection and Estimation of Arsenic in Beer and Articles of Food, Mr. W. Thomson, 612; on the Electrolytic Conductivity of Halogen Salt Solutions,

Dr. J. Gibson, 612

Section C. (Geology).—Opening Address by John Horne, F.R.S., F.R.S.E., F.G.S., President of the Section, Recent Advances in Scottish Geology, 509; on Recent Discoveries in Arran Geology, Mr. W. Gunn, 564; on Lateral Variations of Composition in Zones of the Eastern Highland Schists, Mr. G. Barrow, 565; on the Structure and Probable Succession of the Schists of the Southern and Probable Succession of the Schists of the Southern Highlands, Mr. P. Macnair, 565; on the Re-discovery of a Tree-trunk Embedded in Volcanic Ash in Mull, Sir A. Geikie, 565; on the Sequence of the Tertiary Igneous Eruptions in Skye, Mr. A. Harker, 565; on the Re-semblance of the Old Red Sandstone of North-west Ireland to the Torridon Rocks of Sutherland, Messrs. A. McHenry and J. H. Kilroe, 565; on the Relation of the Silurian and OrdovicianRocks of North-west Ireland to the Great Metamorphic Series, Messrs. A. McHenry and J. H. Kilroe, 565; Mr. G. H. Kinahan, 565; on the Geological Distribution of the Fishes of the Carboniferous Rocks and of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, Dr. Traquar, 565; Mr. R. Kidston, 565; on the Conditions under which Artesian Water is obtained in Queensland, Dr. R. Logan Jack, 565; on the Cambrian Fossils of the North-west Highlands, Mr. Remains, Prof. Sollas, 565; on a Machine for Investigating Fossil Remains, Prof. Sollas, 565; on Plants and Coleoptera from a Pleistocene Deposit at Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, Mr. A. M. Bell, 565; on Overflow Channels and other Phenomena Indicating Glacier-dammed Lakes in the Cheviots, Prof. P. F. Kendall, Mr. H. B. Muff, 565; on the Application of Geology to Agriculture by the Preparation of Soil Maps, Mr. J. R. Kilroe, 565; on the Scottish Ores of Copper, Mr. J. G. Goodchild, 565; on the Trias of Elgin and Nairn, Dr. W. Mackie, 565; on the Source of the Alluvial Gold of the Kildonan Field, Sutherland, Mr. J. Malcolm Maclaren, 566; on the Influence of Organic Matter on the Deposition of Gold in Veins, Mr. J. Malcolm Maclaren, 566; on the Mode of Occurrence of Cairngorms, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, 566; on Computation of the Age of the Earth from the amount of Salt in the Sea, Prof. Joly, Mr. Ackroyd, 566; on the Sources of the Warp in the Humber, Mr. W. H. Wheeler, 566; on the Bone-beds of Pikermi, Attica, Dr. A. Smith Woodward, 566; on a Newly-discovered Bone-bed at

Achmet Aga, North Eubœa, Dr. A Smith Woodward, 566; on the Discovery of Bone-beds of Early Tertiary Age in the Fayum Depression, Mr. H. J. L. Beadnell, 566; on the Physical History of the Norwegian Fjords, Prof. E. the Physical History of the Norwegian Fjords, Prof. E. Hull, 566; on the Origin of the Gravel Flats of Berkshire and Surrey, Mr. H. W. Monckton, 566; Report of the Geological Photographs Committee, Prof. W. W. Watts, 566; Report of the Committee on Erratic Blocks, Prof. P. F. Kendall, 566; Report of the Committee on Carboniferous Life Zones, Dr. Wheelton Hind, 566; Report of the Committee on the Underground Waters of N.W. Yorkshire, Capt. A. R. Dwerryhouse, 566; Report of the Committee on the Exploration of Irish Caves, 566; Report of the Committee on the Structure of Crystals, Mr. Report of the Committee on the Structure of Crystals, Mr. W. Barlow, Prof. H. A. Miers, Mr. G. F. Herbert Smith, 566

Section D. (Zoology).—Opening Address by Prof. J. Cossar Ewart, M.D., F.R.S., President of the Section; the Experimental Study of Variation, 482; on the Pelvic Cavity of the Porpoise as a Guide to the Determination of the Sacral Region in Cetacea, Dr. Hepburn, Dr. D. Waterston, Sacral Region in Cetacea, Dr. Hepburn, Dr. D. Waterston, 587; on the Relationships of the Premaxilla in the Bears, Prof. R. J. Anderson, 587; Report of the Committee on Bird Migration in Great Britain and Ireland, 587; Report of the "Index Animalium" Committee, 587; Report of the Committee on the Zoology of the Sandwich Islands, 587; Report of the Committee on the Coral Reefs of the Indian Regions, 587; Report of the Committee for the Table at the Naples Zoological Station, 587; Natural History and Ethnography of the Malay Peninsula, Mr. W. W. Skeat, 587; on the Coral Islands of the Maldives, Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, 587; on a Method for Recording Local Faunas, Mr. E. J. Bles, 588; on Germinal Selection in Relation to Inheritance, Prof. J. Arthur Thomson, 588; on the Behaviour of Young Gulls Naturally and Artificially Hatched, Prof. J. Arthur Thomson, 588; Dredging Expedition in Connection with the Millport Marine Station, 588; on Dimorphism in Foraminifera, Mr. J. J. Lister, 588; on the Relation of Binary Fission and Conjugation to Variation, Dr. J. Y. Simpson, 588; on Zebras and Zebra Hybrids, Dr. J. Y. Simpson, 588; on Zebras and Zebra Hybrids, Prof. J. C. Ewart, 588-589; on a Large Nematode Parasitic in the Sea-urchin, Dr. J. F. Gemmill, 588; on the Land Crustaceans of a Coral Island, Mr. L. A. Borradaile, 588; on the Youngest Known Larva of *Polypterus*, Mr. . S. Budgett, 588; on the Origin of the Vertebrate Limbs, Mr. J. Graham Kerr, 588; on the Story of Malaria, Major

R. Ross, 588

Section E. (Geography).—Opening Address by Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.G.S., President of the Section, on Research in Geography Mr. E. G. Martin Behaim and the History of Geography, Mr. E. G. Ravenstein, 589; Final Report of the Committee on the Climate of Tropical Africa, Mr. Ravenstein, 589; on the Morphological Divisions of Europe, Dr. A. J. Herbertson, 589; on Geographical Conditions Affecting British Trade, 589; on Geographical Conditions Affecting British Trade, Mr. G. G. Chisholm, 589; on the Influence of Geographical Environment on Political Evolution, Prof. Alleyne Ireland, 589; on the Effects of Vegetation in the Valley and Plain of the Clyde, Prof. G. F. Scott Elliot, 589; on a Scheme of the Scottish Natural History Society for Reference to Papers on Scottish Natural History, &c., Miss Marion Newbigin, 589; on a Botanical Survey of Scotland, Marion Newbigin, 599; on a Botanical Survey of Scotland, Prof. W. G. Smith, 590; on the Anthropogeography of Argentina, Dr. Francisco Moreno, 590; on the Belgian Expedition to Ka-Tanga, Captain Lemaire, 590; Report of the Committee on Terrestrial Surface Waves, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 590; on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere and the Causes of Glacial Periods, Mr. H. N. Dickson, 590; on the Scientific Study of the Lakes of the British Islands, Dr. Mill, 590; Sir John Murray, 590; Mr. John Horne, 590; Colonel D. A. Johnston, 590; Report of the Committee on a Scheme for Surveying British Protectorates, 590; on the Topography and Resources of Northern Ontario, Canada, Dr. R. Bell, 590; on the Exploration of the Upper Strata of the Atmosphere by Means of Kites. Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, 500; Report of Means of Kites, Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, 590; Report of the Committee on the Change of the Land-level of the Phlegraean Fields, Mr. Günther, 590-1; on Weather Maps Published Daily by various Countries; Mr. W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 591; on the Organisation and Equipment of the

National Antarctic Expedition, Dr. J. Scott Keltie, 591; Dr. H. R. Mill, 591; on the Method and Plans of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, Mr. W. S. Bruce, 591; on the Experimental Demonstration of the Curvature of the Earth's Surface, Mr. H. Yule Oldham, 591; on an Expedition in Western China, Dr. R. Logan Jack, 591; on the Crux of the Upper Yang-tse, Mr. Archibald Little, 591; on the Representation of the Heavens in the Teach-

ing of Cosmography, M. Galeron, 591; on the Movements of Men by Land and Sea, Mr. Mackinder, 591

Section G. (Mechanics).—Opening Address by Colonel R. E. Crompton, M. Inst. C. E., President of the Section, 517; on the Mechanical Exhibits at the Glasgow Exhibition, Mr. D. H. Morton, 613; on a Long-continuous-burning Petro-leum Lamp for Beacons and Buoys, Mr. J. R. Wigham, 613; on a Recording Manometer for High Pressures, Mr. J. E. Petavel, 613; Report of the Small Screw Gauge Committee, 613; Report of the Committee on the Resistance of Road Vehicles to Traction, 613; on Railway Rolling Stock, Present and Future, Mr. D. Macdonald, 613; on the Panama Canal, Mr. Bunau-Varilla, 613; on the Commercial Importance of Aluwarnar, 613; on the Commercial Importance of Anti-minium, Prof. E. Wilson, 613; on the Protection of Build-ings from Lightning, Mr. Killingworth Hedges, 613; on a Folding Rangefinder for Infantry, Prof. George Forbes, 613; Prof. Barr, 613; Prof. Stroud, 613; on a Machine for the Manufacture of Type, Mr. M. Barr, 613-14; on Some Recent Developments in Chain Driving, Mr. C.

Section H (Anthropology).—Opening Address by Prof. D. J. Cunningham, M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., President of the Section, 539; on the Origin of the Cartilage of the stapes and its continuity with the Hyoid Arch, Dr. J. F. Gemmill, 614; on the Morphology of Transverse Vertebral Processes, Prof. A. Macalister, F.R.S., 614; on the "Temporary Fissures" of the Human Cerebral Hemispheres, Prof. J. Symington, 614; on the Frequency and Pigmentation Value of the Surnames of Scottish School Children in Eastern Aberdeenshire, Mr. J. F. Tocher, Mr. J. Gray, 614; on a Skull found in Peat in the Bed of the River Orwell, Miss Nina Layard, 614; Report of the Com-mittee for the Ethnographic Survey of Canada, 614; on the Traditional History of the Caniengahakas, Mr. J. O. Brant Sero, 614; Report of the Skeat Expedition to the Malay Peninsula, 614; on the Half-Siamese Half-Malay Community of Sai-Kau, Mr. Annandale, Mr. Robinson, 614; on the Projected Ethnographic Survey of India, Mr. W. Crooke, 614; on Hints of Evolution in Tradition, Mr. D. Crooke, 614; on Hints of Evolution in Tradition, Mr. D. MacRitchie, 615; on Dr. Fraser's Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, Mr. J. S. Stuart Glennie, 615; on the Chronology of the Stone Age of Man, Dr. W. Allen Sturge, 615; Sir John Evans, 615; Prof. Kendal, 615; on an Exhibit of Naturally Chipped Flints from the Larne Gravels and North Irish Beaches, Mr. Coffey, 615; on a Flint Palæolith with alleged "Thong-Marks," Miss Layard, 615; on a Piece of Yew from the Forest Bed of Kessingland, Mr. F. D. Longe, 615; Report of the Committee on the Age of Stone Circles, 615; on Excavations on Neolithic Sites in the Isle of Arran, Drs. Duncan and Bryce, 615; on a "Kitchen Midden" near Elie Duncan and Bryce, 615; on a "Kitchen Midden" near Elie in Fife, Dr. Munro, 615; on the Excavation of the Roman Station at Ardoch in Perthshire, Mr. J. H. Cunningham, 615; Report of the Silchester Excavation Committee, 615; on the Age of Ogham Writing in Ireland, Mr. R. A. S. Macalister, 615; on the Bones of Hen Nekht, an Egyptian King of the Third Dynasty, Mr. C. S. Myers, 615; Report of the Cretan Exploration Committee, 615; on the Neolithic Settlement which underlies the Mycenæan Palace at Knossos, Mr. A. J. Evans, F.R.S., 615; on the Presos Excavations, Mr. Bosanquet, 615; on a Mycenæan Site Excavated at Zakro, Mr. Hogarth, 615

Section I (Physiology).—Opening Address by Prof. John G. McKendrick, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., President of the

Section, 545
Section K (Botany).—Opening Address by Prof. I. Bayley Balfour, F.R.S., President of the Section, 557; on the Aims and Proposals of the International Association of Botanists, Dr. Lotsy, 615; on the Vegetation of Mount Ophir, Mr. A. G. Tansley, 616; on the Cytology of the Cyanophyceæ, Mr. Harold Wager, 616; on the Bromes

and their Brown Rust, Prof. Marshall Ward, 616; Contributions to our Knowledge of the Gametophyte in the Ophioglossales and Lycopodiales, Mr. William H. Lang, 616; on the Vascular Anatomy of the Cyatheaceæ, Mr. D. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, 616; on a Specimen of Ophioglossum simplex collected by Mr. Ridley in Sumatra, Prof. Bower, F.R.S., 617; on the Anatomy of Ceratopteris thalictroides, Miss Sibille O. Ford, 617; on Two Malayan "Myrmecophilous" Ferns, Mr. R. H. Yapp, 617; on the Anatomy of Danaea and other Marattiaceæ, Mr. George Brebner, 617; on the Anatomy of Todea, Mr. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., Miss S. O. Ford, 617; Remarks on the Nature of the Stele of Equisetum, Mr. J. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, 617; on a Primitive Type of Structure in Calamites, Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., 617; on a Calamite from the Calciferous Sandstone of Burntisland, Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., 617; on the Past History of the Yew in Great Britain and Ireland, Prof. Conwentz, 617; on the Distribution of Certain Forest Trees in Scotland, Mr. W. N. Niven, 618; on Certain Points in the Structure of the Seeds, Aethioon Certain Points in the Structure of the Seeds, Aethio-testa, Brongn., and Stephanospermum, Brongn., Prof. F. W. Oliver, 618; on the Structure and Origin of Jet, Mr. A. C. Seward, F.R.S., 618; on the Cuticular Structure of Euphorbia Abdelkuri, Professor Bayley Balfour, F.R.S., 618; on Abnormal Secondary Thickening in Kendrickia Walkeri, Miss A. M. Clark, 618; on the Histology of the Sieve Tubes of Pinus, Mr. A. W. Hill, 618; on Examples of Heterogenesis in Conifers, Dr. Lotsy, 618; on the Morphology of the "Flowers" of Cephalotaxus, Mr. W. C. Worsdell, 618; on Correlation in the Growth of Roots and Shoots, Prof. Kny, 618; on Natural Surgery in Roots and Shoots, Prof. Kny, 618; on Natural Surgery in Leaves, Dr. F. F. Blackman, Miss Matthaei, 619; on the Absorption of Ammonia from Polluted Sea-water by *Ulva* latissima, Prof. Letts, Mr. John Hawthorne, 619; on the Diameter Increment of Trees, Mr. A. W. Borthwick, 619; on the Strength and Resistance to Pressure of Certain Seeds, Prof. G. F. Scott Elliot, 619; on the Transport of

British Timber, Mr. Samuel Margerison, 619
Section L (Education).—Opening Address by the Right Hon.
Sir John E. Gorst, F.R.S., President of the Section, 562; Educational Experiment and Research, Dr. Armstrong, 591; on the Experimental Method of Educational Teaching, Prof. L. C. Miall, 591; Sir Michael Foster, 591; on the Scope of Educational Science, Prof. H. L. Withers, 501; Mr. P. A. Barnett, 591; on the Teaching of Mathematics, Prof. Perry, 592; Prof. Hudson, 592; Prof. Forsyth, 592; Major MacMahon, 592; Prof. Rücker, 592; Prof. Silvanus Thompson, 592; Prof. Henrici, 592; Prof. Everett, 592; Prof. L. C. Miall, 592; Mrs. W. N. Shaw, 592; Appointment of a Committee of the British Association to Proceedings of 592; Appointment of a Committee of the British Association to Report upon Improvements in the Teaching of Mathematics, 592; on the Teaching of Botany in Schools, Mr. Harold Wager, 592; on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, Prof. Bower, 592; Prof. Miall, 593; Prof. Marshall Ward, 593; Prof. Withers, 593; Prof. Armstrong, 593; Dr. D. H. Scott, 593; Dr. Kimmins, 593; Sir John Coret, 593; or D. P. Coret, 593; Dr. Kimmins, 593; Sir John Coret, 593; or D. P. Carrelland, and Sir John Gorst, 593; on the Organisation of Technical and Secondary Education, Sir Henry Roscoe, 593; Sir Michael Foster, 593; on the Creation of Local Educational Autho-Foster, 593; on the Creation of Local Educational Authorities, Sir Philip Magnus, 593; on the Influence of the Universities and Examining Bodies upon the Work of Schools, the Bishop of Hereford, 593; on the Teaching of Science in Elementary Schools, Dr. J. H. Gladstone, 593 British Birds: a Handbook of, J. E. Harting, 297 British Chemistry, the Position of, at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century: Opening Address in Section B at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, Prof. Percy F. Frankland, F.R.S., 503
British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, Veterinary Work

British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, Veterinary Work in, R. J. Stordy, 67

British Instruments at the Paris Exhibition, C. V. Boys,

F.R.S., 576

British Islands: Lepidoptera of the, Charles G. Barrett, 444; on the Scientific Studies of the British Islands, Dr. Mill, 590; Sir John Murray, 590

British Medical Association: Scientific Research as the Basis of

all Medical Progress, Dr. G. B. Ferguson, 330 British Mollusca: Our Country's Shells and How to Know Them: A Guide to, W. J. Gordon, 206

British Museum; The Oldest Civilisation of Greece: Studies

of the Mycenæan Age, H. R. Hall, 280; a Guide to the Shell and Star-fish Galleries (Mollusca, Polyzoa, Brachiopoda, Tunicata, Echinoderma and Worms) in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), 423; Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), E. W. Oates, 600

British Serpents, the Life-History of, and Local Distribution in the British Isles, Gerald R. Leighton, 624

British School at Athens, the Annual of the, 11

British Trade, Geographical Conditions Affecting, G. G. Chis-

holm, 589 British West Indies, the Marine Resources of the, Dr. J. E.

Duerden, 31 Bromwich (T. J. I'A.), Congruent Reductions of Bilinear Forms, 295

Bronze Medals, Alloys for, Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen, 309 Brooks (A. H.), the Cape Nome (Alaska) Gold Region, 409 Brough (B. H.), a Steel Medal, 65

Brown Rust, on the Bromes and their, Prof. Marshall Ward,

Brown (Prof. Adrian), on Enzymic Action, 611, 612 Brown (Dr. Horace T., F.R.S.), Some Recent Work on Diffusion, Lecture at Royal Institution, 171, 193

Browne (E. A.), a Manual of School Hygiene, 373
Bruce (W. S.), Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Baron
Adolf Erik von Nordenskjöld, 450; on the Methods and
Plans of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 591

Bruner (L.), Dynamic Investigations on Bromination of Aromatic Compounds, 265

Brunhes (B.), Direction of Magnetisation in Clay Beds baked by Lava Flow, 320

Brunton (Sir Lauder, F.R.S.), Glycolytic Enzyme in Muscle,

Brush (Mr.), on Determining the Influence of Water Vapour on the Energy Lost by a Heated Body Placed in an Enclosure containing Air, Hydrogen or Water Vapour, 586

Brussels Meteorological Averages, 1833–1900, 214 Bryant (Sophie), Euclid's Elements of Geometry, 623 Bryce (Dr.), on Excavations on Neolithic Sites in the Isle of

Arran, 615 Buchanan (J. Y., F.R.S.), the Size of the Ice-grain in Glaciers,

399; Solar Radiation, 456
Buckley (Arabella B.), Cassell's Eyes and No Eyes, 550
Budgett (J. S.), on the Youngest Known Larva of *Polypterus*,

Buffalo Exhibition, the Electrical Illuminations at the, 287 Building Construction, First Stage, Brysson Cunningham, 625 Bullen (Rev. R. A.), Two Well-Sections, 94

Bulletin of American Mathematical Society, 45, 221, 341 Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of Washington, 253

Bulman (G. P.), Hybrid Oochromy, with a Note on Xenia,

Bunau-Varilla (M.), on the Panama Canal, 613 Bunel (L.), New Mode of Decomposition of Bisulphite Deri-

vatives, 176 Burck (Dr. W.), Possible Provision of Nature against Hybrid-

Burek (Dr. W.), Possible Provision of Natare against Typinal isation in Plants, 310

Burntisland, on a Calamite from the Calciferous Sandstone of, Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., 617

Burstall (Prof. F. W.), Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, held in New York City July 2-3, 1900, 204

Burtt (J.), the Climate of Pemba, 20
Butterflies and Moths, Familiar, W. F. Kirby, 375
Byrn (Edward W.), Progress of Invention in the Nineteenth

Century, 125

Cable, Submarine, on a Form of Artificial, Prof. A. Trowbridge,

Cairngorms, on the Mode of Occurrence of, E. H. Cunningham Craig, 566

Calamite, on a, from the Calciferous Sandstone of Burntisland,

Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., 617 Calamites, on a Primitive Type of Structure in, Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., 617

Calculus: the Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus, J. W. A. Young, C. E. Linebarger, 396; Differential and Integral Calculus, with Applications for Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools, E. W. Nichols, 396

California: the Salton Salt Deposits, 19

Californian Method of Fruit Protection from Frost, A. G.

Callendar (Prof. H. L.), Thermodynamical Correction of Gas Thermometer, 23

Calmette's (Dr.) Anti-Venene, the Value of, 657

Cambage (R. H.), Botany of Interior of New South Wales, 548 Cambier (R.), New Method of Examination for Typhoid Bacillus, 200

Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii., Amphibia and Reptiles,

Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401

Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401
Cambridge Philosophical Society, 95, 143
Camel, Bactrian, the Origin and Habits of, 355
Canada: a Canadian Geological Explorer, Dr. Robert Bell,
F.R.S., 81; on the Topography and Resources of Northern
Ontario, Dr. R. Bell, F.R.S., 590; Report of the British
Association Committee for the Ethnographical Survey of
Canada, 614; on the Traditional History of the Caniengahakas, J. O. Brant Sero, 614
Canal Navigation: the Aire and Calder Canal Navigated by a

Canal Navigation: the Aire and Calder Canal Navigated by a

Sea-going Steamer, 434
Canary Islands and South Africa, Essays and Photographs, some Birds of the, II. E. Harris, 603

Cape Observatory, the, Sir David Gill, 410; the McClean Telescope at the Cape Observatory, 632 Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox 1875, the,

Sir David Gill, F.R.S., 257 Cape Viper, the, Claude E. Benson, 126

Capella, Spectroscopic Binary, 639

Capitan (L), Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Caves in

Dordogne, 572
Carbon Monoxide, the Spectra of, and Silicon Compounds, Dr. Karl v. Wesendonk, 29; the Persistence of the Spectrum of Carbon Monoxide, Prof. W. N. Hartley, F.R.S., 54

Cardew (Major), Electric Traction, 437

Carhart (Prof.), the Various Determinations of the E.M.F. of the Clark Cell, 60

Carles (P.), Stream Invasion by Jussiaea grandiflora in France,

Carnac and Stonehenge, 465

Carnegie Technical School at Pittsburg, 570

Carpenter (R. C.), Food Consumption and Metabolism; the Mechanical Efficiency of Bicyclists, 382

Carter (W.), Reactions of Hydroxamides, 175

Cassell's Eyes and No Eyes Series, Arabella B. Buckley, 550

μ Cassiopeiæ, Parallax of, 216

Cartography: Maps: their Uses and Construction, James Morrison, 599

Cat, the Anatomy of the, Jacob Reighard and H. S. Jennings, 155 Catalase, a New Vegetable Enzyme, Dr. O. Loew, 239

Catalogue of the Collection of Birds Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), E. W. Oates, 600

Causes of the Variability of Earthshine, 456

Causse (H.), Reaction with Crystal Violet characteristic of Pure Waters, 272

Cave-dwellers of N. W. Mexico, the, Dr. C. Lumholtz, 522 Caves in Dordogne, Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of, L. Capi-

tan and H. Breuil, 572 Caves of Fiji, the, B. Sawyer and E. C. Andrews, 143 Celebes, the Island of, Dr. Paul Sarasin and Dr. Fritz Sarasin,

Celestial Objects having Peculiar Spectra, 359

Cell, a Convenient Primary, A. E. Munby, 30 Cell, the "Edison" Storage, 241

Centenary of the Discovery of Ceres, 129 Cephalotaxus, on the Morphology of the "Flowers" of, W. C. Worsdell, 618

Ceraski (Prof. W.), Two New Variable Stars, 167

Ceratopteris thalictroides, on the Anatomy of, Miss Sibille O. Ford, 617

Cerebral Science, Studies in Anatomical Psychology, Dr. Wallace Wood, 101

Ceres, the Centenary of the Discovery of, 129

Cetacea, on the Pelvic Cavity of the Porpoise as a Guide to the Determination of the Sacral Region in the, Dr. Hepburn, 587; Dr. D. Waterston, 587

Chain Driving, on some Recent Developments in, C. R. Gerrard, 614

Chalk, Zones in, Dr. A. W. Rowe, 355 Chalmers (Rev. James) ("Tamate"), Obituary Notice of, Dr. A. C. Haddon, F.R.S., 38

Channel Islands and South Devon on April 24, Reported Earthquakes in, Dr. Charles Davison, 126

Chapman Jones Photographic Plate Tester, the. 134

Charabot (E.), Mechanism of Etherification in Plants, 440 Charrin (M.), Absence of Bacteria in Air and Food Prejudicial to Animal Organism, 48

Chauveau (A.), Can Sulphuretted Hydrogen Poisoning be Caused through Skin and Mucous Membrane? 320 Chavastelon (R.), Action of Acetylene on Neutral Saturated

Solution of Cuprous Chloride, 224

Cheesewright's (Mr.) projected London and Brighton Electric

Railway, 580 Chemistry: Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt, Prof. W. Ostwald, 5; an Introduction to Modern Scientific Chemistry, Dr. Lassar-Cohn, 5; Electro-Chemistry, John Hill Twigg, 5; Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, 5; Indigo and Sugar, Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, 10; the Progress of Artificial Indigo, 433; Obituary Perkin, 10; the Progress of Artificial Indigo, 433; Obituary Notice of Prof. Francois Marie Raoult, 17; Chemistry in its Relations to Engineering, Prof. Frank Clowes, 22; Barium Hydride, M. Guntz, 23; Estimation of Nitric Acid in Waters by Stannous Chloride, H. Henriot, 23; Glucamine, L. Maquenne and E. Roux, 24; Experimental Chemistry, Lyman C. Newell, 27; Assimiliation Chlorophylienne et la Structure des Plantes, Dr. Ed. Griffon, 28; the Spectra of Carbon Monoxide and Silicon Compounds, Dr. Karl v. Wesendonk, 20; the Persistence of the Spectrum of Carbon Wesendonk, 29; the Persistence of the Spectrum of Carbon Monoxide, Prof. W. N. Hartley, F.R.S., 54; Carbon Monoxide in Blood of Newly-born, M. Nicloux, 224; a Convenient Primary Cell, A. E. Mumby, 30; Chemical Society, venient Primary Cell, A. E. Mumby, 30; Chemical Society, 46, 94, 174; Nitrocamphene, Aminocamphene and Hydroxy-camphene, O. Forster, 46; Origin of Combined Chlorine in Moorland Waters, W. Ackroyd, 46; Robinin, Violaquer-citrin and Osyritrin, A. G. Perkin, 46; New Method of Preparing Salicylaldehyde Methyl Ether, J. C. Irvine, 47; Di-iodococaine Hydriodide, W. Garsed and J. N. Collie, 47; Preparation of Synthetical Glucosides, H. Ryan and W. S. Mills, 47; Karabin. R. C. L. Bose, 47; New Series of Dimercuri-ammonium Salts, P. C. Ráy, 47; Urea-formation by Oxidation of Albumin by Ammonium Persulphate, L. Hugouneng, 120; the Existence of Ammonium, Dr. O. Ruff. gounenq, 120; the Existence of Ammonium, Dr. O. Ruff, 637; Ethyl Nitro-acetate, A. Wahl, 48; the Voandzou, M. Balland, 48; the Periodic Classification and the Problem of Chemical Evolution, G. Rudorf, 51; Physikalische-chemische Propädeutik, H. Griesbach, 53; Researches on Organic Peroxides, MM. v. Baeyer and Villiger, 64; Osmosis through Membrane of Copper Ferrocyanide, G. Flusin, 71; Combinations of Aluminium with Tungsten, Léon Guillet, 71; Aluminium-molybdenum Alloys, Léon Guillet, 176; Aluminium-magnesium Alloys, M. Boudouard, 176; Aluminium in Mineral Waters, F. Parmentier, 176; Action of Isobutylenebromide on Benzene in Presence of Aluminium Chloride, F. Bodroux, 176; Alumina in Madagascar Soil, T. Schloesing, 119; Crystallised Lime, Ad. Jouve, 71; Hydration of Amylpropiolic Acid with Formation of Caproylacetic Acid, Ch. Moureu and R. Delange, 71; Dimethylpyruvic Acid, A. Wahl, 72; Action of Acid Chlorides on Ether Oxides in Presence of Zinc Chlorides, Marcel Descudé, Perkin, 77; the Velocity of Reactions, W. Duane, 92; Derivatives of Bicyclopentane, W. H. Perkin, jun., and J. F. Thorpe, 94; Lead Silicates in Relation to Pottery Manufacture, T. E. Thorpe and C. Simmonds, 94; the Use of Lead Compounds in Pottery, Prof. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., 188; Influence of Grinding on Schubility of Lead in Lead 408; Influence of Grinding on Solubility of Lead in Lead Fritts, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., and Charles Simmonds, 175; Substitution of Zinc-White for White Lead in Oil Painting, A. Levache, 120; 2:6-dibromo-4-nitrosophenol, M. O. Forster and W. Robertson, 94; the Aromatic Organo-Magnesium Compounds, MM. Tissier and Guignard, 96; Decomposition of Albuminoids into Protoplasmides, A. Étard, 96; the Sporulation of Yeasts, A. Guilliermond, 96; Praktikum des Anorganischen Chemikers, Dr. Emil Knoevenagel, 99; Vitrified Quartz, Lecture at Royal Institution, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126, Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102; Relations between Electrical Conductivity and Chemical Character of Solutions, Prof. J. Gibson, 119; Molecular depression of Temperature of maximum Density of Water caused by Dissolution of Salts, L. C. de Coppet, 119; Synthesis of Primary Acetylenic Alcohols, C. Moureu and H. Desmots,

120; Oxidation of Primary Alcohols by Contact Action, J. A. Trillat, 120; Glucoside Characteristic of Germinating Period of Beech, P. Tailleur, 120; Le Coton, Prof. H. Lecomte, Prof. Roberts Beaumont, 124; the Leipzig Chemical Laboratory, 127; the Inorganic Ferments, G. Bredig and K. Ikeda, 135; the Addition of Hydrogen to Hydrocarbons, Paul Sabatier and J. B. Senderens, 143; Density of Alloys, E. von Aubel, 143; Reduction of Silver Chloride, by Hydrogen, M. Louping, 143; Action, of Solar Chloride by Hydrogen, M. Jouniaux, 143; Action of Solar Radiations on Silver Chloride in presence of Hydrogen, M. Jouniaux, 248; Synthesis of Aromatic Aldoximes by Fulminating Silver, R. Scholl, E. Bertsch, 191; Action of Silver on Hydrobromic Acid, M. Jouniaux, 344; Action of Hydrogen Peroxide Solution on Silver Oxide, Daniel Berthelot, 644; Emanations from Radio-active Substances, Prof. E. Rutherford, 157; New Method of Crystallising Ferro-silicium, -Manganese and -Chromium, D. Korda, 165; the Neutralisation of Phosphoric Acid, Daniel Berthelot, 175; Optically Active Nitrogen Compounds, W. J. Pope and A. W. Harvey, 174; Reactions of Hydroxamides, R. H. Pickard and W. Carter, 175; the Colloid Form of Piperine, H. G. Madan, 175; the Condensation of Ethylphenylketone, with Benzaldehyde, R. D. Abell, 175; New Method of Determining Hydrolytic Dissociation, R. C. Farmer, 175; New Metallic Borides, S. A. Tucker and H. R. Moody, 175; Action of Alkyl Malonic Esters on Diazoic Chlorides, G. Farrel, 176; New Mode of Decomposition of Bisulphite Derivatives, P. Freundler and L. Bunel, 176; Secondary Products of Action of Sulphuric Acid on Wood Charcoal, A. Verneuil, 176; Public Water-supplies, Requirements, Resources and the Construction of Works, F. E. Turneaure and H. L. Russell, 179; Does Chemical Transformation Influence Weight? Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 181; Succinic Dialdehyde, C. Harries, 191; Glycolytic France in Muscle, Sir Lorder Branco, F.P.S. and lytic Enzyme in Muscle, Sir Lauder Brunton, F.R.S., and Herbert Rhodes, 198; Catalase, a New Vegetable Enzyme, Dr. O. Loew, 239; Behaviour of Amino-acids to Indicators, Daniel Berthelot, 199; Variations of Alkaloidal Nitrogen in Urine, H. Guillemard, 200; Chemical Technology, or Chemistry in its Applications to Arts and Manufactures, vol. iii., Gas Lighting, Charles Hunt, 205; Tyrer's Marsh Berzelius Arsenic Test Apparatus, 215; Formation of Insoluble Phosphates by Double Decomposition, Daniel Berthelot, 224; Action of Epichlorhydrin and Epibromhydrin on Sodium Derivatives of Benzoylacetic Esters, M. Haller, 224; Capillary Constants of Organic Liquids, Ph. A. Guye, A. Baud, 224; Europium, a New Element, Eug. Demarçay, 224; Chlorobromides of Thallium, V. Thomas, 224; Action of Acetylene on Neutral Saturated Solution of Cuprous Chloride, R. Chavastelon, 224; Method of Synthesis of Acetylenic Aldehydes, Ch. Mouren and A. Delange, 296; Electrolytic Separation of Nickel and Cobalt, D. Balachowski, 224; Biochemical Differentiation of Two Ferments of Vinegar, G. Bertrand and R. Sazerac, 224; Reactions of Two Bases Added Simultaneously to Phosphoric Acid, Daniel Berthelot, 248; Acetylometallic Radicles, Daniel Berthelot, 248; Synthesis of Colouring Matter from Diphenylene-phenylmethane, A. Haller and A. Guyot, 248; Action of Mercuric Oxide on Aqueous Solutions of Metallic Salts, A. Mailhe, 248; Action of Acid Chlorides on Aldehydes in Presence of Zinc Chloride, Marcel Descudé, 248; Synthesis of Boronatrocalcite, A. de Schulten, 248; Iodine in Blood, MM. Stassano and P. Bourcet, 248; Die Heterocyklischen Verbindungen der Organischen Chemie, Edgar Wedekind, 252; Electrochemical Laboratory at Owens College, Manchester, 262; Chemical Analysis of Scotch Sandstones, Dr. W. Mackie, 264; Chemical Relationship between Hæmoglobin and Chlorophyll, Herren Nencki and Marchlewski, 265; Dynamic Investigations on Bromination of Aromatic Compounds, L. Bruner, 265; Molecular Constitution of Supersaturated Solutions, Prof. Hartley, Earths, Daniel Be thelot, 271; Fused Niobium, Henri Moissan, 271; Refraction Indexes of Liquid Mixtures, J. de Kowalewski and J. de Modzelewski, 272; Acidemetry of Arsenic Acid, A. Astruc and J. Tarbouriech, 272; Conversion of Uncoloured into Coloured Compound of Sodium Tetrazotolylsulphite with Ethyl-8-Naphthylamine, A. Seyewetz, M. Blanc, 272; Action of Benzaldehyde on Sodium Methol, C. Martine, 272; Camphor Combinations with  $\beta$ -hydroxy-x-naphthylaldehyde, André Helbronner, 272; Action of

Bromacetophenone on Sodium Acetylacetone, F. March, 272; Action of Hydrogen Sulphide on Acetylacetone, F. Leteur, 272; Saccharification of Leguminous Seeds Favoured by Sodium Fluoride, H. Hérissey, 272; Generality of Metal-fixation by Cell-wall in Plants, H. Devaux, 272; Reaction with Crystal Violet Characteristic of Pure Waters, H. Causse, 272; Oxychloride of Phosphorus as Cryoscopic Solvent, G. Oddo, 288; New Derivatives of Benzylcamphor and Benzyl-Oddo, 288; New Derivatives of Benzylcamphor and Benzylidene camphor, A. Haller and J. Minguin, 295; Manganic Phosphates, V. Auger, 296; Action of Acid Chlorides on Methanal, Louis Henry, 296; Dinaphthoxanthene, R. Fosse, 296; Product of Nitration of Acetoacetic Ether, L. Bouveault and A. Bongert, 296; the Intermittent Spring at Vesse, F. Parmentier, 296; the Sugar from Blood, MM. R. Lépine and Boulud, 320; Thermal Study of Potassium Hydrates, 320; Position and Prospects of Electro-chemical Industries, J. W. Swan, F.R.S., 329; the Crystallisation of Salt Solutions, Dr. H. M. Dawson, 336; Radiation of Uranium Constants at very Low Temperatures. H. Becquerel, 344; Electrolytic Preparation of Pure tures, H. Becquerel, 344; Electrolytic Preparation of Pure Oxide of Cerium, Jean Stebba, 344; Action of Copper Hydrate on Solutions of Metallic Salts, A. Mailhe, 344; Oxidation of Propylglycol by Mycoderma aceti, André Kling, 344; Modern Chemistry, William Ramsay, 349; Chemical Lecture Experiments, Francis Gano Benedict, 350; Poison of Lotus arabicus, W. R. Dunstan, F.R.S., and T. A. Henry, 367; Solubility of Mixtures of Sulphate of Copper and Sulphate of Soda MM, Massol and Maldas 368. and Sulphate of Soda, MM. Massol and Maldes, 368; Aluminium-Molybdenum Alloys, Léon Guillet, 368; the Crystallisation of Cerium Oxide, Jean Sterba, 368; Action of Ethyl Alcohol on Barium Ethylate, Marcel Guerbet, 368; die Krystallisation von Eiweissstoffen und ihre Bedeutung der Mathematischen Chemie, J. J. van Laar, 375; Lehrbuch der Mathematischen Chemie, J. J. van Laar, 375; New Method of preparing Aniline, Paul Sabatier and J. B. Method of preparing Aniline, Paul Sabatier and J. B. Senderens, 392; Qualitative Chemical Analysis, Organic and Inorganic, F. Mollwo Perkin. 397; Woad as a Blue Dye, Dr. C. B. Plowright, 413; Action of Sodium Thiosulphate on Solutions of Metallic Salts at High Temperatures and Pressures, J. T. Norton, Jun., 415; the Laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald, 428; a Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492–1897, Henry Carrington Bolton, 430; the Self-Educator in Chemistry, James Knight, 467; Death of Dr. J. L. W. Thudichum, 489; Obituary Notice, 527; a Cæsium-tellurium Fluoride, H. L. Wells and J. M. Willes, 547; Fstimation of Calcium, Strontium and Barium as Oxalates, C. A. Peters, 548; Molecular Weights of Chloral Hydrate at Boiling-point, 548; Molecular Weights of Chloral Hydrate at Boiling-point, M. de Forcrand, 572; Distribution of Acidity in Stem, Leaf and Flower, A. Astruc, 572; Theine in the Tea-plant and Organic Iron Compounds in Plants, N. Suzuki, 582; the formation of Acids in Plants, MM. Berthelot and André, 596; Calculation of Heats of Volatilisation and Fusion of Elements, M. de Forcrand, 596; Nitromannite and Nitrocellulose, Léo Vignon and F. Gerin, 596; Formation of Isatin Derivative of Albumen, Julius Gnezda, 596; Antimony in Organism, G. Pouchet, 596; Chemistry Teaching in United States Medical Schools, Prof. J. H. Long, 607: Causes of Difference in Colour between Green and Black Tea, 607; Action of Urethane on Pyruvic Acid, L. J. Simon, 620; Action of Urea on Pyruvic Acid, L. J. Simon, 644; Monobromalenic Dialdehyde, R. Lespian, 620; Re-644; Monobromaienic Dialdenyde, R. Lespian, 620; Reducing Properties of Nitric Esters, Léo Vignon and F. Gerin, 620; Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and Basic Rocks, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S.; Prof. Edw. Suess, 629; Death of Prof. Maercker, 635; Dissociation of Sulphur Molecules, H. Biltz, 638; Nitro-derivative of Pentaerythrite, Léo Vignon and F. Gerin, 644; Hemoverdine, I. Levin 644. L. Lewin, 644; Note on a Point of Chemical Nomenclature, 648; Chemical Effects of Light on Plant Life, Herren Ciamician and Silber, 658; Chemical Analysis of Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, MM. Lortet and Hugounenq, 668; Action of Pyridine Rases on Tetra-halogen Quinones, Henry Imbert, 668; Oxidation of Benzene Hydrocarbons by Manganese Peroxide and Sulphuric Acid, H. Fournier, 668; Nitro-Derivatives of Arabite and Rhamnite, Léo Vignon and F. Gerin, 668; Physiological Chemistry, the Feeding of Animals, W. H. Jordan, 625; see also Section B, British

Chesnaye (C. P.), Fauna of N.E. Rhodesia, 383 Cheviots, on Overflow Channels and other Phenomena indicating Glacier-dammed Lakes in the, Prof. P. F. Kendall, H. B.

Muff, 565 Cheyne (Prof. T. K.), Encyclopædia Biblica: Critical Dictionary of the Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archæology, Geography and Natural History of the Bible, 3 Child: his Nature and Nurture, the, W. B. Drummond, 53

China: Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. E. Bretschneider, 87; on an Expedition in Western China, Dr. R. Logan Jack, 591; on the Crux of the Upper Yang-tse, Archibald Little, 591; Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, Captain Deasy, 653

Chisholm (G. G.), on Geographical Conditions affecting British Trade, 589

Chlorophyll: Assimiliation Chlorophylienne et la Structure des Plantes, Dr. Ed. Griffon, 28; Chlorophyll Assimilation, Jean Friedel, 88

Chree (Dr. C., F.R.S.), Applications of Elastic Solids to Metrology, 93; the Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-96, 151; Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the Year 1897, 151 Chronographic Measurements, a New Method of using Tuning-

forks in, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 232 Chronometers, Use of Nickel-Steel Alloy for Compensation Balance, C. E. Guillaume, 88

Chrystal (Prof. G.), Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations, 5; Obituary Notice of Prof. Tait, 305 Church (Colonel George Earl), Central and South America,

A. H. Keane, 353 Ciamician (Herr), Chemical Effects of Light on Plant Life, 658 Ciel, Histoire du, Clemence Royer, 497

Circulation of the Atmosphere, the, Mémoires originaux sur la Circulation générale de l'Atmosphere, Marcel Brillouin, 396 Circulation of the Surface Waters of the North Atlantic Ocean,

H. N. Dickson, 665 Civil Engineering, Progress of, Address at American Society of

Civil Engineers. J. J. R. Croes, 438

Civil Engineers, Institute of, Chemistry and its Relations to Engineering, Prof. Frank Clowes, 22

Civilian War Hospital, a, 346

Civilisation of Greece, the Older, 11; the Oldest, H. R. Hall,

Clarke (Miss A. M.), on Abnormal Secondary Thickening in Kendrickia Walkeri, 618

Claude (H.), Lecithin in Tuberculosis, 572

Claypole (Dr. E. W.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 528 Clayton (H. H.), the Eclipse Cyclone, 271

Climate and Crops, Relations between, H. B. Wren, 493 Close (Rev. M. H.), Hipparchus and the Precession of the Equinoxes, 71; Phototherapy, 301 Cloud Observations in India, E. H. Hill, 262

Clowes (Prof. Frank), Chemistry in its Relations to Engineering, 22 Clyde, on the Effects of Vegetation in the Valley and Plain of

the, Prof. G. F. Scott Elliott, 589

Coal Dust Explosion at Aber Valley Colliery, 111 Coal Exports of Great Britain, the, E. G. Wethered, 19

Coal-Field, the Dover, 581

Coal Hoist, New Hydraulic, 407

Coal-Mining, a Text-Book of, Herbert W. Hughes, 324 Cockerell (Prof. T. D. A.), Variation in a Bee, 158 Coffee Culture, Shade in, O. F. Cook, 264

Coffey (Mr.), on Naturally Chipped Flints from the Larne

Gravels and North Irish Beaches, 615 Cohen (R. W.), on the Effects of Sea Temperature and Wind Direction on the Seasonal Variation of Air Temperature in these Islands, 587

Coker (Dr. E. G.), Apparatus for Strain-measurement, 199 Coleridge (Hon. Stephen), the National Anti-Vivisection Society and Lord Lister, 101

Coles (John), Hints to Travellers, 100

Collie (J. N.), Diiodococaine Hydriodide, 47 Collinge (W. E.), Anatomy of Slugs from North-West Borneo,

Collot (M.), Carboniferous Goniatites in Sahara, 392

Colorado Potato Beetle, the, W. F. Kirby, 450
Coloration of Marine Animals, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, 62
Colour and Polarisation of Blue Sky Light, the, Dr. N. E.
Dorsey, 138; Negative After-Images and Colour-Vision,
Shelford Bidwell, F.R.S., 216; Colour-Standards, Prof. S. P. Langley, 269

Colours of Guillemots' Eggs, the, Captain G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, 600

Colson (Albert), Inversion-points of Solutions, 644 Comets: Comet a (1901), 21, 42, 63, 114, 191; Elements of Comet 1901 (1), 436, 557; Observation of Comet a (1901), J. Cresswell, 410; Observations of Comet a (1901) at Algiers, MM. Rambaud and Sy, 143; the New Comet, E. C. Willis, 55; Definitive Orbit of Comet 1894 II (Gale), 89; Encke's Comet, 359, 384, 583; Elliptic Elements of Comet 1900 ε, M. Perrotin, 644

Commensalism, Instances of, Major Alcock, 190

Commercial Education at Home and Abroad, Frederick Hooper and James Graham, 442

Compass and its Deviations aboard Ship, a Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the, Mathematical, Theoretical

and Practical, Commander T. A. Lyons, 125 Comptometer, the, C. V. Boys, F.R.S., 265 Comstock (Prof. Geo. C.), a Text-book of Astronomy, 424 Conchology: Radiographs of Mollusk Shells, Dr. G. H. Rodman, 189

Conference, the International Seismological, at Strassburg, Dr.

F. Omori, 340

Congresses: the Congress on Tuberculosis, 301, 327; the Sixth Annual Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, 192; the International Zoological Congress, 405; Recent Progress in Waterways and Maritime Works, Papers read at International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639

Consciousness, the Evolution of, Leonard Hall, 467

Construction, Building, First Stage, Brysson Cunningham, 625 Consular Reports, Notes from Recent, 67

Conway (Sir Martin), the Rise and Fall of Smeerenburg, Spitsbergen, 40

Conwentz (Prof.), on the Past History of the Yew in Great Britain and Ireland, 617

Cook (Captain), Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. *Endeavour* in 1768–1771, Right. Hon. Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Daniel Solander, W.

Botting Hemsley, F.R.S., 374 Cook (O. F.), Shade in Coffee Culture, 264 Cooper (Dr. R. T.), Suggested Afforestation of Ireland, 264 Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, Lane Lectures at, History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., Sec. R.S., 417 Cooper-Hewitt Mercury Vapour Lamp, the, 581

Copeland (Prof.), Nova Persei, 119, Copper, on the Scottish Ores of, J. G. Goodchild, 565 Copper Oxide, Decomposition of, Philip Harrison, 233

Coppet (L. C. de), Molecular Depression of Temperature of Maximum Density of Water caused by Dissolution of Salts, 119

Coral Island, on the Land Crustaceans of a, L. A. Borradaile, 588

Coral Islands of the Maldives, J. Stanley Gardiner on the, 587 Corals, Rate of Growth of, J. S. Gardiner, 143 Corbino (O. M.), Constitution of White Light, 464

Cornu (A.), Determination of Three Principal Optical Parameters of a Crystal by Refractometer, 320
Cornu (Maxime), Death and Obituary Notice of, Sir W. T.

Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S., 211 Cornish (Dr. Vaughan), Sand Waves in Tidal Currents, 412; Report of the Committee on Terrestrial Surface Waves, 590 Corona, Photography of, 167

Coronas (Rev. J.), the Luzon Cyclone of September 8, 1900, 61 Correlation in the Growth of Roots and Shoots, on, Prof. Kny,

618 Corstorphine (Mr.), on the Condensation of Benzil with Dibenz-

ylketone, 612 Cortie (Father), on the Faculæ on the Sun's Surface, 587

Cosmogony and Evolution: Entstehen und Vergehen der Welt

als Kosmischer Kreizprozess, J. G. Vogt, 277
Cosmography, on the Representation of the Heavens in the Teaching of, M. Galeron, 591
Coton, Le, Prof. H. Lecomte, Prof. Roberts Beaumont, 124
Coulter (John M. Piler, St. Jin

Coulter, (John M.), Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, 300 Coupin (Henri), the Song of Birds, 20, 62; Wheat Growth Favoured by Potassium Salts, 248

Craig (E. H. Cunningham), on the Mode of Occurrence of

Cairngorms, 566 Craniology: New Method of Obtaining Cubic Index of Skull, M. Pelletier, 490; Opening Address in Section H at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, Prof. D. J. Cunningham, F.R.S., 539; on the "Temporary Fissures" of the Human Cerebral Hemisphere, Prof. J. Symington, 614; on a Skull found in Peat in the Bed of the River Orwell, Miss Nina Layard, 614; the Earliest Inhabitants of Abydos; a Craniological Study, D. Randall-Maciver, 647

Creak's (Capt.) Modified Dip Circle: on the Determination of Magnetic Force on board Ship, 586 Crémieu (V.), the Existence of Open Currents, 71; a very Sensitive Electric Balance, 143; on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, 586

Cresswell (J.), Observation of Comet a (1901), 410

Crete, Excavations of Ancient Sites in, 615
Croes (J. J. R.), Progress of Civil Engineering, Address at
American Society of Civil Engineers, 438
Crompton (Col. R. E.), Opening Address in Section G at the
Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 517

Crook (Z.), New Magnetic Yoke for Measuring Hysteresis, 92 Crops, Relations between Climate and, H. B. Wren, 493 Crustacea, the Stalk-eyed, of British Guiana, West Indies and

Bermuda, Dr. Charles G. Young, 98 rystallisation; Results of chilling Copper-Tin Alloys, C. T

Crystallisation; Results of chillin Heycock and F. H. Neville, 221

Crystallisation of Salt Solutions, the, Dr. H. M. Dawson, 336
Crystallography: Comparative Study of Magnesium Group of
Double Selenates, A. E. Tutton, F.R.S., 141; Isomorphic

Relations between Sulphates and Orthophosphates, G. T. Prior, 247; Determination of Three Principal Optical Parameters of a Crystal by Refractometer, A. Cornu, 320; Die Krystallisation von Eiweissstoffen und ihre Bedeutung für die

Eiweisschemie, Dr. Fr. N. Schulz, 375 Crystals of Calaverite, Herbert Smith, 247 Cuba, the Bituminous Deposits of, H. E. Peckham, 365 Cubic and Biquadratic Equations, Solution of, Prof. G. Chrystal,

Cultura del Frumento, 1899-1900, Prof. Italo Giglioli, 229

Culture (1492-1899), Annals of Politics and, G. P. Gooch, 53 Culture, Greek Philosophy and Modern, Theodor Gomperz,

Cunningham (Brysson), First Stage Building Construction, 625 Cunningham (Prof. D. J., F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section H at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 539

Cunningham (J. T.), Long-tailed Japanese Fowls, 158 Curie (P.), Physiological Action of Radium Rays, 175; Radio-

activity of Radium Salts, 368

Curious Phenomenon, a, Stanley B. Hutt, 233 Current Measurements, Earth, Dr. B. Weinstein, 230

Curvature of the Earth's Surface, on the Experimental Demon-

stration of the, H. Yule Oldham, 591 Cyanophyceæ, on the Cytology of the, Harold Wager, 616 Cyatheaceæ, on the Vascular Anatomy of the, D. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, 616

Cygni, Hisgen's Variable, 13 (1900), 114

Cygni, New Algol-type Variable, 78 (1901), 583
Cygnian Stars and Basic Rocks, Chemistry of the, Sir Norman
Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., Prof. Edw. Suess, 629
Cylinders, Circular, Elastic Equilibrium of, L. N. G. Filon, 246
Cytology: Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, Wilhelm His, 75; Les Problèmes de la Vie, Essai d'une interprétation scientifique de phénomènes vitaux, la Substance Vivante et la cytodiérèse, Dr Ermanno Giglio-Tos, 321; on the Cytology of the Cyanophyceæ, Harold Wager, 616

Danæa, on the Anatomy of, and other Marattiaceæ, George Brebner, 617

Danby Dale, Landslip in, 41

Dark Spot on Jupiter, 240

Darwin (Horace), Vertical Stone-movements due to Soilmoisture and Frost, 222

Darwinism, the Elements of, a Primer, A. J. Ogilvy, 28

Darwin'schen Selectionsprincips, Ueber Bedeutung und Tragweite des, L. Plate, 49 Davenport (Prof. C. B.), Zoology of the Twentieth Century,

Address at American Association for Advancement of Science, at Denver, 566

David (P.), Direction of Magnetisation in Clay-beds Baked by

Lava Flow, 320
David (Prof. T. W. E., F.R.S.), Geological Notes on Kosciusko, New South Wales, 143; New Rock from Kosciusko, New South Wales, 416

Davis (A. S.), Pseudoscopic Vision without a Pseudoscope, 376 Davis (B.), Behaviour of Small Closed Cylinders in Organ Pipes, 547; Interesting Phenomenon in Connection with Theory of Sound, 554

Davison (Dr. Charles), the Reported Earthquakes in the Channel Islands and South Devon on April 24, 126; the

Inverness Earthquake of September 18, 527
Dawson (Charles), Toad in Flint Nodule, 70
Dawson (Dr. H. M.), the Crystallisation of Salt Solutions, 336
Day (A. L.), Expansion of Metals at High Temperatures, 92
Deasy (Captain), Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, 653

Debierne (A.), Radio-activity of Radium Salts, 368

Decay of our Sea-fisheries, the, 310 Decomposition of Copper Oxide, Philip Harrison, 233 Dedekind (Richard), Essays on the Theory of Numbers, 374 Deer, an Instance of Adaptation among the, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 257

Definitive Orbit of Comet 1894 II. (Gale), 89

Deformation of the Sun's Disc, Signor A. Ricco, 289 Delacroix (G.), Bacterial Disease of Potato, 464

Delange (R.), Hydration of Amylpropiolic Acid with formation of Caproylacetic Acid, 71; Method of Synthesis of Acetylenic Aldehydes, 296

Demarçay (Eug.), Europium, a new Element, 224 Demerara, "Fish-arrows" from, W. E. Hoyle, 644 Denison (F. N.), the Seismograph as a Sensitive Barometer, 271; that the Depression of the Earth's Crust due to an Area of High Barometric Pressure can be Detected by a Seismograph at Great Distances from the Centre of the Depression, 587

Denning (W. F.), April Meteors of 1901, 21; the Planet Saturn, 114; the Meteoric Epoch of July and August, 240; Markings on Jupiter, 351; the August Meteors of 1901, 410;

the October Orionids, 651

Denoyès (M.), Action of Currents of High Frequency on Urinary Secretion, 272 Density and Figure of Close Binary Stars, Dr. Alex W. Roberts,

Denver Meeting of the American Association, Address by Prof. R. S. Woodward, President of the Association, 498; Zoology of the Twentieth Century, Address at American Association

for Advancement of Science, Prof. C. B. Davenport, 566

Derby Medical Society, Paper read at, Reflex Action and Instinct, Dr. W. Benthall, 459
Deschanel's Natural Philosophy, Electricity, J. D. Everett, 50
Descudé (Marcel), Action of Acid Chlorides on Ether Oxides in presence of Zinc Chloride, 72; Action of Acid Chlorides on Aldehydes in presence of Zinc Chloride, 248

Desmots (H.), Synthesis of Primary Acetylenic Alcohols, 120 Devaux (H.), Generality of Metal-fixation by Cell-wall in Plants, 272

Devon, South, the Reported Earthquakes in the Channel

Islands and, on April 24, Dr. Charles Davison, 126 Dewar (Prof. James, F.R.S.), the Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems, Bakerian Lecture at Royal Society, 243; on the Separation of the Least Volatile Gases of Atmospheric Air and their Spectra, 294

Diameter of Mercury, 523
Diameter of Venus, 556
Diary 1889–1891, Notes from a, Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff,
Lord Avebury, F.R.S., 228
Dickson (H. N.), on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere and the Causes of Glacial Periods, 590; Circulation of the Surface Waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, 665 Diffusion, some Recent Work on, Lecture at Royal Institution,

Dr. Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., 171, 193 Digits of Man, Hair on the, Dr. Walter Kidd, 351

Dimorphism in Foraminifera, J. J. Lister, 588
Dina (Alberto), Hysteresis of Iron under various Magnetic

Fields, 638 Dines (W. H.), Fallacy of Explanation as to Double Diurnal Barometer Wave, 308

Disease, the Treatment of, by Light, 259 Dispersion, Théorie Nouvelle de la, M. G. Quesneville, 625 Distribution of Rainfall over the Land, the, Dr. Andrew J. Herbertson, 423

Dixon (Dr. Henry H.), Vitality of Seeds, 256

Dobbie (J. J.), the Absorption Spectra of Cyanogen Compounds,

Doflein (F.), von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen; Reiseskizzen eines Naturforschers, 2

Dorsey (Dr. N. E.), the Colour and Polarisation of Blue Sky

Light, 138 Douse (T. le M.), Origin of Name "Surrey," 490

Dover Coal-field, the, 581

Dragons of the Air, an Account of Extinct Flying Reptiles,

H. G. Seeley, 645 Drinkwater (H.), First Aid to the Injured, 5 Drummond (W. B.), the Child: his Nature and Nurture, 53 Duane (W.), the Velocity of Chemical Reactions, 92

Dublin Royal Irish Academy, 71, 223

Dublin Royal Society, 95, 271 Ducks, How to Know the Indian, F. Finn, 278

Duddell (W.), the Musical Arc, 58; Resistance and Electro-motive Force of Electric Arc, 496; Resistance of an Electrolyte, 496

Duerden (Dr. J. E.), the Marine Resources of British West

Indies, 31 Duff (Sir Mountstuart E. Grant), Notes from a Diary 1889–1891, 228

Dumont (M. Santos), Air Ship, 286, 489; the Deutsch Prize

won by, 635

Duncan (Dr.), on Excavations on Neolithic Sites in the Isle of Arran, 615

Dunstan (W. R., F.R.S.), Poison of Lotus arabicus, 367 Dust of "Blood-rain," the, Prof. Arthur W. Rücker,

F.R.S., 30 Duthiers (Baron H. de L.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 308 Duthiers (Baron H. de L.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 308 Duty-free Alcohol for Chemical Laboratories, on, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, 611; Dr. W. J. Lawrence, 611; Prof. A. Michael, 611 Dyeing: Woad as a Blue Dye, Dr. C. B. Plowright, 413; the

Progress of Artificial Indigo, 433
Dynamics: Stress—its Definition, R. F. Muirhead, 207; Reviewer, 207; Boomerangs, Gilbert T. Walker, 338; Ottavio Zanotti Bianco, 400; Theoretical Mechanics: an Elementary Treatise, W. Woolsey Johnson, 646

Earth: Earth Current Measurements, Dr. B. Weinstein, 230; the Twelve Movements of the Earth, M. Flammarion, 312; Outlines of Physiography, an Introduction to the Study of the Earth, A. J. Herbertson, 325; Computation of the Age of the Earth from the amount of Salt in the Sea, Prof. Joly, 566; Mr. Ackroyd, 566; the Experimental Demonstration of the Curvature of the Earth's Surface, H. Yule Oldham, 591

Earthquakes: the Reported Earthquakes in the Channel Islands and South Devon on April 24, Dr. Charles Davison, 126; the Inverness Earthquake of September 18, 521; Dr. Davison, 527; Rev. Dr. Andrew Henderson, 601

Earthworks, Yorkshire, Mrs. E. S. Armitage, 531 Earthshine, Causes of the Variability of, 456 Eastern Counties, Holidays in, Percy Lindley,

Ebert (Prof. H.), Phenomena of Atmospheric Electricity, 382 Eclipses: the Smithsonian Solar Eclipse Expedition, Prof. S. P. Langley, 53; the Recent Total Eclipse of the Sun, 79, 114, 136; the Total Eclipse of May 18, 1901, 289, 311; Magnetic Observations during Total Solar Eclipse, Dr. William Ellis, F.R.S., 15

Edinburgh Mathematical Society, 224

Edinburgh Royal Society, 119, 143, 199, 271, 343 "Edison" Storage Cell, the, 241

Education: the Army Education Committee, 55; the Extension ducation: the Army Education Committee, 55; the Extension of Knowledge, Dr. D. J. Hill, 117; Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education held in New York City, July 2–3, 1900, Prof. F. W. Burstall, 204; Education of Engineers, 462; Government Aid in United States to Higher Education, Dr. C. D. Walcott, 261; Philip's Educational Terrestrial Globe, 375; Function of a University, Oration at University College, Prof. W. Ramsay, F.R.S., 388; Rural-Readers, Book I., Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394; the Teacher's Manual of Object Lessons for Rural Schools, Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 304; Comp. Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394; Commercial Education at Home and Abroad, Frederick Hooper and James Graham, 442; the Self-Educator in Chemistry, James Knight, 467; Nature Teaching, Francis Watts, 550; the Carnegie Technical School at Pittsburg, 570; Royal College of Science and the University of London, Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., 583; on some Points in Chemical Education, Prof. Joji Sakurai, 612; the New Basis of Geography, a Manual for the Preparation of the Teacher, Jacques W. Redway, 648; see also Section L, British Association

Eggs, the Colours of Guillemots', Captain G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, 600

Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), Catalogue of the Collection of Birds', E. W. Oates, 600 Egypt: Scientific Work in, 317; Lake Victoria Nyanza Rain

Gauges, Sir William Garstin, 317; the Sudd in the Bahrel-Gebel, 318; Meteorological Department, 318; the Preservation of Game, 318; the Farafra Oasis, H. J. L. Beadnell, 359; Gold-Mining in Egypt, C. J. Alford, 636
Egyptology: Libyan Notes, D. Randall-Maciver and A. Wilkin, 123; Egyptology: 210; on the Bones of Hen Nekht, an

123; Egyptology, 319; on the Bones of Hen Nekht, an Egyptian King of the Third Dynasty, C. S. Myers, 615; the Earliest Inhabitants of Abydos: a Craniological Study, D. Randall-Maciver, 647

Eisenhart (Dr.), Surfaces whose First and Second Fundamental

Forms are Second and First of Another, 341
Electricity: Electro-Chemistry, John Hill Twigg, 5; Dr. F.
Mollwo Perkin, 5; Recent Developments in Electric Signalling, 6; Sir William Preece's System of Etheric Signalling, 163; New System of Ammeters and Voltmeters, Pierre Weiss, 23; a Convenient Primary Cell, A. E. Munby, 30; Electric Vacuum-Tube Lamps, P. C. Hewitt, 39; Deschanel's Natural Philosophy, J. D. Everett, 50; the Musical Arc, W. Duddell, 58; the Various Determinations of the E.M.F. of the Clark Cell, Prof. Carhart, 60; Measurement of Sensitiveness of Coherers for Wireless Telegraphy, Carl Kinsley, 60; Marconi's Wireless Telegraphy on the Lake Champlain Atlantic Liner, 111; Wireless Telegraphy on Ocean Liners, Atlantic Liner, 111; Wireless Telegraphy on Ocean Liners, 188; Wireless Telegraphy on the Lucania, 381, 406, 553; Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi, 130; Wireless Telegraphy for War Purposes, 383; Drahtlose Telegraphie durch Wasser und Luft, Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Braun, 497; a New Principle in Wireless Telegraphy discovered, A. Orling and T. Armstrong, 636; Wireless Telegraphy discovered, and of the property of the Companying of the C less Telegraphic Communication with Zugspitze Observatory, Bavaria, 637; Electrical Conductivity of Air and Salt Vapours, H. A. Wilson, 70; the Existence of Open Currents, V. Crémieu, 71; on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, Dr. Crémieu, Dr. H. A. Wilson, Lord Kelvin, 586; Law of Electrical Stimulation of Nerves, Georges Weiss, 72; Electro-Chemistry, Bertram Blount, 77; Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, 77; on a Form of Artificial Submarine Cable, Prof. A. Trowbridge, 77; Attempt to discover Radiation from Surface of Metals carrying Alternating Currents of High Frequency, O. W. Richardson, 95; New Form of Electric Furnace, Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 95; a Perfectly Astatic Galvanometer, M. Lippmann, 96; Simple Astatic Galvanometer, G. Lippmann, 554; Central Electrical Stations, their Design, Organisation and Management, C. H. Wordingham, 100; the Telautograph, Foster Ritchie, 107; Relations between Conductivity and Chemical Character of Solutions, Prof. J. Gibson, 119; Electrolysis of Animal Tissues, MM. Bordier and Gilet, 120; Electrification of Dielectrics by Mechanical Means, A. W. Ashton, 141; Model Imitating Behaviour of Dielectrics, Prof. Fleming and A. W. Ashton, 141; a very Sensitive Balance, V. Crémieu, 143; Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the Year 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Death and Obituary Notice of Viriamu Jones, Prof. W. E. Ayrton, F.R.S., 161; Nernst's Phonograph, 164; Ruhmer's Phonograph, 164; Electro-magnets, T. L. James, 168; Influence of Temperature on Electromotive Force of Magnetisation, René Paillot, 175; the Telegraphone, Herr Poulsen, 183; Vibrations produced in a wire with an Influence Machine, D. Negreano, 200; an Electrical Grisoumeter, G. Léon, 200; Measurements of Ionic Velocities in Aqueous Solutions, B. D. Steele, 222; Electromotive Forces of Contact and the Ionic Theory, E. Rothé, 224; Electrolytic Separation of Nickel and Cobalt, D. Balachowski, 224; the Berlin Company's Naples Installation for Transmission of Energy, 237; the "Edison" Storage Cell, 241 ; Electrolytic Conductivity of Salt Solutions in Liquid Sulphur Dioxide, A. Hagenbach, 246; Electrolytic Conductivity of Halogen Salt Solutions, on the, Dr. J. Gibson, 612; Effect of High Frequency Oscillatory Field on Electrical Resistance, S. A. F. White, 246; the Induction Motor, B. A. Behrend, 252; the Treatment of Disease by Light, 259; Electro-chemical Laboratory at Owens College, Manchester, 262; Electricity Supply "in Bulk" at Newcastle-

on-Tyne, 262; Focus-tube as Electric Valve, Prof. O. Murani, 263; Action of Currents of High Frequency on Urinary Secretion, MM. Denoyès, Maitre and Bouvière, 272; Electrodynamics, Modern, H. Poincaré, 273; Electricité et Optique, La Lumière et ses Theories Electrodynamiques, H. Poincaré, 273; the Illuminations at the Buffalo Exhibition, 287; Electrical Dispersion in Closed Air-spaces, J. Elster and H. Geitel, 308; Oscillographs, André Blondel, 308, 408; Electrolytical Method of Removing Superfluous Hair, Dr. A. Whitfield, 311; Position and Prospects of Electro-A. Whitfield, 311; Position and Prospects of Electrochemical Industries, J. W. Swan, F.R.S., 329; the Dielectric Cohesion of Gases, E. Bouty, 344; Electrolytic Preparation of Pure Oxide of Cerium, Jean Stebba, 344; New Solution for Copper Voltameter, W. K. Shepard, 365; Mechanism of Electric Arc, Bertha Ayrton, 365; Phenomena of Atmospheric Electricity, Prof. H. Ebert, 382; Arrhenius' Electrolytic Dissociation Theory, Prof. Kahlenberg, 383; Electric Capacity of Human Body, G. de Metz, 392; Transmission of Hertzian Wayes through Conducting Liquids mission of Hertzian Waves through Conducting Liquids, Charles Nordmann, 392; Electrolysis of Hæmoglobin Compounds, Dr. Arthur Gamgee, F.R.S., 415; Colour of Ions, G. Vaillant, 415; Experiments on High Resistances, O. N. Rood, 415; Electromagnetic Effects of Moving Charged Spheres, E. P. Adams, 415; on the Supersession of the Steam by the Electric Locomotive, W. Langdon, 437; Electric Traction, Major P. Cardew, 437; Resistances and Electromotive Forces of Electric Arc, W. Duddell, 496; Resistance of an Electrolyte, W. Duddell, 496; James Bowman Lindsay, Sir William Preece, 521; Proposed Utilisation of Tramway Trolley Wires for Fire-extinction, 521; Discharge Current from Surface of Large Curvature, J. E. Almy, 547; Maxwell's Theory and Kerr's Phenomenon, Luigi Giaganino, 554; Mr. Cheesewright's Projected London and Brighton Railway, 580; the Cooper-Hewitt Mercury Vapour Lamp, 581; Experiments on the Passage of Electricity through Mercury Vapour, Prof. Schuster, 587; the Latest Form of Prof. Minchin's Photo-electric Cell, 587; the Telephone System of the British Post Office, T. E. Herbert, 599; Excitability of Spinal Marrow, A. N. Vitznou, 620; Nernst Lamp in America, paper, read at American Institute of Electrical America, paper read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers by A. G. Wurts, 632; Variation with Temper-ature of Thermoelectromotive Force and Electric Resistance

of Nickel, Iron and Copper, E. P. Harrison, 667
Elgin and Nairn, on the Trias of, Dr. W. Mackie, 565
Elliott (Prof. G. F. Scott), on the Effects of Vegetation in the Valley and Plain of the Clyde, 589; on the Strength and Resistance to Pressure of Certain Seeds and Fruits, 619

Ellis (Dr. William, F.R.S.), Magnetic Observations during

Total Solar Eclipse, 15 Elster (J.), Electrical Dispersion in Closed Air-spaces, 308 Emanations from Radio-active Substances, Prof. E. Rutherford,

Embryology: Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, Wilhelm His, 75

Encke's Comet, 359, 384, 583 Encyclopædia Biblica: Critical Dictionary of the Literary, Political, and Religious History, the Archeology, Geography and Natural History of the Bible, Prof. T. K. Cheyne and Dr.

J. Sutherland Black, 3

Engineering: Recent Developments in Electric Signalling, 6; Chemistry in its Relations to Engineering, Prof. Frank Clowes, 22; Il calcolo Grafico Applicato alla Misura delle Volte, Prof. 22; Il calcolo Granco Applicato alla Misura delle Volte, Prof. Ernesto Breglia, 27; the Steam-engine Indicator, Cecil H. Peabody, 125; New Turbine-driven Vessel, 133; the Turbine-propelled Vessel King Edward, 334; Public Water-supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works, F. E. Turneaure and H. L. Russell, 179; Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education held in New York City, July 2-3, 1900, Prof. F. W. Burstall, 204; Education of Engineers, 462: Gas Lighting, Charles Hunt, 205: Motor Car worked 462; Gas Lighting, Charles Hunt, 205; Motor Car worked by Absinthe, 213; the Simplon Tunnel, 235; the Settlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, W. H. Wheeler, 181; H. S. Allen, 279; the Properties of Steel Castings, Prof. J. O. Arnold, 316; International Engineering Congress, 431; Progress of Civil Engineering, Address at American Society of Civil Engineers, J. J. R. Croes, 438; Mode of Action of Brakes of Automobiles, A. Petol, 464; Opening Address in Section G at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, Colonel R. E. Crompton, 517; Papers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, Prof. Osborne Reynolds, F.R.S., 549; Experimental Engineering, Testing and Strength of Materials of Construction, W. C. Popplewell, 597; Nernst Lamp in America, Paper Read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers by A. J. Wurts, 632; Recent Progress in Waterways and Maritime Works, Papers Read at International Engineering Congress at Clarge verse are seed of the progress of the service of the International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639; see also Section G, British Association.

England's Neglect of Science, Prof. Perry, F.R.S.; Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 226

Enoch (Mr.), the Metamorphoses of Æschna cyanea, 47 Entomology: the Stridulating Organs of Hydrophilus piceus, G. W. Kirkaldy, 20; the Life-history of Hydrophilus piceus, G. W. Kirkaldy, 20; the Life-history of Hydrophilus piceus, Dr. C. Rengel, 20; Mimicry in Spiders, Dr. W. A. Wagner, 41; the Metamorphoses of Aschna cyanea, Mr. Enock, 47; Mosquitoes and Malaria, G. Noè, 88; Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., 453; the Question of Priority, 287; the Anti-Mosquito Campaign in Sierra Leone, 579; Major R. Ross, 489; the West African Campaign, Major Ronald Ross, 636; Simultaneity of Mosquitoes and Malaria at Constantine, A. Billet, 524; the Malaria-Free District of Massarosa, Dr. Grassi, 581; Mosquitoes and Fillaria, F. L. Bancroft, 446. Billet, 524; the Malaria-Free District of Massarosa, Dr. Grassi, 581; Mosquitoes and Filaria, F. L. Bancroft, 416; Mosquitoes and Yellow Fever, 453; H. de Gouvea, 655; Mosquitoes and Sounds, Major Ronald Ross, 607; the Common Grey Mosquito, Calcutta, Miss N. Evans, 638; Attraction of Sounds for Mosquitoes, Sir H. S. Maxim, 655; Entomological Society, 95, 223; Discharges of Formic Acid in Ant-nests, Prof. Poulton, 223; Social Symbiosis among American Ants, W. H. Wheeler, 409; Ant Gardens in Amazon Region, E. Ule, 553; the Life of the Bee, Maurice Maeterlinck, 231; Sources of Insect Attraction in Flowers, Prof. F. Plateau, 264: Death of Miss Eleanor A. Ormerod. Prof. F. Plateau, 264; Death of Miss Eleanor A. Ormerod, 308; Obituary Notice of, 330; Familiar Butterflies and Moths, W. F. Kirby, 375; the Intermediary Host of Filaria immitis, T. L. Bancroft, 416; Horn-feeding Larvæ, Captain W. J. Hume McCorquodale, 446; the Colorado Potato Beetle, W. F. Kirby, 450; Sex-determination in Lepidoptera, A. Giard, 464; the Insect Book: a Popular Account of the Base Wasse, Aug. Grasshoppers, Flies, and other of the Bees, Wasps, Ants, Grasshoppers, Flies, and other North American Insects, exclusive of the Butterflies, Moths and Beetles, with Full Life-histories, Tables and Bibliographies, Leland O. Howard, 549; Luminous Traps for Pyralis in Beaujolais, G. Gastine and V. Vermorel, 572 Epidemiological Society, Address at, Diagnosis of Plague, Dr.

E. Klein, F.R.S., 91

Equations, Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic, Prof. G.

Chrystal, 5 Equisetum, Remarks on the Nature of the Stele of, J. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, 617

Eros, Variation of, 63, 359, 384; Opposition of Eros in 1903, 491 Eskimos, the, E. W. Nelson, 426

Essays, Descriptive and Biographical, Grace, Lady Prestwich, with a Memoir by Louisa E. Milne, 349
Essays on the Theory of Numbers, Richard Dedekind, 374

Essays and Photographs, some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, H. E. Harris, 603

Etard (A.), Decomposition of Albuminoids into Protoplas-

mides, 96 Ether, a New Argument for the Existence of an, B. Hopkinson, 586

Etheric Signalling, Sir William Preece's System of, 163

Ethnography: the Indian Survey, 214; Messrs. Annandale and Robinson on the Half-Siamese Half-Malay Community of

Sai-Kau, 615

Ethnology: the Older Civilisation of Greece, 11; the Oldest Civilisation of Greece: Studies of the Mycenæan Age, H. R. Hall, 280; the Language and Origin of the Basques, 90; the late Dr. Arthur Hazelius, 163; the Fire-Walk Ceremony in Tahiti, Prof. S. P. Langley, 397; the Fire-Walk Ceremony in Tahiti, Prof. S. P. Langley, 397; the Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 425; Occasional Essays on Native South Indian Life, S anley P. Rice, 574; "Fisharrows" from Demerara, W. E. Hoyle, 644
Etymology: Origin of Name "Surrey," T. le M. Douse, 490
"Euclid Revised," Nixon's, Geometrical Exercises from, with

Solutions, Alexander Larmor, 497 Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Charles Smith and Sophie Bryant, 623
Euphorbia abdelkuri, on the Cuticular Structure of, Prof.

Bayley Balfour, F.R.S., 618

Index

Europe, on the Morphological Divisions of, Dr. A. J. Herbert-

European Peoples, the Origin of, G. Sergi, 370

Evans (A. J., F.R.S.), on the Neolithic Settlement which underlies the Mycenæan Palace at Knossos, 615

Evans (Sir John), on the Chronology of the Stone Age of Man, 615

Evans (John), Influence of Copper on Steel Rails and Plates, 64 Evans (Miss N.), the Common Grey Mosquito of Calcutta, 638 Evans (R.), Three New Species of Peripatus, 490

Everett (J. D.), Deschanel's Natural Philosophy, Electricity, 50 Everett (Prof.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Evermann (Barton Warren), the Fishes of North and Middle

America: a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama, 4

Evidence of the Existence of an Ultra-Neptunian Planet, Prof.

G. Forbes, 524 Evolution: L'Evolution du Pigment, 28; Ueber Bedeutung und Tragweite des Darwinschen Selections princips, L. Plate, 49; die Mutations theorie, Versuche und Beobachtungen über die Entstehung von Arten im Pflanzenreich, Prof. Hugo de Vries, 208; Cosmogony and Evolution, Entstehen und Vergehen der Welt als Kosmischer Kreizprozess, J. G. Vogt, 277; the Limits of Evolution, Prof. Howison, 323; New Garden Plants: a Study in Evolution, 446; Evolution of Consciousness, Leonard Hall, 467; Evolution of the Thermo-

meter, 1592-1743, Henry Carrington Bolton, 25
Ewart (Prof. J. Cossar, F.R.S.), In-breeding, 271; Opening
Address in Section D at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, the Experimental Study of Variation, 482; on

Association, the Experimental Study of Variation, 482; on Zebras and Zebra Hybrids, 588, 589

Exercise, Temperament and, W. W. Davis, 435

Expedition, the Antarctic, 131, 182, 233; Prof. Edward B. Poulton, 83, 156, 206; Resignation of Prof. J. W. Gregory, 58, 132; Prof. J. W. Gregory, 181

Experimental Engineering: Testing and Strength of Materials of Construction, W. C. Popplewell, 597

Experiments, Agricultural, 264

Experiments, Agricultural. 364
Expertises et Arbitrages, F. Rigaud, 648
Existence of an Ultra-Neptunian Planet, Evidence of the, Prof.

G. Forbes, 524

Exploration: a Canadian Geological Explorer, Dr. Robert Bell, F.R.S., 81; Italian Exploration in Arctic Regions, Luigi Hugues, 158; the Second International Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, 218; Polar Exploration, Civilian, 626; Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, Captain Deasy, 653
Explosives: Handbook on Petroleum, Captain J. H. Thomson

and Boverton Redwood, W. T. Lawrence, 441; Smokeless Powder, Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose Mole-

cule, John B. Bernadou, 600

Eyes and No Eyes Series, Cassell's, Arabella B. Buckley, 550 Eyferth's (B.), Einfachste Lebensformen des Tier- und Pflanzenreiches, Dr. Walther Schönichen und Dr. Alfred Kalberlah, G. S. West, 301

Fact and Fable, Effie Johnson, 76

Familiar Butterflies and Moths, W. F. Kirby, 375
Farm Poultry, G. C. Watson, 575
Farmer (R. C.), New Method of Determining Hydrolitic Dissociation, 175
Farrington (Dr. O. C.), Peculiar Forms of Stalactites and Stalag-

mites, 288

Fauna of North East Rhodesia, C. P. Chesnaye, 383
Favrel (G.), Action of Alkyl Malonic Esters in Diazoic

Chlorides, 176

Fechner (Gustav Theodor), W. Wundt, 526 Feeding of Animals, the, W. H. Jordan, 625 Ferguson (Dr. G. B.), Scientific Research as Basis of Medical

Progress, 330
Fergusson's Surveying Circle and Percentage Tables, J. C.

Fergusson, 278

Ferns in Their Haunts, Flowers and, M. O. Wright, 375 Fewkes (Dr. Walter), Excavations in Arizona, 425

Fick (Dr. Adolf), Death and Obituary Notice of, 432 Fiji, the Caves of, B. Sawyer and E. C. Andrews, 143 Filaria immitis, the Intermediary Host of, T. L. Bancroft,

Filon (L. N. G.), Elastic Equilibrium of Circular Cylinders, 246 Filtration Works, Water, James H. Fuertes, 421

Finn (Frank), How to Know the Indian Ducks, 278; Long-Tailed Japanese Fowls, 232, 551 re-extinction, Proposed Utilisation of Electric Tramway

Fire-extinction,

Fire-extinction, Proposed Offisation of Electron Trolley Wires for, 521
Fireball of September 14, 1901, 532
Fireball of September 14, 1492, C. E. Stromeyer, 577
Fire Walk Ceremony in Tahiti, the, Prof. S. P. Langley, 397 First Aid to the Injured, H. Drinkwater, 5

Fish Arrows from Demerara, W. E. Hoyle, 644 Fisher (Rev. O.), Folklore about Stonehenge, 648

Fisheries: the Second International Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, 218; the Decay of Sea Fisheries, 310; Pearl and Pearl-Shell Fisheries, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, F.R.S., 376; Sea Fisheries: the Destruction of Shore-fish Ova and Fry, Prof. McIntosh, 523 Fishes: the Fishes of North and Middle America: a Descrip-

tive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America North of the Isthmus of Panama, David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Evermann, 4; Fish-rain in South Carolina, 608; Chemical Analysis of Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, MM. Lortet and Hugounenq, 668
Fite (Dr. W.), Monaural Localisation of Sound, 263

File (Dr. W.), Monaural Localisation of Sound, 203
Flame, a Curious, L. L. Garbutt, 649
Flammarion (M.), the Twelve Movements of the Earth, 312
Fleming (Prof.), Model imitating Behaviour of Dielectrics, 141
Flemish Giant Festivals, the, 531
Flints and Totemism, Hon. Auberon Herbert, 522
Flints Prof. Chipped, on an Exhibit of from the Large

Flints, Naturally Chipped, on an Exhibit of, from the Larne Gravels and North Irish Beaches, Mr. Coffey, 615 Floras of the Past: Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United

States: the Older Mesozoic, Lester F. Ward, W. M. Fontaine, A. Warner and F. H. Knowlton, 633
Flowers and Ferns in their Haunts, M. O. Wright, 375
Flowers, the Story of Wild, Rev. Prof. G. Henslow, 350
Flowing Water, an Outline of the Development and Application

of the Energy of, Joseph P. Frizell, 121 Flusin (G.), Osmosis through Membrane of Copper Ferro-

cyanide, 71 Flying-Machine, Hoffmann's, 112; the Kress, 190

Fog Formations, A. G. McAdie, 43 Fog Inquiry, London, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 649

Fog Inquiry, London, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 649
Folklore: the Natives of South Africa, their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Sidney Hartland, 73; the Golden Bough, a Study in Magic and Religion, J. G. Frazer, 201; Folk Customs in India, 264; the Fire Walk Ceremony in Tahiti, Prof. S. P. Langley, 397; the Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, 425; the Moon and Vegetation, 454; the Pontianak of the Malays, Dr. R. Lasch, 555; Occasional Essays on Native South Indian Life, Stanley P. Rice, 574; Gog and Magog, 577; Folklore about Stonehenge, Rev. O. Fisher, 648
Fontaine (W. M.), Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United States, the Older Mesozoic, 633

States, the Older Mesozoic, 633

Food Consumption and Metabolism, Drs. Atwater and Sherman

and R. C. Carpenter, 382 Food of the Senegal Galago, M. O. Hill, 376

Foraminifera, on Dimorphism in, J. J. Lister, 588
Forbes (Prof. G., F.R.S.), New Range-finder, 309; on a Folding Range-finder for Infantry, 613; the Supposed Ultra-Neptunian Planet, 119; Evidence of the Existence of an Ultra-Neptunian Planet, 524; on a Planet beyond Neptune with a Mass about equal to that of Jupiter, 587

Forcrand (M. de), Thermal Study of Potassium Hydrates, 320; Molecular Weight of Chloral Hydrate at Boiling Point, 572; Calculation of Heats of Volatilisation and Fusion of Elements,

596 Ford (Miss Sibille O.), on the Anatomy of Ceratopteris thalictroides, 617; on the Anatomy of Todea, 617

Ford (Dr.), Bacteriology of Healthy Animal Organs, 333

Forecast and Fact, 400
Forel (F. A.), the Thermal Variations of Waters, 71
Forestry: Suggested Afforestation of Ireland, Dr. R. T.
Cooper, 264; the Jarrah and Karri Woods of West Australia, 453; Fumigation of Fruit Trees, 642 Forrest (James), Lecture Institute of Civil Engineers, Prof.

Frank Clowes, 22

Forster (O.), Nitrocamphene, Aminocamphene and Hydroxycamphene, 46; 2:6-dibromo-4-nitrosophenol, 94 Forsyth (Prof.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592

Fosse (R.), Dinaphthoxanthene, 296

Fossils: the Origin and Habits of the Bactrian Camel, 355; on ossils: the Origin and Habits of the Bactrian Canlet, 355, on the re-discovery of a Tree-trunk embedded in Volcanic Ash in Mull, Sir A. Geikie, 565; on the Cambrian Fossils of the North-West Highlands, B. N. Peach, 565; on a Machine for Investigating Fossil Remains, Prof. Sollas, 565; on Plants and Coleoptera from a Pleistocene Deposit at Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, Mr. A. M. Bell, 565; a New Name for an Ungulate, Dr. Charles W. Andrews, 577; Dragons of the Air, an Account of Extinct Flying Reptiles, H. G. Seeley, 645
Foster (Dr. Le N., F.R.S.), the Death-rates from Mining Accidents in United Excellents.

Accidents in United Kingdom, 434
Foster (Sir Michael, K.C.B., F.R.S.), History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Lane Lectures at Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, 417; on the Experimental Method of Educational Teaching, 591; on the Organisation of Technical and Secondary Education, 593
Foulis (Dr. James), Death and Obituary Notice of, 635

Fournier (H.), Oxidation of Benzene Hydrocarbons by Man-

ganese Peroxide and Sulphuric Acid, 668

Fowler (W. Warde), Winter Singing of Thrush, 215; the
Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, Gilbert White, 369

Fowls, Long-tailed Japanese, J. T. Cunningham, 158; Frank

Finn, 232, 551 Fox (Howard), the Contorted Beds of Gunwalloe, 166 Frankland (Mrs. Percy), Public Health in America, 117

Frankland (Prof. Percy F., F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section B at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, the Position of British Chemistry at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century, 503 Frazer (J. G.), the Golden Bough, a Study in Magic, and

Religion, 201

Frazer's (Dr.) Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, J. S. Stuart Glennie, 615

Freezing Points of Extremely Dilute Solutions, on Determining

the Depression of the, E. H. Griffiths, 586

Fremont (Ch.), Evaluation of Resistance of Steel to Traction

deduced from Resistance to Shearing, 496

French Stonehenge, an Account of the Principal Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, T. Cato Worsfold, 465

Freundler (P.), New Mode of Decomposition of Bisulphite

Derivatives, 176

Friedel (Jean), Chlorophyll Assimilation, 88

Fritts, Lead, Influence of Grinding on Solubility of Lead in, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., and Charles Simmonds, 175 Frizell (Joseph P.), an Outline of the Development and

Application of the Energy of Flowing Water, 121 Frouin (Albert), Action of Alcohol on Gastric Secretion, 24 Fruit-protection from Frost, Californian Method, A. McAdie, 204

Fruit Trees, Fumigation of, 642 Fruits, on the Strength and Resistance to Pressure of certain Seeds and, Prof. G. F. Scott Elliot, 619

Fuel, Metals as, Lecture at Royal Institution, Sir W. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S., 360

Fuertes (James H.), Water Filtration Works, 421

Fumigation of Fruit Trees, 642

Functions of a University, Oration at University College, Prof.

W. Ramsay, F.R.S., 388 Fungus, the "Shot-hole" Fungi of Stone-fruit Trees in Australia, D. McAlpine, 416

Gadow (Hans), the Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii., Amphibia and Reptiles, 401

Gaillard (M.), Influence of Feeding, Work and Dust on Tuberculosis, 71; Influence of Variations of Temperature on Tuberculosis, 644

Galago, the Food of the Senegal, M. O. Hill, 376

Galeron (M.), on the Representation of the Heavens in the

Teaching of Cosmography, 591
Galton (Dr. Francis, F.R.S.), the Possible Improvement of the Human Breed under the Existing Conditions of Law and Sentiment, 659

Galvanometer, Simple Astatic, G. Lippmann, 96, 554

Game-preservation in Egypt, 318

Gametophyte, Contributions to our Knowledge of the, in the Ophioglossales and Lycopodiales, William H. Lang, 616

Gamgee (Dr. Arthur, F.R.S.), Behaviour of Hæmoglobin Compounds in Magnetic Field and their Electrolysis, 415

Gant (Frederick James), Modern Natural Theology; with a Testimony of Christian Evidences, 422

Garbutt (L. L.), A Curious Flame, 649
Garden Plants, New, a Study in Evolution, 446
Gardening, the Principles of Vegetable, L. H. Bailey, 122
Gardiner (J. Stanley), Rate of Growth of Corals, 143; on the
Coral Islands of the Maldives, 587

Garrard (C. R.), on some Recent Developments in Chain Driving, 614

Garrigou (F.), Utilisation of Wine Residues and Spoilt Wines as Manure, 344 Garsed (W.), Diiodococaine Hydriodide, 47 Garstin (Sir William), Scientific Work in Egypt, 318

Gas Lighting, Charles Hunt, 205; the New Standard Pentane Ten-Candle Lamp and New Photometer, 189

Gases, on the Separation of the Least Volatile, of Atmospheric Air and their Spectra, Prof. G. D. Liveing, F.R.S., and

Prof. J. Dewar, F. R.S., 294

Gastine (G.), Luminous Traps for Pyralis in Beaujolais, 572 Geikie (Sir Archibald, F.R.S.), the Scenery of Scotland Viewed in Connection with its Physical Geology, 33; Dinner to Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 34; Recent Studies of Old Italian Volcanoes, 103; Our Mountain Seclusion, 206; on the re-discovery of a Tree Trunk embedded in Volcanic Ash in

Mull, 565 Geitel (H.), Electrical Dispersion in Closed Air-spaces, 308 Gemmill (Dr. J. F.), on a large Nematode Parasitic in the Seaurchin, 588; on the Origin of the Cartilage of the Stapes and

its Continuity with the Hyoid Arch, 614 Geodesy: Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Johannes Lamp,

237

Geography: Russian Society's Medal Awards, 286; Ancient Globe at Tsarskoe-Selo, 286; the Subterranean Waters of the Ajusco (Mexico) Chain, MM. Marroquin y Rivera and P. C. Sanchez, 288; Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel, Central and South America, A. H. Keane, and Travel, Central and South America, A. H. Keane, Colonel George Earl Church, 353; Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768-1771, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Daniel Solander and W. Botting Hemsley, F.R.S., 374; Philip's Educational Terrestrial Globe, 375; Royal Geographical Society, Sand Waves in Tidal Currents, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412; Origin of the Loue River, A. Berthelot, 440; Maps, their Uses and Construction, James Morrison, 599; the Sven Hedin Expedition, 606; the New Basis of Geography, a Manual for the Preparation of the Teacher, Jacques W. Redway, 648; Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, Captain Deasy, 653; Mount McKinley, Alaska, R. Muldrow, 658; see also Section E of the British Association

Geology: the Scenery of Scotland Viewed in Connection with its Physical Geology, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 33; Dinner to Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 34; the Geological Society and its Museum, 57; Geology of Kanouna Gold Mining District, T. Blatchford, 61; Vitrified Quartz, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J, Joly, F.R.S., 102; a Canadian Geological Explorer, Dr. Robert Bell, F.R.S., 81; Two Well Sections Rev. R. A. Buller, 64; Geological Two Well Sections, Rev. R. A. Bullen, 94; Geological Development of Antigua, Guadeloupe, Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Bartholomew, Sombrero, St. Christopher Chain and Saba Banks, Prof. J. W. Spencer, 94; Influence of Winds on Climate during Pleistocene Period, F. W. Harmer, 94; Geological Society, 94, 142, 199, 295; Recent Studies of Old Italian Volcanoes, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 103; Silurian (?) Rocks in Forfar and Kincardine, George Barrow, 142; Crush Conglomerates of Argyll, J. B. Hill, 142; Icerecoion in Skye, Alfred Harker, 143; the Caves of Fiji, B. Sawyer and E. C. Andrews, 143; Geological Notes on Kosciusko, New South Wales, Prof. T. W. E. David, F.R.S., R. Helms and E. F. Pittman, 143; New Rock from Kosciusko, New South Wales, F. B. Guthrie, Prof. David, F.R.S., and W. G. Woolnough, 416; Death and Obtavally Notice of Prof. Plaighter, 164, the Slaty Rocks of Command Notice of Prof. Bleicher, 164; the Slaty Rocks of Cornwall, J. B. Hill, 166; the Contorted Beds of Gunwalloe, Howard Fox, 166; the Settlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, W. H. Wheeler, 181; H. S. Allen, 279; Passage of Coal Seam into Seam of Dolomite, 199; Ueber die geologische Geschichte der Insel Celebes auf Grund der Thier-

verbreitung, Dr. Paul Sarasin and Dr. Fitz Sarasin, 203

Our Mountain Seclusion, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 206; Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. Joseph de Conte, 261; Chemical Analysis of Scotch Sandstones, Dr. W. Mackie, 264; the Mineralogy of Scotland, M. Forster Heddle, Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S., 395; the Geological History of the Rivers of East Yorkshire, F. R. Cowper Reed, 277; Peculiar Forms of Stalactites and Stalagmites, Dr. O. C. Farrington, 200, 175. 288; Use of a Geological datum, Beeby Thompson, 295; Intrusive Tuff-like Rocks in Ireland, J. R. Kilroe and A. McHenry, 295; Buried Glaciers on Great Lyakhoff Island, Baron Toll, 310; Zones in Chalk, Dr. H. W. Rowe, 355; Baron Toll, 310; Zones in Chalk, Dr. H. W. Rowe, 355; Fossils of Protohippus found in Texas, 356; the Farafra Oasis, Egypt, H. J. L. Beadnell, 359; the Dakhla Oasls, Egypt, H. J. L. Beadnell, 581; the Bituminous Deposits of Cuba, H. E. Peckham, 365; Carboniferous Goniatites in Sahara, M. Collot, 392; the Size of the Ice-grain in Glaciers, J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., 399; Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Baron Adolf Erik von Nordenskjöld, W. S. Bruce, 450; Sharks' Teeth Discovered at Woking, 523; Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. E. W. Claypole, 528; Essai d'une Explication par les Causes actuelles de la Partie théorique de la Géologie, H. Hermite, 575; La Géologie, H. Guède, 575; Expircation par les Causes actuelles de la Fartie théorique de la Géologie, H. Hermite, 575; La Géologie, H. Guède, 575; on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere and the Causes of Glacial Periods, H. N. Dixon, 590; A New Miocene Flightless Auk, Dr. F. A. Lucas, 608; Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia, E. Artini and G. Melzi, Dr. H. J. Johnston-Lavis, 640; the Sivamalai series of Elæolite and Corundum-Syenites, T. H. Holland, 657; see also Section C. of the British Association C of the British Association

Geometry: Problems of Geometry, A. B. Basset, F.R.S., 400; Death of Admiral de Jonquières, 432; Geometrical Exercises from Nixon's "Euclid Revised" with Solutions, Alexander Larmor, 497; Two Problems of Geometry, D. M. Y. Sommerville, 526; Plane and Solid Geometry, Arthur Schultze and F. L. Sevenoak, Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 573; Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Charles Smith and Sophie

Gerin (F.), Nitromannite and Nitrocellulose, 596; Reducing Properties of Nitric Esters, 620; Nitro-derivative of Pentaery-thrite, 644; Nitro-derivatives of Arabite and Rhamnite, 668 Germany: Von den Antillen Zum Fernen Westen: Reiseskiz-

zen Eines Naturforschers, F. Doflein, 2; Report on German East Africa, A. C. Hollis, 67; the Hamburg Meeting of the German Association, 609 Germinal Selection in Relation to Inheritance, Prof. J. Arthur

Thomson, 588
Gesang der Vögel, Der, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52
Gesang der Vögel, Der, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52

Giant Festivals, the, 531
Giard (A.), Sex Determination in Lepidoptera, 464
Gibson (Prof. J.), Relations between Electrical Conductivity
and Chemical Character of Solutions, 119; on the Electrolytic Conductivity of Halogen Salt Solutions, 612

Giglioli (Prof. Italo), Cultura del Frumento, 1899-1900, 229 Giglio Tos (Dr. Ermanno), Les Problèmes de la Vie, Essai d'une Interprétation Scientifique de Phénomènes Vitaux, La Sub-

stance Vivante et la Cytodiérèse, 321 Gilet (M.), Electrolysis of Animal Tissues, 120 Gill (Sir David, F.R.S.), the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox, 1875, 257; the Cape Observatory, 410

Giuganino (Luigi), Maxwell's Theory of Tensions and Kerr's Phenomenon, 554
Glacial Epochs, Mars on, Percival Lowell, 107

Glacial Periods, the Climate of, H. Arctowski, 238; on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere and the Causes of Glacial Periods, H. N. Dickson, 590

Glaciers: Buried Glaciers on Great Lyakhoff Island, Baron Toll, 310; the Size of the Ice-grain in Glaciers, J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., 399; on Overflow Channels and other Phenomena Indicating Glacier-dammed Lakes in the Cheviots, Prof. P. F. Kendall, H. B. Muff, 565
Gladstone (Dr. J. H.), on the Teaching of Science in Elemen-

tary Schools, 593 Glasgow: the Ninth Jubilee of Glasgow University, 186; Glasgow International Engineering Congress, 431; Recent Progress in Waterways and Maritime Works, Papers Read at International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639; on the Mechanical Exhibits at the Glasgow Exhibition, D. H. Morton, 613; British Association Meeting at Glasgow, see British Association Glass, Jena, Prof. S. P. Thompson, F.R.S., 199

Glass, Jena, 1761. S. F. Hompson, P. R. S., 199 Glass, Optical, Dr. Glazebrook, 886; Mr. Hinks, 586 Glazebrook (Dr. R. T., F.R.S.), the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, Discourse delivered at the Royal Insti-tution, 290; Optical Glass, 586

Globe, Ancient, at Tsarskoe-Selo, 286 Gnezda (Julius), Formation of Isatin Derivative of Albumen,

Goeldi (Dr. Emilio A.), Album de Aves Amazonicas, 397

Goeldi (Dr. Emilio A.), Atolan & Gog and Magog, 577
Gold: Gold in Wicklow, E. St. J. Lyburn, 134; the Cape
Nome Gold Region, Alaska, F. C. Schrader and A. H.
Brooks, 409; Gold Mining in Egypt, C. J. Alford, 636; on
the Influence of Organic Matter on the Deposition of Gold
in Wing J. Malcolm, Maclaren, 566; on the Source of the in Veins, J. Malcolm Maclaren, 566; on the Source of the Alluvial Gold of the Kildonan Field, Sutherland, J. Malcolm Maclaren, 566

Golden Bough: a Study in Magic and Religion, the, J. G. Frazer, 201; on Dr. Frazer's Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, J. S. Stuart Glennie, 615 Gomperz (Theodor), Greek Thinkers: a History of Ancient

Philosophy, 345 Gooch (G. P.), Annals of Politics and Culture (1492-1899),

Goodchild (J. G.), on the Scottish Ores of Copper, 565 Gordon (J. W.), Examination of Abbe Diffraction Theory of

Microscope, 320 Gordon (W. J.), Our Country's Shells and How to Know Them: a Guide to British Mollusca, 206

Gorilla, Polyphem ein, Dr. Th. Zell, 467

Gorst (Sir John), Opening Address in Section L at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 562; on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593

Göttingen Royal Society, 548 Gouvéa (Dr. H. de), Mosquitoes and Vellow Fever, 655 Grablowitz (Prof.), Simple Recording Seismological Tide gauge,

Graham (James), Commercial Education at Home and Abroad,

Graham (W. H.), Hoopoes on Lundy Island, 164

Graphical Mensuration of Vaults, the, Prof. Ernesto Breglia, 27 Grassè (Dr.), the Malaria-free District of Massarossa, 581

Gravaris (G.), Probable Relation between Characteristic Angle of Deformation of Metals and Newtonian Coefficient of

Restitution, 392 Gravel Flats of Berkshire and Surrey, on the Origin of the, H. W. Monckton, 566

Gravitation: Essays in Illustration of the Action of Astral Gravitation in Natural Phenomena, William Leighton Jordan,

Gravitational Matter, Absolute Amount of, in any Large Volume of Interstellar Space, Lord Kelvin, 586-626 Gray (Prof. Andrew, F.R.S.), a Treatise on Physics, 97

Gray (J.), on the Frequency and Pigmentation Value of the Surnames of Scottish School Children in Eastern Aberdeenshire, 614

Greece, Myths of, Explained and Dated, George St. Clair,

Greece, the Older Civilisation of, 11

Greece, the Oldest Civilization of, Studies of the Mycenæan Age, H. R. Hall, 280 Greek Thinkers: a History of Ancient Philosophy, Theodor

Gomperz, 345 Green Corona Line, Wave Length of, Sig. Ascarza, 289 Greenwich, the Royal Observatory, 136

Greenwich Star Catalogue for 1890, Ten-Year, 216 Gregory (Prof. J. W., F.R.S.), Resignation of Leadership of Scientific Staff of National Antarctic Expedition, 58, 132,

Griesbach (H.), Physikalisch-Chemische Propädeutik, 53 Griffiths (E. H.), on Determining the Depression of the Freezing Points of Extremely Dilute Solutions, 586

Griffon (Dr. Ed.), Assimilation Chlorophylienne et la Structure des Plantes, 28

Groom (Percy), Death and Obituary Notice of, Prof. A. F. W.

Schimper, 551
Groombridge, Radial Velocity of 1830, 491
Guède (H.), La Géologie, 575
Guerbet (Marcel), Action of Ethyl Alcohol on Barium Ethylate,

Guignard (M,), the Aromatic Organo-magnesium Compounds,

Guillaume (C. E.), Use of Nickel-steel Alloy for Compensation Balance in Chronometers, 88

Guillaume (J.), Influence of Magnification on Apparent Value of Diameters of Jupiter, 668

Guillaume (Dr.), Laws of Radiation as Applied to Incandescent

Mantles, 309
Guillaume (Dr.), the Proposed New Unit of Pressure, the

Megadyne per Square Centimetre, 586 Guillemard (H.), Variations of Alkaloidal Nitrogen in Urine,

Guillemonat (M.), Absence of Bacteria in Air and Food prejudicial to Animal Organism, 48

Guillemots' Eggs, the Colours of, Captain G. E. H. Barrett-Hamilton, 600

Guillet (Léon), Combinations of Aluminium with Tungsten, 71;

Aluminium-Molybdenum Alloys, 176, 368 Guilliermond (A.), the Sporulation of Yeasts, 96

Gulls Naturally and Artificially Hatched, on the Behaviour of Young, Prof. J. Arthur Thomson, 588
Gunn (W.), on Recent Discoveries in Arran Geology, 564
Gunnery: New Range-finder, Prof. G. Forbes, F.R.S., 309; on a folding Range finder for Infantry, Prof. Barr, 613 Guntz (M.), Barium Hydride, 23

Guthrie (F. B.), New Rock from Kosciusko, New South Wales, 416

Guye (P. A.), Capillary Constants of Organic Liquids, 224, 248 Guyot (A.), Synthesis of Colouring Matter from Diphenylenephenylmethane, 248

Gwynne-Vaughan (D. T.), on the Vascular Anatomy of the

Cyatheaceæ, 616 Gwynne-Vaughan (J. T.), Remarks on the Nature of the Stele of Equisetum, 617

Häcker (Dr. Valentin), Der Gesang der Vögel, 52 Haddon (Dr. A. C., F.R.S.), Obituary Notice of Rev. James Chalmers ("Tamate"), 38; a Plea for a Prehistoric Survey of Southern India, 469

Hagen (Dr. B.), Anthropo'ogy, 239 Hagenbach (A.), Electrolytic Conductivity of Salt Solutions in

Liquid Sulphur Dioxide, 246

Hail-prevention by Cannonading, W. L. Moore, 382 Hail-prevention, a Method for, G. M. Stanoréwitch, 415 Hailstorm Artillery, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 159 Hair on the Digits of Man, Dr. Walter Kidd, 351 Hairs, Superfluous, Electrolytical Method of Removing, Dr. A.

Whitfield, 311

Hall (H. R.), the Oldest Civilization of Greece: Studies of the Mycenæan Age, 280

Hall (Leonard), the Evolution of Consciousness, 467 Hall-Edwards (J.), the Röntgen Rays in Military Surgery, 454 Haller (A.), Action of Epichlorhydrin and Epibromhydrin on Sodium Derivatives of Benzoylacetic Esters, 224; Synthesis of Colouring Matter from Diphenylenephenylmethane, 248; New Derivatives of Benzylcamphor and Benzylidenecamphor,

Halm (Dr. J.), on the Theory of Temporary Stars, 253; Nova Persei, 119

Hamburg Meeting of the German Association, 609

Hammer (Dr. E.), Der Hammer-Fennelsche Tachymeter-Theodolit und die Tachymeter-Kippregel zur unmittelbaren Lattenablesung von Horizontaldistanz und Höhenunterschied,

Hamilton (Sir W.), Elements of Quaternions, 206 Hanbury Medallist for 1901, the, Dr. George Watt, 162 Handbook on Petroleum, Captain J. H. Thomson and Boverton Redwood, W. T. Lawrence, 441 Hansen (Dr. G. A.), the Life-work of, 433

Harding (E. Hurren), the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, 103, 182 Hanker (Alfred), Ice-erosion in Skye, 143; on the Sequence of the Tertiary Igneous Eruptions in Skye, 565

Harkness (Dr. H. W.), Death of, 356 Harman (F. W.), Influence of Winds on Climate during

Pleistocene Period, 94 Harper (W. R.), the "Onvar" of Malekula, New Hebrides, 416

Harries (C.), Succinic Dialdehyde, 191 Harris (H. E.), Essays and Photographs, some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, 603

Harrison (E. P.), Variation with Temperature of Thermoelectromotive Force and Electric Resistance of Nickel, Iron and Copper, 667

Harrison (Philip), Decomposition of Copper Oxide, 233 Hart (J. H.), Notes on Natural History of Trinidad, 40 Harting (J. E.), a Handbook of British Birds, 297

Harting (Mr.), the Difference between Memphis and Thebes

Mummies, 70 Hartland (E. Sidney), Native Races as Imperial Problems, 73 Hartley (Prof. W. N., F.R.S.), the Persistence of the Spectrum of Carbon Monoxide, 54; the Absorption Spectra of Cyanogen Compounds, 175; Banded Flame-spectra of Metals, 271; Molecular Constitution of Supersaturated Solutions, 271; Flame-spectrum Phenomena of Basic Bessemer Blow, 492

Harvard, A Photometric Durchmusterung, including all Stars of the Magnitude 7.5 and brighter North of Declination - 40° obtained with the Meridian Photometer during the years

1895-98, Edward C. Pickering, 257 Harvey (A. W.), Optically Active Nitrogen Compounds, 174

Hatch (Dr. F. H.), the Kolar (Mysore) Goldfield, 41

Hawthorne (John), on the Absorption of Ammonia from Polluted Sea-water by *Utva latissima*, 619 Hazlehurst (J. N.), Towers and Tanks for Water-works, 525

Hazelius (Dr. Arthur), the late, 163 Headley (F. W.), Foreign Oysters acquiring Characters of Natives, 158

Health in America, Public, Mrs. Percy Frankland, 117 Heat: Thermodynamical Correction of Gas Thermometer, Prof. H. L. Callendar, 23; the Thermal Variations of Waters, F. A. Forel, 71; Expansion of Metals at High Temperatures, L. Holborn and A. L. Day, 92; Heat Dissipated by Platinum Surface at High Temperatures, IV., High-pressure Gases, J. E. Petavel, 93; Thermal Properties of Isopentane and Normal Pentane, J. Rose-Innes and Prof. S. Young, 93; Molecular Depressions of Temperature of Maximum Density of Water Caused by Dissolution of Salts, L. C. de Coppet, 119; Influence of Temperature on Electromotive Force of Magnetisa-Society, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 243; Thermal Conductivity of Living Human Skin, J. Lelévre, 263; Thermal Study of Potassium Hydrates, M. de Forcrand, 320; Molecular Weight of Chloral Hydrates at Boiling Point, M. de Forcrand, 572; Calculation of Heat of Volatilisation and Forcrand, 572; Calculation of Heat of Volatilisation and Fusion of Elements, M. de Forcrand, 596; Inversion-points of Solutions, Albert Colson, 644; Variation with Temperature

Nickel, Iron and Copper, E. P. Harrison, 667 Hebort (A.), Mechanism of Etherification in Plants, 440 Heddle (M. Forster), the Mineralogy of Scotland, 395

Hedges (Killingworth), on the Protection of Buildings from Lightning, 613

of Thermoelectromotive Force and Electric Resistance of

Hedin (Sven), Expedition, the, 606 Helbronner (André), Camphor Combinations with \$\beta\$-hydroxya-naphthaldehyde, 272

Helium: the Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems, Bakerian Lecture at Royal Society, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 243

Hellmann (Dr. G.), Meteorologische Beobactungen vom xiv bis xvii Jahrhundert, 124 Helms (R.), Geological Notes on Kosciusko (N. S. W.), 143

Hemming (G. W.), Subjective Lowering of Pitch, 182

Hemsalech (G. A.), the Band Spectrum of Nitrogen in the Oscillating Spark, 48

Hemsley (W. Botting, F.R.S.), Two New Genera of Chinese Trees, 70; the Flora of Tibet, 70; Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768-1771, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Daniel Solander, 374
Henderson (Alex. C.), Auroræ and Meteors, 527
Henderson (Rev. Dr. Andrew), the Recent Inverness Earth-

quake, 601

Henderson (Prof. G. G.), on the Condensation of Benzil with Dibenzylketone, 612; on the Action of Ammonia on Metals at High Temperatures, 612

Henrici (Prof.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Henriet (H.), Estimation of Nitric Acid in Waters by Stannous

Chloride, 23

Index xxiii

Henry (Louis), Action of Acid Chlorides on Methanal, 296

Henry (T. A.), Poison of Lotus arabicus, 367
Henslow (Rev. Prof. G.), the Story of Wild Flowers, 350
Hepburn (Dr. D.), Viscera of Porpoise, 344; on the Pelvic
Cavity of the Porpoise as a Guide to the Determination of the

Sacral Region in Cetacea, 587 Herbert (Hon. Auberon), a New Record of Totemism, 522 Herbert (T. E.), the Telephone System of the British Post-Office, 599

. Herbertson (A. J.), Outlines of Physiography, an Introduction to the Study of the Earth, 325

Herbertson (Dr. Andrew J.), the Distribution of Rainfall over the Land, 423; on the Morphological Divisions of Europe, 589

Herculis, New Variable Star 77 1901, 532 Herdman (Prof. W. A., F.R.S.), Marine Biology in Liverpool, 115; Life by the Seashore: an Introduction to Natural

History, Marion Newbiggin, 621 Heredity: Statistical Investigation on Variability and Heredity, Prof. Karl Pearson, F.R.S., 102; the Swimming Instinct, Prof. C. Lloyd Morgan, F.R.S., 208; Reflex Action and Instinct, Paper read at Derby Medical Society, Dr. W. Benthall, 459; Prof. J. Arthur Thomson on Germinal Selection in Relation to Inheritance, 588; the Possible Improvement of the Human Breed under the Existing Conditions of Law and Sentiment, Dr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., 659 Hereford (the Bishop of), on the Influence of the Universities

and Examining Bodies upon the Work of Schools, 593

Hérissey (H.), Saccharification of Leguminous Seeds favoured by Sodium Fluoride, 272

Hermite (H.), Essai d'une Explication par les Causes actuelles

de la Partie théorique de la Géologie, 575 Herpetology: the Cape Viper, Claude E. Benson, 126; the Life History of British Serpents and their Local Distribu-tion in the British Isles, Gerald R. Leighton, 624

Herschel (Prof. A. S., F.R.S.), a Vertical Light Beam through

the Setting Sun, 232
Heterocyclic Organic Compounds, Die Heterocyklischen Verbindungen der Organischen Chemie, Edgar Wedekind, 252 Heterogenesis in Conifers, on Examples of, Dr. Lotsy, 618 Hewitt (P. C.), Electric Vacuum-Tube Lamps, 39

Hexactinellida, Studies on the, Isao Iijima, Prof. E. A.

Minchin, 393

Heycock (C. T.), Results of Chilling Copper-tin Alloys, 221

Hickson (Prof. Sydney J.), Addresses of Authors of Scientific

Highland Schists: on Lateral Variations of Composition in Zones of the Eastern Highland Schists, Mr. G. Barrow, 565; on the Structure and Probable Succession of the Schists of the Southern Highlands, Mr. P. Macnair, 565

Hilger (A.), the Michelson Echelon Grating, 383 Hill (A. W.), on the Histology of the Sieve Tubes of *Pinus*, 618

Hill (Dr. D. J.), the Extension of Knowledge, 117 Hill (E. H.), Cloud Observations in India, 262

Hill (J. B.), Crush-conglomerates of Argyll, 142; the Slaty Rocks of Cornwall, 166

Hill (M. O.), the Food of the Senegal Galago, 376

Himstedt (Herr), Effect on Eye of Röntgen &c. Rays, 529

Hinks (Mr.), Optical Glass, 586

Hints to Travellers, John Coles, 100 Hipparchus and the Precession of the Equinoxes, Rev. H. M. Close, 71
Hirsch (Dr. A.), Obituary Notice of, 18
His (Wilhelm), Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, 75

Hisgen's Variable 13 (1900) Cygni, 114

Histogenesis Vertebrate, Wilhelm His, 75

Histology: Die Reizleitung und die reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, Dr. B. Nemec, 371

Histoire du Ciel, Clemence Royer, 497 History of Physiology, the, Lane Lectures at Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., Sec. R.S.,

History as a Science, J. S. Stuart-Glennie, 326

Hoffmann's Flying Machine, 112

Hogarth (Mr.), on a Mycenæan Site Excavated at Zakro, 615 Holborn (L.), Expansion of Metals at High Temperatures, 92 Holidays in Eastern Counties, Percy Lindley, 232

Holland (T. H.), the Sivamalai Series of Elæolite- and Corun-

dum-Syenites, 657

Holland, Recent Scientific Work in, 208

Hollis (A. C.), a Report on German East Africa, 67 Holt-White (Rashleigh), the Life and Letters of Gilbert White

of Selborne, 276

Honda (K.), a Simple Model for Demonstrating Beat, 626 Hooper (Frederick), Commercial Education at Home and

Abroad, 442 Hoopoes on Lundy Island, W. H. Graham, 164 Hope (E. W.), a Manual of School Hygiene, 373

Hopkinson (B.), a New Argument for the Existence of an Ether, 586

Horn-feeding Larvæ, Captain W. J. Hume McCorquodale, 446 Hornaday (W. T.), Ovis Fannini, 310 Horne (John, F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section C at the

Glasgow Meeting of the British Association: Recent Advances

in Scottish Geology, 509 Horticulture: the Royal Horticultural Society's Lily Conference, Wilfred Mark Webb, 316; New Garden Plants: a Study in Evolution, 446; Fumigation of Fruit Trees, 642
Hospital, a Civilian War, 346

Houston (David), a Raid upon Wild Flowers, 156

Howard (Leland O.), the Insect Book: a Popular Account of the Bees, Wasps, Ants, Grasshoppers, Flies, and other North American Insects, exclusive of the Butterflies, Moths and Beetles, with full Life-histories, Tables and Bibliographies, 549

Howison (Prof.), the Limits of Evolution, 323 Hoyle (W. E.), "Fish-arrows" from Demerara, 644 Hudson (Prof.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Huggins (Sir William, K.C.B.), Scientific Worthies, Prof. H.

Kayser, 225

Hughes (Herbert W.), a Text-book of Coal-mining, 324 Hugounenq (L.), Urea-formation by Oxidation of Albumin by Ammonium Persulphate, 120; Chemical Analysis of Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, 668
Hugues (Luigi), Le Esplorazioni Polari nel Secolo XIX., 158

Hull (Prof. E.), on the Physical History of the Norwegian

Fjords, 566

Human Breed, the Possible Improvement of the, under the Existing Conditions of Law and Sentiment, Dr. Francis Galton, F.R.S., 659

Human Nature Club, the, E. L. Thorndike, 325

Humane Review, the, 101 Humber, on the Sources of the Warp in the, W. H. Wheeler, 566

Hunt (Charles), Gas'Lighting, 205 Hurst (C. P.), Diotis Candidissima, 644

Hutt (Stanley B.), Prehistoric Implements in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, 103; a Curious Phenomenon, 233

Huxley (Leonard), the Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S, Prof. W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S, 145 Huxley (Thomas Henry, F.R.S.), the Scientific Memoirs of, 76;

the Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S., by Leonard Huxley, Prof. W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S., 145 Huxley Lecture, the Second, of the Anthropological Institute, Sir Francis Galton, 659

Hybrid Oochromy, with a Note on Xenia, G. P. Bulman, 207 Hydraulics: an Outline of the Development and Application of the Energy of Flowing Water, Joseph P. Frizell, 121; Reservoirs for Irrigation, Water-power and Domestic Water-supply, James D. Schuyler, 154; New Hydraulic Coal Hoist, 407; Towers and Tanks for Water-works, J. N.

Hazlehurst, 525 Hydrography: The Second International Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, 218; Sand Waves in Tidal Currents,

Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412

Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412
Hydrogen: The Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems,
Banksian Lecture at Royal Society, Prof. James Dewar,
F.R.S., 243; the Liquefaction of Hydrogen, 302
Hygiene: Public Health in America, Mrs. Percy Franklano,
117; the Science of Hygiene: a Text-Book of Laboratory
Practice, Walter C. C. Pakes, 178; a Manual of School
Hygiene, E. W. Hope and E. A. Browne, 373; School
Hygiene, Edward Shaw, 373; Water Filtration Works,
James H. Fuertes, 421

Ice-erosion in Skye, Alfred Harker, 143 Ice-grain in Glaciers, the Size of the, J. V. Buchanan, F.R.S.,

Iceland, Manual of the Birds of, Henry H. Slater, 443 Ichthyology: The Fishes of North and Middle America, a

Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America North of the Isthmus of Panama, David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Ever-mann, 4; Chemical Analysis of the Mummified Fishes of

Ancient Egypt, M. M. Lortet and Hugounenq, 668 Iijima (Isao), Studies on the Hexactinellida, 393

Ikeda (K.), the Inorganic Ferments, 135 Illusion, a New Optical Pseudoscopic Vision without a Pseudoscope, Prof. R. W. Wood, 351; A. S. Davis, 376 Images in Stellar Photography, Forms of, 191 Imbert (Henry), Action of Pyridine Bases on Tetra-halogen

Quinones, 668

Impostors among Animals, Prof. W. M. Wheeler, 264 In-breeding, Prof. Cossar Ewart, 271

India: The Kolar Gold-Field, Mysore, Dr. F. H. Hatch, 41; the Jurassic Brachiopoda of Cutch, Dr. F. L. Kitchin, 134; the Ethnographical Survey of India, 214; on the Projected Ethnographic Survey of India, W. Crooke, 614; How to Know the Indian Ducks, F. Finn, 278; Cloud Observations, E. H. Hill, 262; Folk Customs in India, 264; Decrease of Indigo Cultivation, 381; the Work of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli, 383; Agricultural Statistics, 407; a Plea for a Prehistoric Survey of Southern India, Prof. Alfred C. Haddon, F.R.S., 469; Archæological Exploration of the Tinnevelly District, Madras, Mr. Rea, 489; the Indian Rainfall of Autumn, 1900, Major Prain, 530; Occasional Essays on Native South Indian Life, Stanley P. Rice, 574; Botanical Laboratory at Hakgala Gardens, Ceylon, 580; the Value of Dr. Calmette's Anti-Venene, 657; the Sivamalai Series of Elæolite and Corun dum-Syenites, T. H. Holland, 657

Indiana Caves, Dr. O. C. Farrington, 288 Indigo and Sugar, Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, 10 Indigo Cultivation in India, Decrease of, 381

Indigo, the Progress of Artificial, 433 Indies, West, Von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen: Reiseskizzen eines Naturforschers, F. Doflein, 2

Indicator, the Steam-Engine, Cecil H. Peabody, 125
Induction Motor, the, B. A. Behrend, 252
Industry, Society of Chemical, Presidential Address at, J. W. Swan, F.R.S., 329
Inequalities of Mercury, Periodicity of the, 524

Infusoria: the Significance of Spiral Swimming, Dr. H. S. Jennings, 165; Binary Fission in Ciliata, Dr. J. Y. Simpson, 199 Injured, First Aid to the, H. Drinkwater, 5

Inorganic Chemistry: Praktikum des Anorganischen Chemikers,

Dr. Emil Knoevenagel, 99

Insects: Horn-feeding Larvæ, Captain W. J. Hume McCorquodale, 446; the Insect Book: a Popular Account of the Bees, Wasps, Ants, Grasshoppers, Flies and other North American Insects, exclusive of the Butterflies, Moths and Beetles, with full Life-Histories, Tables and Bibliographies, Leland O. Howard, 549

Instinct, the Swimming, Prof. C. Lloyd Morgan, F.R.S., 208
Instinct, Reflex Action and, Paper read at Derby Medical
Society, Dr. W. Benthall, 459
Institute of Civil Engineers: Chemistry and its Relations to
Engineering, Prof. Frank Clowes, 22
Institution of Electrical Engineers, Journal of the, on the
Supersession of the Steam by the Electric Locomotive,
W. Langdon, 447

W. Langdon, 437
Institution, Royal: Vitrified Quartz, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102; Some Recent work on Diffusion, Dr. Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., 171, 193; the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., 290; Metals as Fuel, Sir W. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S., 260; Polish P. Horack, J. Land Parkligh, F.R.S., 260; Metals as Fuel, Sir W. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S., 260; Polish P. Horack, J. Land Parkligh, F.R.S., 260; Polish P. Land Parkligh, F.R.S., 260; Polish P. Land Parkligh, F.R.S., 260; Polish P. Land Parkligh, P.R.S., 260; Polish P.R.S., 260; Po F.R.S., 360; Polish, Rt. Hon. Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 385 Instruments at the Paris Exhibition, British, C. V. Boys, F.R.S., 576

Intelligence as the Soul of the Universe, Frederick James Gant, 422

International Conference for the Exploration of the Sea, the Second, 218

International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 431

International Seismological Conference at Strassburg, the, Dr.

F. Omori, 340 International Zoological Congress, the, 405

Interstellar Space, on the absolute Amount of Gravitational Matter in any Large Volume of, Lord Kelvin, 586, 626 Invention in the Nineteenth Century, Progress of, Edward W. Byrn, 125

Inventions: Twentieth Century, a Forecast, George Suther-

land, 74 Inverness Earthquake of September 18, 521; Dr. Charles Davison, 527; Rev. Dr. Andrew Henderson, 601

Ionic Velocities in Aqueous Solutions, Measurement of, B. B. Steele, 222

Ireland (Prof. Alleyne), on the Influence of Geographical Environment on Political Evolution, 589; Suggested Afforestation of Ireland, Dr. R. T. Cooper, 264; on the Resemblance of the Old Red Sandstone of North-West Ireland to the Torridon Rocks of Sutherlandshire, A. McHenry, J. H. Kilroe, 565; on the Relation of the Silurian and Ordovician Rocks of North-West Ireland to the Great Metamorphic Series, A. McHenry, J. H. Kilroe, 565; G. H. Kinahan, 565

Iron and Steel Institute, 64, 491
Irrigation, Water-power, and Domestic Water-supply, Reservoirs for, James D. Schuyler, 154
Irvine (J. C.), New Method of Preparing Salicylaldehyde Methyl

Ether, 47

Italy: Italian Geology, Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia, E. Artini and G. Melzi, Dr. H. J. Johnston-Lavis, 640; Recent Studies of Old Italian Volcanoes, Sir Arch. Geikie, F.R.S., 103; Le Esplorazioni Polari nel Secolo XIX., Luigi Hugues, 158

Jack (Dr. R. Logan), on the Conditions under which Artesian Water is obtained in Queensland, 565; on an Expedition in Western China, 591

Jackson (H.), Liveingite, 95

Jaeger (W.), Researches on the Normal Cell, especially the Weston Element, 118

James (T. L.), Electro-magnets, 168

Japan: Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151
Japanese Fowls, Long-tailed, J. T. Cunningham, 158; Frank

Finn, 232, 551

Japanese Sponges, Studies on the Hexactinellida, Isao Iijima, Prof. E. A. Minchin, 393 Jeans (J. H.), the Mechanism of Radiation, 199

Jena Glass, Prof. S. P. Thompson, F.R.S., 199

Jennings (H. S.), the Anatomy of the Cat, 155
Jervis-Smith (Rev. F. J., F.R.S.), a New Method of Using
Tuning-forks in Chronographic Measurements, 232; the
Rolling Angle of a Ship found by Photography, 576
Jet, on the Structure and Origin of, A. C. Seward, F.R.S., 618

Johnson (Effie), Fact and Fable, 76 Johnson (W. Woolsey), Theoretical Mechanics: an Elementary Treatise, 646

Treatise, 646
Johnston-Lavis (Dr. H. J.), Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche
sulla Valsesia, E. Artini and G. Melzi, 640
Joly (Prof. J., F.R.S.), New Form of Electric Furnace, 95;
Method of identifying Minerals in Rock-sections by their
bi-refringence, 95; Vitrified Quartz, 102; Computation of
the Age of the Earth from the Amount of Salt in the Sea, 566
Jones (Prof. J. Viriamu), Death of, 132; Obituary Notice,
Prof. W. E. Ayrton, F.R.S., 161

Jonquières (Admiral de), Death of, 432 Jordan (David Starr), the Fishes of North and Middle America, a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama, 4; Animal Life, a First Book of Zoology, 525 Jordan (W. H.), the Feeding of Animals, 625 Jordan (William Leighton), Essays in Illustration of the Action

of Astral Gravitation in Natural Phenomena, 155 Jouniaux (M.), Reduction of Silver Chloride by Hydrogen, 143; Action of Solar Radiations on Silver Chloride in Presence of Hydrogen, 248; Action of Silver on Hydrobromic Acid, 344

Jouve (Ad.), Crystallised Lime, 71

Jubilee of Glasgow University, the Ninth, 186 Jupiter, Black Spot on, 216

Jupiter, Dark Spot on, 240 Jupiter, Markings on, W. F. Denning, 351

Kahlenberg (Prof.), Arrhenius' Electrolytic Dissociation Theory,

383 Kalberlah (Dr. Alfred), B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen des Tier und Pflanzenreiches, 301

Kapteyn (J. C.), the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox 1875, 257

Kasner (Dr. E.), Algebraic Potential Curves, 221

Ka-Tanga, on the Belgian Expedition to, Captain Lemaire, 590 Kayser (Prof. H.), Scientific Worthies, Sir William Huggins, 225

Keane (A. H.), Central and South America, 353 Kellogg (Prof. V. L.), Animal Life: a First Book of Zoology,

Kelvin (Lord), on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, 586; on the Absolute Amount of Gravitational Matter in any Large Volume of Interstellar Space, 586, 626 Kendal (Prof.), on the Chronology of the Stone Age of Man,

615

Kendall (Prof. P. F.), on Overflow Channels and other Phenomena Indicating Glacier-dammed Lakes in the Cheviots, 565 Kendrickia Walkeri, on Abnormal Secondary Thickening in, Miss A. M. Clarke, 618

Kerr (J. Graham), on the Origin of Vertebrate Limbs, 588

Kerr's Phenomenon, Luigi Giuganino, 554
Kidd (Dr. Walter), Hair on the Digits of Man, 351
Kidston (R.), on the Geological Distribution of the Fishes of the Carboniferous Rocks and of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, 565 Kildonen Field, Sutherland, on the Source of the Alluvial Gold

of the, J. Malcolm Maclaren, 566 Kilroe (J. R.), Intrusive Tuff-like Rocks in Ireland, 295; on the Resemblance of the Old Red Sandstone of North-West Ireland to the Torridon Rocks of Sutherland, 565; on the Relation of the Silurian and Ordovician Rocks of North-West Ireland to the Great Metamorphic Series, 565; on the Application of Geology to Agriculture by the Preparation of Soil Maps, 565

Kimmins (Dr.), on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593 Kinahan (G. H.), on the Relation of the Silurian and Ordovician Rocks of North-west Ireland to the Great Metamorphic

Series, 565 Kingsley (Mary H.), West African Studies, 231 Kinsley (Carl), Measurement of Sensitiveness of Coherers for

Wireless Telegraphy, 60 Kirby (W. F.), Familiar Butterflies and Moths, 375; the

Colorado Potato Beetle, 450 Kirkaldy (G. W.), the Stridulating Organs of Water-Bugs, 20 Kitchen (Dr. F. L.), the Jurassic Brachiopoda of Cutch, 134

Kites in Meteorology raised by Tug Motion, A. L. Rotch, 453; on the Exploration of the Upper Strata of the Atmosphere by means of Kites, A. Lawrence Rotch, 590 Klein (Dr. E., F.R.S.), the Diagnosis of Plague, 91

Kling (André), Oxidation of Propylglycol by Mycoderma Aceti,

Knight (James), the Self-Educator in Chemistry, 467 Knoevenagel (Dr. Emil), Praktikum des Anorganischen

Chemikers, 99

Knowledge, the Extension of, Dr. D. J. Hill, 117 Knowlton (F. H.), Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United States, the Older Mesozoic, 633

Kny (Prof.), on Correlation in the Growth of Roots and Shoots,

Koch (Prof. Robert), the Suppression of Tuberculosis, 312 Kodis (Dr. Theodore), New Method of Staining Brain Tissue,

Koenig (Rudolph), Death of, 579; Obituary Notice of, 630 Kohlstock (Dr.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 40 Korda (D.), New Method of Crystallising Ferro-Silicium,

orda (D.), New Method C.
Manganese and Chromium, 165
Manganese and Chromium, 165
May South Wales, Geological Notes on, Prof.
F. Pittman, 143; Kosciusko, New South Wales, J. W. E. David, F.R.S., R. Helms and E. F. Pittman, 143; New Rock from Kosciusko, F. B. Guthrie, Prof. David, F.R.S., and W. G. Woolnough, 416

Kowalski (J. de), Refraction Indices of Liquid Mixtures, 272

Kress Flying Machine, the, 190 Kroeber (A. L.), the Decorative Symbolism of the Arapaho Indians, 582

Krystallisation von Eiweissstoffen und ihre Bedeutung für die Eiweisschemie, die, Dr. F. N. Schulz, 375

Laar (J. J. van), Lehrbuch der Mathematischen Chemie, 375 Laboratories: the Leipzig Chemical Laboratory, 127; the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, Discourse delivered at the Royal Institution by Dr. R. T. Glazebrook,

F.R.S. 290; the Laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald, 428; the Report of the Thompson-Yates Laboratories, 604; a Manual of Laboratory Physics, H. M. Tory and F. H. Pitcher, 350

Lacaze-Duthiers (Baron de), Death and Obituary Notice of, 380 Lakes of the British Islands, on the Scientific Studies of the, Dr. Mill, 590; Sir John Murray, 590

Lamarckism: Foreign Oysters acquiring Characters of Natives, J. M. Tabor, 126; F. W. Headley, 158; Hair on the Digits of Man, Dr. Walter Kidd, 351

Lamp (Prof. Johannes), Death and Obituary Notice of, 237

Lamp, the Cooper-Hewitt Mercury Vapour, 581

Lamp, Nernst, in America, A. J. Wurts' Paper read at

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 632

Landslip in Danby Dale, 41 Landslip at Barbados, 635

Lane Lectures at Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, History of Physiology during Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Centuries, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., Sec.R.S., 417 Lang (William H.), Prothalli of Ophioglossum Pendulum, Hel-

minthostachys Zeylanica and Psilotum, 365; Contributions to our Knowledge of the Gametophyte in the Ophioglossales and Lycopodiales, 616 Langdon (W.), on the Supersession of the Steam by the Electric

Locomotive, 437 Langley (Prof. S. P.), the Smithsonian Solar Eclipse Expedition, 53; Astrophysical Researches at Smithsonian Institution, 269; Colour-standards, 269; Measurements of Solar Radiation, Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory at the Smithsonian Institution, 352; the Fire Walk Ceremony in

Tahiti, 397 Language and Origin of the Basques, the, 90

Lankester (Prof. E. Ray, F.R.S.), a Treatise on Zoology, 26; the Okapi, 188, 247

Lannelongue (M.), Influence of Feeding, Work and Dust on Tuberculosis, 71; Influence of Variations of Temperature on Tuberculosis, 644

Lapicque (L.), Reaction-time in Different Races, 224

Larmor (Alexander), Geometrical Exercises from Nixon's Euclid, Revised, with Solutions, 497
Larvæ, Horn-feeding, Captain W. J. Hume McCorquodale,

446

Lasch (Dr. R.), the Pontianak of the Malay, 555 Lassar-Cohn (Dr.), an Introduction to Modern Scientific

Chemistry, 5 Last Essays, Rt. Hon. Prof. F. Max Müller, 25t Latitude, Formulæ for Variation of, 42

Lauder (A.), the Absorption Spectra of Cyanogen Compounds,

Laussedat (Colonel A.), Recherches sur les Instruments, les Méthodes et le dessin Topographiques, 622

Lawrence (Dr. W. T.), Handbook on Petroleum, Captain J. T.
Thomson and Boverton Redwood, 441; on Duty-free Alcohol, 611

Layard (Miss Nina), on a Skull Found in Peat in the Bed of the River Orwell, 614; on a Flint Palæolith with alleged "Thong-marks," 615 Le Conte (Dr. Joseph), Death and Obituary Notice of, 261

Lead Silicates in relation to Pottery Manufacture, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., 94

Lead Compounds in Pottery, the Use of, Prof. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., 408

Lead Fritts, Influence of Grinding on Solubility in, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., and Charles Simmonds, 175 Lean (G.), on Aluminium-tin Alloys, 612

Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, Wilhelm His, 75

Lecomte (Prof. H.), Le Coton, 124 Lees (Dr. C. H.), Mathematics and Physics at the British Asso-

ciation, 586 Lefèvre (J.), Thermal Conductivity of Living Human Skin, 263 Leighton (Gerald R.), the Life-history of British Serpents and

Local Distribution in the British Isles, 624

Leipzig Chemical Laboratory, the, 127 Lemaire (Capt.), on the Belgian Expedition to Ka-Tanga, 590 Lengenbach Binnenthal, Notes on Minerals from the, R. H.

Solly, 577 Length, Measures of, Best Alloy for, Dr. Benoit, 112

Leon (G.), an Electrical Grisoumeter, 200

Lepidoptera: Catalog der Lepidopteren des Palæarctischen Faunengebietes, 348; Lepidoptera of the British Islands Charles G. Barrett, 444

Lepierre (Charles), Glucoproteins as Culture-Media for Microbes, 296 Lépine (R.), the Sugars from Blood, 320

Leprosy: the Life-work of Dr. G. A. Hansen, 433

Leslie (C. de), Influence of Spermo-toxin on Reproduction, 620

Lespiau (R.), Monobromalonic Dialdehyde, 620

Leteur (F.), Action of Hydrogen Sulphide on Acetylacetone, 272 Letts (Prof. E. A.), on the Chemical and Biological Changes occurring during the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, 612; on the Absorption of Ammonia from Polluted Sea-water by Ulva latissima, 619

Lewin (L.), Hemoverdine, 644
Libyan Notes, D. Randall-Maciver and A. Wilkin, 123 Life, Animal, a First Book of Zoology, President D. Starr Jordan and Prof. V. L. Kellogg, 525

Life of the Bee, the, Maurice Maeterlinck, 231

Life by the Seashore, an Introduction to Natural History, Marion Newbigin, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 621

Light: The Colour and Polarisation of Blue Sky Light, Dr. N. E. Dorsay, 138; the New Standard Pentane Tencandle Lamp and the New Photometer, 189; the Treatment of Disease by Light, 259; Light Variation of the Minor Planet (345) Tercidina, 265; Constitution of White Light, O. M. Corbino, 464; on the Magnetic Rotation of Light and the Second Law of Thermodynamics, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 577; the Latest Form of Prof. Minchin's Photo-electric Cell, 587; Nernst Lamp in America, A. J. Wurts' Paper read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 632; Chemical Effects of Light on Plant Life, Herren Ciamician and Silber,

Light-beam, a Vertical, through the Setting Sun, Prof. A. S. Herschel, F.R.S., 232

Lighting, Gas, Charles Hunt, 205

Lightning, Photograph of the Spectrum of, 583

Lightning, on the Protection of Buildings from, Killingworth Hedges, 613

Lily Conference, the Royal Horticultural Society's, Wilfred Mark Webb, 316

Limits of Evolution, the, Prof. Howison, 323

Lincei, Reale Accademia dei, Prize Awards, 381 Lindeck (St.), Researches on the Normal Cell, especially the Weston Element, 118

Lindley (Percy), Holidays in Eastern Counties, 232 Lindsay (James Bowman), Sir William Preece, 521

Linebarger (C. E.), the Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus, 396

Linnean Society, 70, 142, 223 Lippmann (M.), a Perfectly Astatic Galvanometer, 96; Simple Astatic Galvanometer, 554

Liquefaction of Hydrogen, the, 302

Liquids, Creeping of, and Tension of Mixtures, Dr. F. T. Trouton, F.R.S., 223
Liquids, Capillary Constants of Organic, P. A. Guye and A.

Baud, 224, 248 Lister (Lord), the Anti-Vivisection Society and, 55; the

National Anti-Vivisection Society and Lord Lister, Hon. Stephen Coleridge, 101; Editor, 101

Lister (J. J.), on Dimorphism in Foraminifera, 588 Little (Archibald), on the Crux of the Upper Yang-tse, 591 Livache (A.), Substitution of Zinc-white for White Lead in Oilpainting, 120 Liveing (Prof. G. D., F.R.S.), on the Separation of the Least

Volatile Gases of Atmospheric Air and their Spectra, 294 Liveingite, R. H. Solly and H. Jackson, 95 Liverpool, Marine Biology in, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S.,

115

Liversidge (Prof.), Science in Australia, 296

Locke's (John) Versuch über den Menschlichen Verstand, 4 Locke's (John) Versuch uper den Menschichen Verstand, 4
Lockyer (Sir Norman, K.C.B., F.R.S.), Enhanced Lines in
Spectrum of Chromosphere, 45; the Arc Spectrum of
Vanadium, 45; Further Observations on Nova Persei, No. 2,
69; Further Observations on Nova Persei, 341; Observations at Santa Pola of Solar Eclipse of May 28, 1900, 343;
Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and Basic Rocks, Prof. Edward Suess, 629

Lockyer (Dr. William J. S.), the Solar Activity 1833-1900, Paper read at Royal Society, 196; Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Wilhelm Schur, 380 Locomotion: Mode of Action of Brakes of Automobiles, A.

Petot, 464

Locomotive, on the Supersession of the Steam by the Electric, W. Langdon, 437

Locust-destroying Fungus, Empusa acridii, Dr. Sinclair Black,

Loew (Dr. Oscar), Catalase, a New Vegetable Enzyme, 239 Logarithms, an Introduction to the Practical Use of, F. G. Taylor, 424

Logic: the Use of Words in Reasoning, Alfred Sedgwick, 231 London Fog Inquiry, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 649 London Thunderstorm of July 25, 331, 434

London, the University of, 89
London, Royal College of Science and the University of,
Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., 583
Long-tailed Japanese Fowls, J. T. Cunningham, 158; Frank

Finn, 232, 551 Long (Prof. J. H.), Chemistry Teaching in U.S. Medical

Schools, 607 Longe (F. D.), on a Piece of Yew from the Forest bed near

Kessingland, 615

Lortet (M.), Chemical Analysis of Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, 668

Lotsy (Dr.), on the Aims and Proposals of the International Association of Botanists, 615; on Examples of Heterogenesis in Conifers, 618

Loue River, Origin of the, A. Berthelot, 440 Louisiana Gulf Coast, Protection of Sea Birds of, Prof. Beyer, IQ

Lowell (Percival), Mars on Glacial Epochs, 107 Lucania. Wireless Telegraphy on the, 381, 406, 553 Lucas (Dr. F. A.), A New Miocene Flightless Auk, 608 Lumholtz (Dr. Carl), the Cave-dwellers of North-West Mexico,

Lyburn (E. St. J.), Gold in Wicklow, 134 Lycopodiales, Contributions to our Knowledge of the Gametophyte in the Ophioglossales and, William H. Lang,

Lydekker (R., F.R.S.), the Age of the Woburn Abbey Muskox, 103; an Instance of Adaptation among the Deer, 257

Lyons (Commander T. A.), A Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the Compass and its Deviations Aboard Ship, Mathematical, Theoretical, and Practical, 125

McAdie (A. G.), Fog Formations, 43; Californian Method of Fruit-protection from Frost, 214

Macalister (Prof. A., F.R.S.), on the Morphology of Transverse Vertebral Processes, 614

Macalister (R. A. S.), on the Age of Ogham Writing in Ireland, 615 McAlpine (D.), the "Shot-hole" Fungi of Stone Fruit Trees

in Australia, 416 McCorquodale (Captain W. J. Hume), Hornfeeding Larvæ,

Macdonald (N. D.), on Railway Rolling Stock, Present and

Future, 613 MacDowall (Alex B.), the Moon and Wet Days, 424

McHenry (A.), Intrusive Tuff-like Rocks in Ireland, 295; on the Relations of the Silurian and Ordovician Rocks of North-West Ireland to the Great Metamorphic Series, 565; on the Resemblance of the Old Red Sandstone of North-West Ireland to the Torridon Rocks of Sutherland, 565

McIntosh (Prof. W. C., F.R.S.), Colouration of Marine Animals, 62; Pearl and Pearl-shell Fisheries, 376; the Destruction of

Shore Fish, Ova and Fry, 523
McKendrick (Prof. John G., F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section I at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association,

545 MacKenzie (A. S.), Experiment on Period of Rod Vibrating in

Liquid, 657 Mackie (Dr. W.), Chemical Analysis of Scotch Sandstone, 264; on the Trias of Elgin and Nairn, 565 Mackinder (Mr.), on Movements of Men by Land and Sea, 591

McKinley, Mount, Alaska, R. Muldrow, 658

Maclaren (J. Malcolm), on the Source of the Alluvial Gold of the Kildonan Field, Sutherland, 566; on the Influence of Organic Matter on the Deposition of Gold in Veins, 566

Maclean (Prof. Magnus), the British Association Meeting, 78; Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 284

McClean Telescope at the Cape Observatory, 632

MacMahon (Major P. A., F.R.S.), Opening Address in Section A at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 477

MacMahon (Prof.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Macnair (P.), on the Structure and Probable Succession of the

Schists of the Southern Highlands, 565 McRitchie (D.), the "Picts' Houses" of Scotland, 311 MacRitchie (R. A. S.), Hints of Evolution in Tradition, 615 Madan (H. G.), the Colloid Form of Piperine, 175 Maercker (Prof.), Death of, 635

Maeterlinck (Maurice), the Life of the Bee, 231

Magic and Religion: the Golden Bough, a Study in, J. G. Frazer, 201; Magic, Religion and Science, Dr. Frazer's views of the Relation between, J. S. Stuart Glennie, 615 Magnetisation, Direction of, in Clay Beds Baked by Lava Flow,

B. Brunhes and P. David, 320

Magnetism: Magnetic Observations during Total Solar Eclipse, Dr. William Ellis, F.R.S., 15; the Growth of Magnetism in Iron under Alternating Magnetic Force, Ernest Wilson, 46; New Yoke for Measuring Hysteresis, Z. Crook, 92; Hysteresis of Iron under various Magnetic Fields, Alberto Dina, 638; Magnetic Deflection of Kathode Rays, H. A. Wilson, 95; Permeability of Nickel-Steels in Intense Fields, Réné Paillot, 96; a Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the Compass and its Deviations Aboard Ship, Mathematical, Theoretical and Practical, Commander T. A. Lyons, 125; on the Determination of Magnetic Force on Board Ship, by Captain Creak's Modified Dip Circle, 586; Electro-Magnets, T. L. James, 168; Influence of Temperature on Electromotive Force of Magnetisation, Réné Paillot, 175; Die Erdströme im Deutschen Reichstelgraphengebiet und ihr zusammenhang mit den Erdmagnetischen Erscheinungen, Dr. zusammenhang mit den Erdmagnetischen Erscheinungen, Dr. B. Weinstein, 230; Variations of the Magnetic Needle, 384; Death and Obituary Notice of Charles A. Schott, 406; Behaviour of Hæmoglobin Compounds in Magnetic Field, Dr. Arthur Gamgee, F.R.S., 415; Maxwell's Theory and Kerr's Phenomenon, Luigi Giuganino, 554; on the Magnetic Rotation of Light and he Second Law of Thermod: unics, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 577; Magnetic Observations at Mauritius, 582; on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, Dr. Crémieu, Dr. H. A. Wilson, Lord Kelvin, 586; Asymmetry of Zeeman Effect, G. W. Walker, 668; Terrestrial Magnetism: the Norwegian North Polar Expedition. trial Magnetism: the Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-96, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the Year 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; the Collected Scientific Papers of John Couch Adams, 576
Magnus (Sir Philip), on the Creation of Local Educational

Authorities, 593

Authorities, 593
Magog, Gog and, 577
Mailhe (A.), Action of Mercuric Oxide on Aqueous Solutions of Metallic Salts, 248; Action of Copper Hydrate on Solutions of Metallic Salts, 344
Makgill (Mr.), Neutral Red a Test for Colon Bacillus, 637
Malaria, Mosquitoes and, G. Noè, 88; Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., 453; the Question of Priority, 287; the Anti-Mosquito Campaign in Sierra Leone, 579; Major R. Ross, F.R.S., 489; on the Story of Malaria, Major R. Ross, 588; the West African Campaign, Major Ronald Ross, 636; Simultaneity at Constantine of Mosquitoes and Malaria, A. Billet, 524; the Malaria-free District of Massarosa, Dr. Grassi, 581 Grassi, 581

Malays, the "Pontianak" of the, Dr. R. Lasch, 555 Malay Peninsula: on the Half-Siamese, Half-Malay Community of Sai-Kau, Mr. Annandale, Mr. Robinson, 614; on the Vegetation of Mount Ophir, A. G. Tansley, 616
Malayan "Myrmecophilous" Ferns, on Two, R. H. Yapp, 617

Maldes (M.), Solubility of Mixtures of Sulphate of Copper and Sulphate of Soda, 368

Maldives, the Coral Islands of the, J. Stanley Gardiner, 587

Malpeaux (L.), La Betterave à Sucre, 28 Mammoth, the Siberian, 286

Man, Hair on the Digits of, Dr. Walter Kidd, 351 Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, 47, 175, 644
Manometer, Recording, for High Pressures, J. E. Petaval, 613
Manual of Laboratory Physics, A., H. M. Tory and F. H.

Pitcher, 350 Manual of School Hygiene, A. E. W. Hope and E. A. Browne,

373 Maps; on Weather Maps published daily by various Countries, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 591; Maps, their Uses and Construction, James Morrison, 599

Maquenne (L.), Glucamine, 24 March (F.), Action of Bromacetophenone on Sodium Acetylacetone, 272

Marchlewski (Herr), Chemical Relationship between Hæmoglobin and Chlorophyll, 265
Marckwald (Prof. Willy), on the Properties of Radium, 612;
on so-called Phototropic Substances, 612

Marconi (Mr.), Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, 139
Marconi's Wireless Telegraphy on the Lake Champlain
Atlantic Liner, 111; on the Lucania, 381, 406, 553
Margerison (Samuel), on the Transport of British Timber, 619

Marine Biology: the Marine Resources of British West Indies, Dr. J. E. Duerden, 31; Luminous Bacteria, 57; Coloration of Marine Animals, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, 62; Marine Biology in Liverpool, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 115; Rate of Growth of Corals, J. S. Gardiner, 143; the Marine Mollusca of Tasmania, Prof. Ralph Tate and W. L. May, 548; Marine Poisons and Burrowing Habit, G. Bohn, 644

Marine Engineering, New Turbine-driven Vessel, 133
Marine Resources of the British West Indies, the, Dr. J. G.

Duerden, 31 Maritime Works, Recent Progress in Waterways and, Papers read at International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639 Market Garden, an Anglo-American Work on the, L. H. Bailey,

Markings on Jupiter, W. F. Denning, 351
Marriott (W.), the Weather of March, 1901, 47
Marroquin y Revira (M.), the Subterranean Waters of the

Ajusco (Mexico) Chain, 288 Mars, Climate and Time and, 106

Mars on Glacial Epochs, Percival Lowell, 107

Mars, Observations of, 384 Marshall (F. H. A.), Hair in the Equidæ, 271 Marsupials, the Australian, B. A. Bensley, 88

Martin (Geoffrey), a Possible Method of Attaining the Absolute

Zero of Temperature, 376
Martine (C.), Action of Benzaldehyde on Sodium Menthol, 272
Martre (M.), Action of Currents of High Frequency on Urinary

Secretion, 272
Massol (M.), Solubility of Mixtures of Sulphate of Copper and Sulphate of Soda, 368

Masters (Dr. Maxwell T., F.R.S.), Agricultural Seeds, 30

Materials of Construction, Testing and Strength of, Experimental Engineering, W. C. Popplewell, 597
Mathematics: Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations,

athematics: Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations, Prof. G. Chrystal, 5; Il Calcolo Grafico applicato alla Misura delle Volte, Prof. Ernesto Breglia, 27; Trihomologous Triangles, J. A. Third, 41; Bulletin of American Society, 45, 221, 341; the Use of Axis-vectors, Prof. F. Slate, 54; American Journal of Mathematics, 92, 295, 572; Mathematical Society, 95, 223; a Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the Compass and its Deviations aboard Ship Mathematical. Theoretical and Practical. Commander Theorems and on the Compass and its Deviations about Ship, Mathematical, Theoretical and Practical, Commander T. A. Lyons, 125; Death and Obituary Notice of William Walton, 164; Non-Oscillatory Linear Differential Equations of Second Order, Prof. Böcher, 198; Elements of Quaternions, Sir. W. Hamilton, 2006. of Second Order, Prof. Bocher, 198; Elements of Quaternions, Sir W. Hamilton, 206; Proof of Fundamental Surface Functions, S. Zaremba, 214; Algebraic Potential Curves, Dr. E. Kasner, 221; Edinburgh Society of Mathematics, 224; the Comptometer, C. V. Boys, F.R.S., 265; the Teaching of Mathematics, F. L. Ward, 280; Prof. Perry, 592; Death of J. Hamblin Smith, 285; Congruent Reductions of Bilinear Forms, T. J. I'A. Bromwich, 295; Obituary Notice of Prof. Tait, Prof. G. Chrystal, 305; Surfaces whose first and second fundamental forms are second. faces whose first and second fundamental forms are second and first of another, Dr. Eisenhart, 341; Some Discontinuous and Determinate Functions, C. K. Wead, 357; Essays on the Theory of Numbers, Richard Dedekind, 374; Lehrbuch der Mathematischen Chemie, J. J. van Laar, 375; the Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus, J. W. A. Young, C. E. Linebarger, 396; Differential and Integral Calculus with Applications for Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools, E. W. Nickols, 396; An Introduction to the Practical Use of Logarithms, F. G. Taylor, 424; Geometrical Exercises from Nixon's Euclid Revised with Solutions, Alexander Larmor, 497; Two Problems of Geometry, D. M. V. Somerville, 526; Plane and Solid Geometry, Arthur Schultze and F. L. Sevenoak, Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 573; Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Charles Smith and Sophie Bryant, 623; Simple faces whose first and second fundamental forms are second

Circular Slide-Rule, Pierre Weiss, 523; Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, 548; see also Section A of the British Association.

Matthaei (Miss G. L. C.), Recovery of Foliage Leaves from Surgical Injuries, 143; On Natural Surgery in Leaves, 619 Matteucci (Prof. R. V.), Activity of Vesuvius in April—May,

1900, 134 Mauritius Observatory, Report of, 135; Magnetic and Meteorological Observations at, 582

Maxim (Sir H. S.), Attraction of Sounds for Mosquitoes, 655 Maxwell's Theory of Tensions, Luigi Giuganino, 554 May (W. L.), The Marine Mollusca of Tasmania, 548

Measurements of Solar Radiation, Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, S. P. Langley,

Measures of Length, Best Alloy for, Dr. Benoit, 112

Measures, Weights and, Le Système Metrique, G. Bigourdan,

Mechanics: the Mechanical Forces of Nature and their Exploitation, F. Reuleaux, 137; Apparatus for Strain-Measurement, Dr. E. G. Coker, 199; Elastic Equilibrium of Circular Cylinders, L. N. G. Filon, 246; Theoretical Mechanics: an Elementary Treatise, W. Woolsey Johnson, 646; Papers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, Prof. Osborne Reynolds, F.R.S., 549; see also Section G of the British Association.

Medals, Bronze, Alloys for, Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen, 209 Mediæval Thought, Science and, Prof. T. Clifford Albutt,

F.R.S., 76 Medicine: Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. Kohlstock, 40; Tannoform, 113; Phototherapy, M. H. Close, 301; the Congress on Tuberculosis, 301; the Suppression of Tuber-Congress of Tuberculosis, 301; the Suppression of Tuberculosis, Prof. Robert Koch, 312; Scientific Research as Basis of Medical Progress, Dr. G. B. Ferguson, 330; a Civilian War Hospital, 346: Reflex Action and Instinct, Paper read at Derby Medical Society, Dr. W. Benthall, 459; Chemistry Teaching in United States Medical Schools, Prof. J. H. Long, 607; Prizes for Researches in Medical Science, 610

Mediterranean Race: a Study of the Origin of European

Peoples, the, G. Sergi, 370

Meeham (T.), the "Weeping" Habit in Trees the Result of Diminished Vitality, 528

Megadyne per Square Centimetre, the Proposed New Unit of

Pressure, the, Dr. Guillaume, 586 Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, French Stonehenge, an Account of the Principal, T. Cato Worsfold, 465

Meldola (Prof. R., F.R.S.), a Raid on Wild Flowers, 126; Rural Readers, Book i., Vincent T. Murché, 394; the Teacher's Manual of Object Lessons for Rural Schools,

Vincent T. Murché, 394 Meldrum (Dr. Charles, F.R.S.), Death of, 452

Melzi (G.), Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia, 640

Memoires Originaux sur la Circulation générale de l'atmosphere, Marcel Brillouin, 396

Men, on the Movements of, by Land and Sea, Mr. Mackinder,

Mensuration, the Graphical, of Vaults, Prof. Ernesto Breglia, 27 Mercury: Diameter of Mercury, 523; Periodicity of the Inequalities of Mercury, 524

Mercury Vapour, Experiments on the Passage of Electricity through, Prof. Schuster, 587
Mesozoic Floras of United States, Status of the, the Older Mesozoic, Lester F. Ward, W. M. Fontaine, A. Warner and

F. H. Knowlton, 633 Messedaglia (Angelo), Death and Obituary Notice of, 59

Metabolism, Food Consumption and, Drs. Atwater and Sherman and R. C. Carpenter, 382

Metallurgy: Idiomorphic Crystals in Blast Furnace Hearth, J. E. Stead, 64; Influence of Copper on Steel Rails and Plates, J. E. Stead and John Evans, 64; the Properties of Steel Castings, Prof. J. O. Arnold, 64, 316; Brunell's Method of Determining Hardness of Iron and Steel, A. Wallberg, 64; a Steel Medal, B. H. Brough, 65; Probable Relation between Characteristic Angle of Deformation of Metals and Newtonian Coefficient of Restitution, G. Gravaris, 392; Copper and Iron Alloys, J. E. Stead, 492; Steel Wire with and without Copper, J. E. Stead and F. H. Wigham, 492; Flame-Spec-

trum Phenomena of Basic Bessemer Blow, Prof. W. N. Hartley and H. Ramage, 492; Bearing on Fracture of Internal Strains of Iron and Steel, Arthur Wingham, 492; Evolution of Resistance of Steel to Traction deduced from Resistance to Shearing, Ch. Fremont, 496; on the Minute Structure of Metals, G. T. Beilby, 612; on the Action of Ammonia on Metals at High Temperature, G. T. Beilby, 612; Prof. G. G. Henderson, 612; on Aluminium Tin Alloys, Dr. W. C. Anderson, 612: G. Lean, 612

Metals: Metals as Fuel, Lecture at Royal Institution by Sir W. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S., 360; Aluminium and its

Uses, 650

Meteorology: "Leitfaden der Wetterkunde," Dr. B. Börnstein, Ieteorology: "Leitfaden der Wetterkunde," Dr. B. Börnstein, 180; Obituary Notice of Dr. A. Hirsch, 18; the Climate of Pemba, T. Burtt, 20; the Dust of "Blood-Rain," Prof. W. Rücker, F.R.S., 30; Blood-Rain, F. H. Perry-Coste, 55; Analysis of Tunis Red Rain, E. Bertainchand, 72; Analysis of Red Rain, M. Barac, 489; "Weather-Shooting," Dr. J. M. Pernter, 39; Hailstorm Artillery, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 159; a Method for Hail-prevention, G. M. Stanoïéwitch, 415; Hail-prevention by Cannonading, W. L. Moore, 382; the Dispersion of Hail and Thunder Clouds by Gun-fring, Signor Palazzo, 657; For Formations, A. G. Gun-firing, Signor Palazzo, 657; Fog Formations, A. G. McAdie, 43; London Fog Inquiry, W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., 649; the Weather of March 1901, W. Marriott, 47; the Luzon Cyclone of September 8, 1900, Rev. J. Coronas, 61; Recent Work of the United States Weather Bureau, 80; Periodicity of Cyclonic Winds, Rupert T. Smith, 95; Meteorological Society, 95, 271; Observations at Fernley Observatory, J. Baxendell, 112; the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Pilot Chart for June, 112; for July, 238; for August, 332; for September, 434; for October, 529; Symons's Magazine, 119; Meteorological Observations taken at Camden Square 1858-97, 119; Meteorologische Beobachtungen vom xiv. bis xvii. Jahrhundert, Dr. G. Hellmann, 124; Report of Mauritius Observatory, 135; Meteorological Observations at Mauritius, 582; the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 136; Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Meteorological Average for Brussels, 1833–1900, 214; the Heat in New York, 237; the Recent Heat in New York, Dr. Mill, 308; Meteorological Council's Sunshine Values for each Month in the Year, 237; Comparison of Records of Osler's and Dine's Anemometer, 237; the Climate of Glacial Periods, H. Arçtowski, 238; Snow conditions in the Antarctic, C. E. Borchgrevink, 257; Cloud Observations in India, E. H. Hill, 262; Kite Investigations at Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Rotch, 269; Kite-raising by Tug-motion, A. L. Rotch, 453; the Eclipse Cyclone, H. H. Clayton, 271; the Seismograph as a Sensitive Barometer, F. N. Denison, 271; Fallacy of Explanation as to Double Diurnal Barometer Wave, W. H. Dines, 308; the Victoria Nyanza Barometer Wave, W. H. Dines, 308; the Victoria Nyanza Rain Gauges, Sir William Garstin, 318; the Egyptian Meteorological Department, 318; London Thunderstorm of July 25, 331, 434; Climates of Mammoth Tank, Colorado, R. de C. Ward, 357; Atmospheric Conditions of Fog in Belgium, Dr. E. Vanderlinden, 357; Observations in Franz Josef Land, E. B. Baldwin, 357; Mémoires Originaux sur la Circulation Générale de l'Atmosphere, Marcel Brillouin, 366; Phenomena of Atmospheric Electricity, Prof. louin, 396; Phenomena of Atmospheric Electricity, Prof. louin, 396; Phenomena of Atmospheric Electricity, Prof. H. Ebert, 382; Forecast and Fact, 400; the Distribution of Rainfall over the Land, Dr. Andrew J. Herbertson, 423; the Moon and Wet Days, Alex. B. MacDowall, 424; the Moon and Vegetation, 454; the Development of Rainfall Measurement, Dr. H. R. Mill, 455; Relations between Climate and Crops, H. B. Wren, 493; the Indian Rainfall of Autumn, 1900, Major Prain, 530; Metacological Arrangements on Board the Discovery, Dr. Meteorological Arrangements on Board the *Discovery*, Dr. H. R. Mill, 554; the Depression of the Earth's Crust Due to an Area of High Barometric Pressure, can be Detected by a Seismograph at great Distances from the Centre of the Depression, F. L. Denison, 587; on the Effects of Sea Temperature and Wind Direction on the Seasonal Variation of Air Temperature in these Islands, W. N. Shaw, 587; R. W. Cohen, 587; Results of Meteorological Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the Eight Years, 1892-99, Arthur A. Rambaut, F.R.S., 599; Rain of Fish in South Carolina, 608; on the Inverse Ratio of Chlorine to Rainfall, W. Ackroyd, 612; the Achariach Station, 636; the Climate of Sevenoaks, W. W. Wagstaffe,

Meteorites: Fireball of September 14, 1901, 532; Fireball of

September 14, 1492, C. E. Stromeyer, 577

Meteors: April Meteors of 1901, W. F. Denning, 21; the Meteoric Epoch of July and August, W. F. Denning, 240; the August Meteors of 1901, W. F. Denning, 410; W. E. Rolston, 411; Auroræ and Meteors, Alex. C. Henderson,

Metrique, Le Systeme, G. Bigourdan, 250

Metz (G. de), Electric Capacity of Human Body, 392 Mexico, the Subterranean Waters of the Ajusco Chain, MM. Marroquin y Rivera and P. C. Sanchez, 288; the Cave Dwellers of North-West Mexico, Dr. C. Lumholtz, 522 Miall (Prof. L. C., F.R.S.), a Raid on Wild Flowers, 126; the

Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, Gilbert White, 369; on the Experimental Method of Educational Teaching, 591; on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592; on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593

Michael (Prof. A.), on Duty-Free Alcohol, 611; on the Three Stereoisomeric Cinnamic Acids, 612

Michelson Echelon Grating, the, A. Hilger, 383 Micrometric Observations of Neptune and its Satellite, 639 Microscophy: the Metamorphoses of Eschna cyanea, Mr. Enock, 47; Microscopical Society, 47, 142, 320; Contrivance for Viewing Diffraction Patterns of Diatoms, J. Rheinberg, 60; New Method of Staining Brain Tissue, Dr. Theodore Kodis, 72; Method of Identifying Minerals in Rock-Sections by their Bi-Refringence, Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 95; B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen der Tier-und 95; B. Eyferth's Emachste Lebenstormen der Her-und Pflanzenreiches, Dr. Walther Schönichen und Dr. Alfred Kalberlah, G. S. West, 301; Examination of Abbe Diffraction Theory, J. W. Gordon, 320
Miers (Prof. H. A., F.R.S.), the Mineralogy of Scotland, M. Forster Heddle, 395
Milltary Surgery, the Röntgen Rays in, J. Hall-Edwards, 454
Mills Standard, the New tees.

Milk Standard, the New, 432

Mill (Dr.), the Recent Heat in New York, 308

Mill (Dr. H. R.), the Development of Rainfall Measurement, 455; Opening Address in Section E at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association on Research in Geographical Science, 532; Meteorological Arrangements on Board the Discovery, 554; on the Scientific Studies of the Lakes of the British Islands, 590

Mills (W. S.), Preparation of Synthetical Glucosides, 47 Milne (Louisa E.), Memoir of Grace, Lady Prestwich, 349 Mimicry: Impostors among Animals, Prof. W. M. Wheeler, 264 Minchin (Prof. E. A.), Studies on the Hexactinellida, Isao

Minchin (Prof. George M., F.R.S.), England's Neglect of Science, Prof. Perry, F.R.S., 226; Plane and Solid Geometry, Arthur Schultze and F. L. Sevenoak, 573 Minchin's (Prof.), Photo-Electric Cell, 587

Mindeleff (Cosmos), the Novaho hogans, 425 Minguin (J.), New Derivatives of Benzylcamphor and Benzyl-

idenecamphor, 295

idenecamphor, 295
Mineralogy: the Salton (California) Salt-Deposits, 19; the Coal Exports of Great Britain, E. B. Wethered, 19; the Kolar (Mysore) Gold-field, Dr. F. H. Hatch, 41; Method of Identifying Minerals in Rock-sections by their Birefringence, Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 95; Liveingite, R. H. Solly and H. Jackson, 95; Vitrified Quartz, Lecture at Royal Institution, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102; Gold in Wicklow, E. St. J. Lyburn, 134; Mineralogical Society, 247; Isomorphic Relations between Sulphates and Orthophosphates, G. T. Prior, 247; Crystals of Calavorite, Herbert Smith, 247; Chemical Analysis of Scotch Sandstones, Dr. W. Mackie, 264; the Mineralogy of Scotland, M. Forster Heddle, Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S., 395; the Cape Nome Gold Region, Alaska, Miers, F.R.S., 395; the Cape Nome Gold Region, Alaska, F. C. Schrader and A. H. Brooks, 409; Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Baron Adolf Erik von Nordenskjöld, W. S. Bruce, 450; Notes on Minerals from the Lengenbach Binnenthal, R. H. Solly, 577; Gold Mining in Egypt, C. J.

Mining: Coal-dust Explosion at Aber Valley Colliery, 111; a Text-Book of Coal-Mining, Herbert W. Hughes, 324; the Death Rates from Mining Accidents in the United Kingdom, Dr. Le N. Foster, F.R.S., 434; the Dover Coal-field, 581; Gold Mining in Egypt, C. J. Alford, 636

Minor Planet Tercidina, the, 289

Mira Ceti, Period of, Prof. A. A. Nijland, 410

Mira (o Ceti), Period of, 659 Mitra (S. B.), the "Crystalline Style" of the Bivalve Molluscs,

490 "Mizar," the Spectroscopic Binary, 437

Modern Chemistry, William Ramsay, 349 Modern Natural Theology, with the Testimony of Christian Evidences, Frederick James Gant, 422

Modzelewski (J. de), Refraction Indices of Liquid Mixtures, 272

Moissan (Henri), Fused Niobium, 271 Molinier (M.), Action of Alcohol on Gastric Secretion, 24 Molliard (Marin), Double Flowers and Parasitism, 620

Mollusca: Our Country's Shells and How to Know them, a Guide to British Mollusca, W. J. Gordon, 206; the "Crystal-line Style" of the Bivalve Molluscs, S. B. Mitra, 490 Monckton (H. W.), on the Origin of the Gravel Flats of Berk-

shire and Surrey, 566

Moody (H. R.), New Metallic Borides, 175

Moon and Vegetation, the, 454 Moon and Wet Days, the, Alex. B. MacDowall, 424

Moon's Surface, Snow on the, 136

Moore (Benjamin), an Introduction to Physiology, William Townsend Porter, 298

Moore (W. L.), Hail-prevention by Cannonading, 382
Morbihan Archipelago: French Stonehenge, an Account of the
Megalithic Remains in the, T. Cato Worsfold, 465
Morbology: Rats and the Plague, 18; Influence of Feeding, Work and Dust on Tuberculosis, MM. Lannelongue, Achard and Gaillard, 71; the Congress on Tuberculosis, 301; the Suppression of Tuberculosis, Prof. Robert Koch, 312; Lecithin in Tuberculosis, H. Claude and A. Zaky, 572; Influence of Variations of Temperature on Tuberculosis, MM. Lannelongue, Achard and Gaillard, 644; Mosquitoes and Malaria, G. Noe, 88; Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., 453; the Anti-Mosquito Campaign in Sierra Leone, 579; Major R. Ross, F.R.S., 489; on the Story of Malaria, Major R. Ross, 588, the West African Campaign against Malaria, Major Ronald Ross, 626, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Malaria free District of Marion Ronald Ross, 636, the Marion Ros Major Ronald Ross, 636; the Malaria-free District of Mas-Malaria at Constantine, A. Billet, 524; Mosquitoes and Malaria at Constantine, A. Billet, 524; Mosquitoes and Yellow Fever, 453; Dr. H. de Gouvéa, 655; the Diagnosis of Plague, Dr. E. Klein, F.R.S., 91; New Method of Examination for Typhoid Bacillus, R. Cambier, 200; Psoriasis and

Neurastheniæ, F. Bouffé, 440 Moreno (Dr. Francisco), on the Anthropogeography of Argentina, 590

Morgan (Prof. H. T.), Regeneration and Liability to Injury in

Animals, 455
Morley (Prof.), on Determining the Influence of Water Vapour on the Energy lost by a Heated Body placed in an Enclosure containing Air, Hydrogen or Water Vapour, 586; a New

Pressure Gauge, 586
Morphology: on the Morphological Divisions of Europe, Dr. A. J. Herbertson, 589; on the Morphology of Transverse Vertical Processes, Prof. A. Macalister, F.R.S., 614
Morrison (James), Maps, Their Uses and Construction, 599
Morton (D. H.), on the Mechanical Exhibits at the Glasgow

Exhibition, 613

Mosquitoes: Mosquitoes and Malaria, G. Noè, 88; Major Ronald Ross, F.R.S., 453; the Question of Priority, 287; the Anti-mosquito Campaign in Sierra Leone, 579; Major R. Ross, F.R.S., 489; the West African Campaign, Major Ronald Ross, 636; Simultaneity of Mosquitoes and Malaria at Constantine, A. Billet, 524; the Malaria-free District of Massarosa, Dr. Grassi, 581; Mosquitoes and Filaria, T. L. Bancroft, 416; Mosquitoes and Yellow Fever, 453; H. de Gouvea, 655; Mosquitoes and Sounds, Major Ronald Ross, 671. Attaction of Coundity of Mosquitoes (Sunday Maria) 607; Attraction of Sounds for Mosquitoes, Sir H. S. Maxim, 655; the Common Grey Mosquito of Calcutta, Miss N. Evans, 638

Moths: Familiar Butterflies and, W. F. Kirby, 375

Motor, the Induction, B. A. Behrend, 252 Motor Car Worked by Absinthe, 213

Mount Staasta, the Biology of, 242 Mountain Seclusion, Our, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 206 Moureu (Ch.), Hydration of Amylpropiolic Acid with Formation of Caproylacetic Acid, 71; Synthesis of Primary Acetylenic Alcohols, 120; Method of Synthesis of Acetylenic Aldehydes, 296

Movements of Athletes, Photographic Analysis of, 377 Movements of the Earth, the Twelve, M. Flammarion, 312 Movements of Men by Land and Sea, Mr. Mackinder, 591 Muff (H. B.), on Overflow Channels and Other Phenomena in-

dicating Glacier-dammed Lakes in the Cheviots, 565

Muirhead (R. F.), Stress-its Definition, 207

Muldrow (R.), Mount McKinley, 658 Mull, on the Re-discovery of a Tree Trunk Embedded in Volcanic Ash in, Sir A. Geikie, 565

Müller (Prof. F. Max), Last Essays, 251 Mummies, the Difference Between Memphis and Thebes, Mr. Harting, 70

Mummified Fishes of Ancient Egypt, Chemical Analysis of, MM. Lortet and Hugounenq, 668 Munby (A. E.), A Convenient Primary Cell, 30

Munro (Dr.), on a "Kitchen Midden" near Elie, in Fife, 615

Murani (Prof. O.), Focus-tube as an Electric Valve, 263 Murché (Vincent T.), Rural Readers, Book i., 394: the Teacher's Manual of Object Lessons for Rural Schools, 394 Murray (Sir John), on the Scientific Studies of the Lakes of the

British Islands, 590

Museums: the Geological Society and its Museum, 57; Novitates Zoologicæ, a Journal of Zoology in Connection with the Tring Museum, 249; a Guide to the Shell and Star-fish Galleries in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), 423; Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), E. W. Oates, 600

Music: the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, E. Hurren Harding, 103, 182; Prof. F. J. Allen, 182, 301; G. W. Hemming, 182, 308; E. C. Sherwood, 233; Suggested Experiment, 308 Musk-ox and Bison at Woburn Abbey, 63; the Age of the Woburn Abbey Musk-ox, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 103 Mycenæan Question, the, H. R. Hall, 280

Myers (C. S.), on the Bones of Hen Nekht, an Egyptian King of the Third Dynasty, 615

Mythology: Polyphem ein Gorilla, Dr. Th. Zell, 467 Myths of Greece Explained and Dated, George St. Clair, 180

Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems, the, Bakerian Lecture at Royal Society, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 243 Nagel (Herr), Effect on Eye of Röntgen &c. Rays, 529

Nairn, on the Trias of Elgin and, Dr. W. Mackie, 565 National Antarctic Expedition, the, 131, 182, 233; Prof. Edward B. Poulton, F.R.S., 83, 156, 206; Prof. J. W.

Gregory, F.R.S., 58, 132, 181
National Anti-Vivisection Society. the, and Lord Lister, 55;
Hon. Stephen Coleridge, 101; Editor, 101

National Physical Laboratory, the Aims of the, Discourse delivered at the Royal Institution by Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., 290; Report on Observatory Department of National Physical Laboratory, 407 Native South Indian Life, Occasional Essays on, Stanley P.

Rice, 574
Natives of South Africa: their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Sidney Hartland, 73
Nature, the Mechanical Forces of, and their Exploitation, F.

Reuleaux, 137

Nature Teaching, Francis Watts, 550 Natural History: Von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen, Reiseskizzen eines Naturforschers, F. Doflein, 2; the Birds of Siberia, a Record of a Naturalist's Visit to the Valleys of of Siberia, a Record of a Naturalist's visit to the Valleys of the Petchora and Yenesei, Henry Seebohm, 32; Notes on Natural History of Trinidad, J. H. Hart, 40; Musk-ox and Bison at Woburn Abbey, 63; the Age of the Woburn Abbey Musk-Ox, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 103; Toad in Flint Nodule, Charles Dawson, 70; Linnean Society, 70, 142, 223; Fact and Fable, Effie Johnson, 76; the Stalk-eyed Crustacea of Particle Communications and Reproduct Dr. Charles G. British Guiana, West Indies and Bermuda, Dr. Charles G. Young, 98; Foreign Oysters acquiring Characters of Natives, J. M. Tabor, 126; F. W. Headley, 158; New South Wales Linnean Society, 143, 272, 416, 548; the Significance of Spiral Swimming, Dr. H. S. Jennings, 165; Charles St. John's Note-Book, 1846–1853, T. Digby Pigott, 177; an Instance of Adaptation among the Deer, E. Lydekker, F. R. 2017. of Adaptation among the Deer, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 257; a Handbook of British Birds, J. E. Harting, 297; the Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne, Rashleigh Holt-White, 276; Natural History of Selborne, Gilbert White, 276; Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, Gilbert White, L. C. Miall, F.R.S., and W. Warde Fowler,

369; Natural History Notes, Nelson Annandale and H. Robinson, 331; Death of Dr. H. W. Harkness, 356; the Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii., Amphibia and Reptiles, Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401; a Guide to the Shell and Star-fish Galleries (Mollusca, Polyzoa, Brachiopoda, Tunicata, Echinoderma and Worms) in the British Museum, 423; Life by the Seashore: an Introduction to Natural History, Marion Newbigin, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 621

Natural Philosophy: Deschanel's Natural Philosophy. iii., Electricity, J. D. Everett, 50; Death of Prof. P. G. Tait, 261

Natural Selection: Ueber Bedeutung und Tragweite des Darwin'schen Selectionsprincips, L. Plate, 49; Foreign Oysters acquiring Characters of Natives, J. M. Tabor, 126; F. W. Headley, 158

Naval Architecture: the Rolling Angle of a Ship found by Photography, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 576 Naval Observatory, United States, 265

Navigation: a Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the Compass and its Deviations Aboard Ship, Mathematical, Theoretical and Practical, Commander T. A. Lyons, 125: New Turbine-driven Vessel, 133: the Turbine-propelled Vessel King Edward, 334; the Aire and Calder Canal Navi-gated by a Sea-going Steamer, 434; on a Long Continuous-burning Petroleum Lamp for Beacons and Buoys, J. R. Wigham; the Rolling Angle of a Ship found by Photography, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 576; Recent Progress in Waterways and Maritime Works, Papers read at International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639

Nebulæ: New Nebulæ, 93, 216, 336; G. Bigourdan, 312 Negative After-Images and Colour-Vision, Shelford Bidwell,

F.R.S., 216

Neglect of Science, England's, Prof. Perry, F.R.S., Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 226

Negreano (D.), Vibrations Produced in a Wire with an Influence Machine, 200 Nelson (E. W.), the Eskimos, 426

Nemec (Dr. B.), Die Reizleitung und die reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, 371 Nencki (Herr), Chemical Relationship between Hæmoglobin

and Chlorophyll, 265 Neolithic Sites in the Isle of Arran, Drs. Duncan and Bryce, 615 Neptune and its Satellite, Micrometric Observations of, 639 Nernst LampinAmerica, A. J. Wurts' Paper read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 632

Nernst's Phonograph, 164

Neville (F. H.), Results of Chilling Copper-Tin Alloys, 221 New Garden Plants: a Study in Evolution, 446

New Guinea, German, Wooden Human Effigies from, D. R. Poch, 358

New South Wales: Agriculture in, 106; New South Wales Linnean Society, 143, 272, 416, 548; Bird-Destruction in New South Wales, A. J. North, 165; New South Wales Royal Society, 296, 416; Botany of Interior of New South Wales, R. H. Cambage, 548

New York, the Heat in, 237; Dr. Mill, 308

New York City, July 2-3, 1900, Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineer-ing Education held in, Prof. F. W. Burstall, 204

Newbigin (Miss Marion), on a Scheme of the Scottish Natural History Society, 589; Life by the Seashore: an Introduction

to Natural History, 621 Newcastle-on-Tyne, Electricity Supply in Bulk at, 262

Newell (Lyman C.), Experimental Chemistry, 27 Nichols (E. W.), Differential and Integral Calculus with Applications for Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools, 396 Nicloux (M.), Carbon Monoxide in Blood of Newly-born, 224

Nijland (Prof. A. A.), Period of Mira Ceti, 410 Ninth Jubilee of Glasgow University, the, 186 Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose Molecule, Smoke-

less Powder, John B. Bernadou, 600 Niven (W. N.), on the Distribution of Certain Forest Trees in

Scotland, 618 Nixon's "Euclid Revised" with Solutions, Geometrical Exercises from, Alexander Larmor, 49

Noè (G.), Mosquitoes and Malaria, 88

Nomenclature, Note on a Point of Chemical, 648

Nordenskjöld (Baron Adolf Erik von), Death of, 381; Obituary Notice of, W. S. Bruce, 450

Nordman (Charles), Transmission of Hertzian Waves through Conducting Liquid, 392

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, Woad as a Blue Dye, Dr. C. B. Plowright, 413

North (A. J.), Bird-destruction in New South Wales, 165

North American Folk Lore, 425

North Atlantic and Mediterranean Pilot Charts for June, 112; for July, 238; for August, 332; for September, 434; for October, 529

North Atlantic Ocean, Circulation of the Surface Waters of the,

H. N. Dickson, 665
Norton (J. T., jun.), Action of Sodium Thiosulphate on Solutions of Metallic Salts at High Temperatures and Pressures,

Northway (M. J.), Experiments on Period of Rod Vibrating in

Liquid, 657

Norway: the Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-96, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; on the Physical History of the Norwegian Fjords, Prof. E. Hull, 566
Notes from a Diary, 1889-91, Sir Mountstuart E. Grant Duff, Lord Avebury, F.R.S., 228

Nova Persei, 42, 191, 437, 491; Spectrum of, 240, 456, 556, 639; Further Observations on Nova Persei, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., 341; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova Persei, 639

Novaho hogans, the, Cosmos Mindeleff, 425

Numbers, Essays on the Theory of, Richard Dedekind, 374

Oates (E. W.). Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), 600

Observations of Mars, 384

Observations of Mars, 394
Observatories: Report of Mauritius Observatory, 135; Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at Royal Alfred Observatory, Mauritius, 582; Oxford University Observatory, 136; the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 136; Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Language Conference of Conference o spheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan, 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; a Photometric Durchmusterung, including all Stars of the Magnitude 7.5 and Brighter North of Declination -40°, obtained with Meridian Photometer during Years 1895-98 at Harvard College Observatory, E. C. Pickering, 257; United States Naval Observatory, 265; the Paris Observatory in 1900, 335; Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory at the Smithsonian Institution, Measurements of Solar Radiation, S. P. Langley, 352; the Cape Observatory, Sir David Gill, 410; the McClean Telescope at the Cape Observatory, 632; Réunion du Comité International Permanent pour l'Execution de Carte Photographique du Ciel tenne à l'Observatory. tion de la Carte Photographique du Ciel tenue à l'Observatoire de Paris en 1900, 449; Results of Meteorological Observations made at the Radeliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the Eight Years 1892-99, Arthur A. Rambaut, F.R.S., 599

Oceanography: the Belgian Soundings, H. Arctowski and R. F. Renard, 238; Oceanographical Results of Valdivia Expedition, Dr. G. Schott, 263; the Admiralty Surveys, 1900, Sir W. J. L. Wharton, 309; the Circulation of the Surface Waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, H. N. Dickson,

October Orionids, the, W. F. Denning, F.R.S., 651

Oddo (G.), Oxychloride of Phosphorus and Cryoscopic Solvent, 288

Oecology: Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. A. F. W.

Schimper, Percy Groom, 551 Officer (Graham), Aboriginal Grave in Darling River District, 416 Ogham Writing in Ireland, on the Age of, R. A. S. Macalister, 615

Ogilvy (A. J.), the Elements of Darwinism, 28
Okapi, the, 309; Prof. E. R. Lankester, F.R.S., 188, 247
Oldham (H. Yule), on the Experimental Demonstration of the
Curvature of the Earth's Surface, 591
Oliver (George, M.D.), a Contribution to the Study of the

Blood and Blood Pressure, I

Oliver (Prof. F. W.), on Certain Points in the Structure of the Seeds Aethiolesta, Brongn., and Stephanospermum, Brongn., 618

Omori (Dr. F.), the International Seismological Conference at

Ochromy, Hybrid, with a Note on Xenia, G. P. Bulman, 207 Ophioglossales and Lycopodiales, Contributions to our Knowledge of the Gametophyte in the, William H. Lang, 616 Ophioglossum Simplex, on a Specimen of, Collected by Mr. Ridley in Sumatra, Prof. Bower, F.R.S., 617

Opposition of Eros, 1903, 491
Optics: Method of Identifying Minerals in Rock Sections by their Bi-refringence, Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 95; l'Optique des Rayons de Röntgen et des Rayons Secondaires que en dérivent, Rayons de Rontgen et des Rayons Secondares que en derivent, G. Sagnac, 101; the Colour and Polarisation of Blue Sky-Light, Dr. N. E. Dorsey, 138; the Mechanism of Radiation, J. H. Jeans, 199; Jena Glass, Prof. S. P. Thompson, F.R.S., 199; a Vertical Light-beam through the Setting Sun, Prof. A. S. Herschel, F.R.S., 232; Electricité et Optique, la Lumière et ses Theories Electrodynamiques, H. Poincaré, 273; Laws of Radiation as applied to Incandescent Mantles, 273; Laws of Radiation as applied to Incandescent Mantles, Dr. Guillaume, 309; Determination of Three Principal Parameters of a Crystal by Refractometer, A. Cornu, 320; Pseudoscopic Vision without a Pseudoscope, a New Optical Illusion, Prof. R. W. Wood, 351; A. S. Davis, 376; Constitution of White Light, O. M. Corbino, 464; Effects of Röntgen &c. Rays on Eye, Herren Himstedt and Nagel, 529; on Magnetic Rotation of Light and the Second Law of Thermodynamics, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 577; Optical Glass, Dr. Glazebrook, Mr. Hinks, 586

Orbit of Comet 1894 II (Gale), Definitive, 89 Orbits of Algol Variable, R. R. Pupis and V. Pupis, 384 Ordovician Rocks of North-West Ireland, on the Relation of the Silurian and, to the Great Metamorphic Series, A. McHenry, J. H. Kilroe, 565; G. H. Kinahan, 565 Organic Peroxides, Researches on, MM. von Baeyer and

Villiger, 64

Orionids, the October, W. F. Denning, F.R.S., 651 δ Orionis, Variable Radical Velocity of, 491

Orling (A.), a New Principle in Wireless Telegraphy Discovered,

Ormerod (Miss Eleanor A.), Death of, 308; Obituary Notice of,

Ornithology: Protection of Sea-Birds of Louisiana Gulf Coast, Prof. Beyer, 19; the Song of Birds, Henri Coupin, 20, 62; Der Gesang der Vögel, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52; Long-tailed Japanese Fowls, J. T. Cunningham, 158; Frank Finn, 232, 551; Hoopoes on Lundy Island, W. H. Graham, 164; Bird-destruction in New South Wales, A. J. North, 165; Winter Singing of Thrush, W. W. Fowler, 215; How to Know the Indian Ducks, F. Finn, 278; a Handbook of British Birds, J. E. Harting, 297; Bird Watching, Edmund Selous, 325; Album de Aves Amazonicas, Dr. Emalio. A. Goeldi, 397; Position of Auks and Puffins, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, 408; the Skeleton of the Cuckoo, Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, 435; Manual of the Birds of Iceland, Henry H. Slater, 443; the Colour of Guillemots' Eggs, Captain G. E. H. Barrett Hamilton, 600; Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British Museum (Natural History), E W. Oates, 600; Essays and Photographs, some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, H. E. Harris, 603

Oscillographs, André Blondel, 308, 408 Osmosis through Membrane of Copper Ferrocyanide, G. Flusin, 71 Osmotic Pressure as a Protection from Cold in Living Cell, M.

D'Arsonval, 295 Ostwald (Prof. W.), Die wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Analytichen Chemie elementar dargestellt, 5; the Laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald, 248

Ovis Fannini, W. T. Hornaday, 310 Oxford Text-Book of Zoology, the, Prof. E. Ray Lankester, Part II. the Porifera and Coelentera, E. A. Minchin, G. H. Fowler and G. C. Bourne, 26 Oxford University Observatory, 136

Oxide, Copper, Decomposition of, Phillip Harrison, 233 Oysters Acquiring Characters of Natives, Foreign, J. M. Tabor, 126; F. W. Headley, 158

Paillot (Réné), Permeability of Nickel-Steel in Intense Magnetic Fields, 96; Influence of Temperature on Electromotive Force of Magnetisation, 175

Pakes (Walter C. C.), the Science of Hygiene, a Text-Book of Laboratory Practice, 178

Palæarctic Lepidoptera, a Catalogue of, 348
Palæobotany, Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United States;
the Older Mesozoic, Lester F. Ward, W. M. Fontaine, A. Warner and F. H. Knowlton, 633

Palæolithics: Prehistoric Implements in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, Stanley B. Hutt, 103; Palæolithic Implements found on Knowle Farm, 432; Paleolithic Drawings on Walls of Caves in Dordogne, L. Capitan and H. Breuil, 5,72; Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Cave of La Mouthe, Émile Rivière, 596

Émile Rivière, 596
Palæontology, the Jurassic Brachiopoda of Cutch, Dr. F. L.
Kitchen, 134; Gigantic Permian Anomodonts, &c., at
Sokolki, Russia, Prof. W. Amalitzky, 239; the Siberian
Mammoth, 286; Fossils of Protohippus found in Texas,
356; Fossil Fishes in Edinburgh Carboniferous and South
Scottish Silurian Rocks, Dr. R. H. Traquair, 343; Shark's
Teeth Discovered at Woking, 523; the Origin and Birthplace of the Proboscidea, Dr. C. W. Andrews, 582; a New
Miocene Flightless Auk, Dr. F. A. Lucas, 608; Armour-clad
Whales, 652 Whales, 652

Palazzo (Dr. Luigo), the Palombara Earthquake of April 24, 1901, 288; the Dispersion of Hail and Thunder Clouds by

Gun Firing, 657

Panama Canal, on the, Bunau-Varilla, 613 Parallax of \( \mu \) Cassiopeiæ, 216

Paris: Paris Academy of Sciences, 23, 47, 71, 96, 119, 143, 175, 199, 224, 248, 271, 295, 320, 344, 368, 392, 415, 440, 464, 496, 524, 572, 596, 620, 644, 668; the Increase of the Population of Paris, 163; the Paris Observatory in 1900, 335; Réunion du Comité International permanent pour l'exécution de la Carte Photographique du ciel, tenue à l'Observatoire de Paris en 1900, 449; British Instruments at the Paris Exhibition, C. V. Boys, F.R.S., 576
Parmentier (F.), Aluminium in Mineral Waters, 176; the Inter-

mittent Spring at Vesse, 296 Pasteur Institute at Kasauli (India), the Work of the, 383

Pasteur Monument at Dôle, the, 163 Patagonian Ground-Sloth, the Hair of the, Dr. W. G. Ridewood, 190

Patrick (Prof. G. T. W.), Why do Men Swear? 334
Payn (Howard), Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique
et Physique de Tachkent. Etudes sur la Structure de l'Univers,

W. Stratonoff, 56 Peabody (Cecil H.), the Steam Engine Indicator, 125

Peach (B. N.), on the Cambrian Fossils of the North-west Highlands, 565 Pearl and Pearl-shell Fisheries, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, F.R.S.,

376

Pearson (H. H.), the Flora of Tibet, 70

Pearson (Prof. Karl, F.R.S.), Statistical Investigation on Vari-

ability and Heredity, 102
Peckham (H. E.), the Bituminous Deposits of Cuba, 365 Peek (Sir Cuthbert), Death and Obituary Notice of, 261

ηPegasi Spectroscopic Binary, 609

Pellat (M.), Infinite Space necessitated by Notion of Infinite Time, 41

Pelletier (M.), New Method of obtaining Cubic Index of Skull, 490 Period of Mira Ceti, Prof. A. A. Nijland, 410

Period of Mira (o Ceti), 659

Periodic Classification and the Problem of Chemical Evolution,

the, G. Rudorf, 51 Periodicity of the Inequalities of Mercury, 524

Peripatus, Three New Species of, R. Evans, 490
Perkin (A. G.), Robinin, Violaquercitrin and Osyritrin, 46
Perkin (Dr. F. Mollwo), Electro-Chemistry, 5, 77; Indigo and
Sugar, 10; Qualitative Chemical Analysis, Organic and

Inorganic, 397
Perkin (W. H., Jun.), Derivatives of Bicyclopentane, 94
Pernter (Dr. J. M.), Weather-shooting, 39
Peroxides, Researches on Organic, MM. v. Baeyer and Villiger,

Perrotin (M.), Elliptic Elements of Comet 1900  $\epsilon$ , 644 Perry (Prof., F.R.S.), England's Neglect of Science, 226; on

the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Perry Coste (F. H.), Blood-rain, 55 a Persei in the Line of Sight, Motion of, 359

Persei, Nova, 42, 191, 240, 410, 437, 456, 491, 556; Further Observations on Nova Persei, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., 341; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova

Persei, 639 Petavel (J. E.), Heat Dissipated by Platinum Surface at High Temperature, iv.; High-Pressure Gases, 93; on a Recording

Manometer for High Pressures, 613 Peters (C. A.), Estimation of Calcium, Strontium and Barium

as Oxalates, 548

Petot (A.), Mode of Action of Brakes of Automobiles, 464 Petrography: Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia E. Artini and G. Melzi, Dr. H. J. Johnston-Lavis, 640

Petroleum, Handbook on, Captain J. H. Thomson and Boverton Redwood, W. T. Lawrence, 441

Pharmacy: Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. Bleicher, 164; Hanbury Gold Medal for 1901 Presented to Dr. George Watt by the Pharmaceutical Society, 162

Philip's Educational Terrestrial Globe, 375
Philology: Last Essays, Right Hon. Prof. F. Max Müller, 251;
Death of Canon Isaac Taylor, 635

Philosophy: a History of Ancient Greek Thinkers, Theodor

Gomperz, 345
Philosophical Society of Washington, Bulletin of the, 253 Phonograph, Nernst's, 164; Ruhmer's Phonograph, 164

Photo-electric Cell, the Latest Form of Prof. Minchin's, 587
Photography: Stellar Photography with a Siderostat, 42;
Photographs of the Zodiacal Light, 42; the Chapman-Jones
Plate Tester, 134; Photography of Corona, 167; Forms of
Images in Stellar Photography, 191; the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox, 1875, David Gill, F.R.S., J. C. Kapteyn, 257; Photography by the Light of Venus, 336; Photographic Analysis of the Movements of Athletes, 377; the Photographic Chart of the Heavens, 449; the Rolling Angle of a Ship found by Photography, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 576; the International Survey of the Heavens, Prof. A. Riccò, 583; Photograph of the Spectrum of Lightning, 583; Essays and Photographs: Some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, H. E. Harris, 603; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova Persei, 639 Photometry: Stellar Photometry, B. Baillaud, 63; a Photo-

metric Durchmusterung, including all Stars of the Mag-nitude 7.5 and Brighter North of Declination - 40°, Edward

C. Pickering, 257
Phototherapy: the Treatment of Disease by Light, 259; Phototherapy, M. H. Close, 301
"Phototropic" Substances, So-called, Prof. Willy Marckwald,

Physician, the, as Physiologist, George Oliver, M.D., I

Physics: Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Analytischen hysics: Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der Analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt, Prof. W. Ostwäld, 5; Obituary Notice of Prof. H. A. Rowland, 16; Physical Society, 23, 93, 141, 199, 246, 667; the Spectra of Carbon Monoxide and Silicon Compounds, Dr. Karl v. Wesendonk, 29; a Convenient Primary Cell, A. E. Munby, 30; Infinite Space necessitated by Notion of Infinite Time, M. Pellat, 41 Physikalisch-chemische Propädeutik, H. Griesbach, 53; Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique et Physique de Tochlegt. Et des sur la Structure de l'Univers. W. Stratonoff. Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique et Physique de Tachkent, Études sur la Structure de l'Univers, W. Stratonoff, Howard Payn, 56; Death and Obituary Notice of Sir Courtenay Boyle, K.C.B., 82; Application of Elastic Solids to Meteorology, Dr. Chree, 93; a Treatise on Physics, Prof. Andrew Gray, F.R.S., 97; the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, E. Hurren Harding, 103, 182; Prof. F. J. Allen, 128, 301; G. W. Hemming, 182, 308; E. C. Sherwood, 233; Suggested Experiment, 308; Mass of Cubic Decimetre of Distilled Water, Dr. Benoit, 112; Best Alloy for Measures of Length, Dr. Benoit, 112; Researches on the Normal Cell, especially the Weston Element, W. Jaeger and St. Lindeck, 118; Annalen der Physik, 118, 246; Reand St. Lindeck, 118; Annalen der Physik, 118, 246; Relations between Electrical Conductivity and Chemical Character of Solutions, Prof. J. Gibson, 119; Influence of Temperature on the Elasticity of Metals, C. Schaefer, 119; Death of Prof. J. Viriamu Jones, 132; Obituary Notice of, Prof. W. E. Ayrton, F.R.S., 161; Essays in Illustration of the Action of Astral Gravitation in Natural Phenomena, William Leighton Jordan, 155; some Recent Work on Diffusion, Lecture at Royal Institution, Dr. Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., 171, 193; Influence of Grinding on Solubility of Lead in Lead Fritts, Dr. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., and Charles Simmonds, 175; Stress, its Definition, R. F. Muirbead, 207; Reviewer, 207; Vertical Stone-Movements due Charles Simmonds, 175; Stress, its Definition, R. F. Muirhead, 207; Reviewer, 207; Vertical Stone-Movements due to Soil-moisture and Frost, Horace Darwin, 222; Creeping of Liquids and Tension of Mixtures, Dr. F. T. Trouton, F.R.S., 223; Capillary Constants of Organic Liquids, P. A. Guye and A. Baud, 224, 248; Scientific Worthies, Sir William Huggins, K.C.B., Prof. H. Kayser, 225; a New Method of using Tuning-forks in Chronographic Measurements, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 232; Decomposition of Copper Oxide, Philip Harrison, 233; Molecular Constitution of Supersaturated Solutions, Prof. Hartley, F.R.S., 271; the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory. Discourse the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, Discourse delivered at the Royal Institution by Dr. R. T. Glazebrook,

F.R.S., 290; Report on Observatory Department of National Physical Laboratory, 407; the Liquefaction of Hydrogen, 302; the Crystallisation of Salt Solutions, Dr. H. M. Dawson, 336; a Manual of Laboratory Physics, H. M. Tory and F. H. Pitcher, 350; a Possible Method of attaining the Absolute Zero of Temperature, Geoffrey Martin, 376; Polish, Lecture at Royal Institution, Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 385; the Laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald, 428; on the Cellular Distribution of Eddies produced in Liquid Films when Convection Currents are set up, Henri Bénard, 454; Papers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, Prof. Osborne Fapers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, Prof. Osborne Reynolds, F.R.S., 549; Interesting Phenomenon in Connection with Theory of Sound, Bergen Davis, 554; a Simple Model for Demonstrating Beat, K. Honda, 626; Death and Obituary Notice of Rudolph Koenig, 630; a Curious Flame, L. L. Garbutt, 649; Experiments on Period of Rod Vibrating in Liquid, M. J. Northway and A. S. Mackenzie, 657; Variation with Temperature of Thermoelectromotive Force and Electric Resistance of Nickel Iron and Copper F. F. and Electric Resistance of Nickel, Iron and Copper, E. F. Harrison, 667; Asymmetry of Zeeman Effect, G. W. Walker, 668

Physiography, Outlines of, an Introduction to the Study of the Earth, A. J. Herbertson, 325

Physiology: a Contribution to the Study of the Blood and Blood-pressure, George Oliver, M.D., 1; Carbon Monoxide in Blood of Newly-born, M. Nicloux, 224; Iodine in Blood, MM. Stassano and P. Bourcet, 248; the Sugars from Blood, MM. R. Lépine and Boulud, 320; Action of Alcohol on Gastric Secretion, Albert Frouin and M. Molinier, 24; Absence of Bacteria in Air and Food prejudicial to Animal Organism, MM. Charrin and Guillemonat, 48; Law of Electrical Stimulation of Nerves, Georges Weiss, 72; Physiological Action of Radium Rays, H. Becquerel and P. Curie, 175; Glycolytic Enzyme in Muscle, Sir Lauder Brunton, F.R.S., and Herbert Rhodes, 198; Variations of Alkaloidal Nitrogen in Urine, H. Guillemard, 200; Action of Currents of high frequency on urinary secretion, MM. Denoyès, Martre and Rouvière, 272; Reaction Time in different Races, L. Lapicque, 224; an Introduction to Physiology, William Townsend Porter, Benjamin Moore, 298; can Sulphuretted Hydrogen Poisoning be caused through Skin and Mucous Membrane? A. Chauveau, 320; Viscera of Porpoise, Drs. D. Hepburn and D. Waterston, 344; Die Krystallisation von Eiweisstofen und ihre Bedeutung für die Eiweisschemie, Dr. Fr. N. Schulz, 375; the Mechanical Efficiency of Bicyclists, Drs. Atwater and Sherman and R. C. Carpenter, 382; Lectures on the History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries; Lane Lectures at Cooper Medical College in San Francisco, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., Sec.R.S., 417; Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. Adolf Fick, 432; Temperament and Exercise, W. W. Davis, 435; Regeneration and Liability to Injury in Animals, Prof. T. H. Morgan, 455; Reflex Action and Instinct; Paper read at Derby Medical Society, Dr. W. Benthall, 459; the Evolution of Consciousness, Leonard Hall, 467; Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. J. L. W. Thudicum, 527; Death and Obituary Notice of Prof. A. F. W. Schimper, Percy Groom, 551; Antimony in Organism, G. Pouchet, 596; Excitability of Spinal Marrow, A. N. Vitznou, 620; Influence of Sparmetovin on Payaddation C. John 620; Influence of Spermotoxin on Reproduction, C. de Leslie, 620; Physiological Chemistry, the Feeding of Animals, W. H. Jordan, 625; Plant Physiology, Vitality of Seeds, Dr. Henry H. Dixon, 256; Die Reizleitung und die reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, Dr. B. Nemec, 371; see also Section I in the British Association

Pickard (R. H.), Reactions of Hydroxamides, 175 Pickering (Edward C.), a Photometric Durchmusterung, in-cluding all Stars of the Magnitude 7.5, and brighter North of Declination -40°, obtained with the Meridian Photometer

during years 1895-98, 257
"Picts' Houses," of Scotland, the, D. McRitchie, 311

Pigment, L'Evolution du, Dr. G. Bohn, 28

Pigott (T. Digby), Charles St. John's Note Book, 1846-1853,

Pilot Chart of North Atlantic and Mediterranean for June, 112; for July, 238; for August, 332; for September, 434; for October, 529

Pinus, on the Histology of the Sieve Tubes of, A. W. Hill, 618 Pisciculture, Canadian, Railway Tank Car for Carrying Live Fish, 490

Pitch: the Subjective Lowering of, E. Hurren Harding, 103, 182; Prof. F. J. Allen, 182, 301; G. W. Hemming, 182, 308; G. C. Sherwood, 233; Suggested Experiment, 308 Pittman (E. F.), Geological Notes on Kosciusko (N.S.W.), 143

Pittsburg, the Carnegie Technical School at, 570 Plague: the, Rats and, 18; the Diagnosis of Plague, Dr. E

Plague: the, Rats and, 18; the Diagnosis of Plague, Dr. E Klein, F.R S., 91
Plane and Solid Geometry, Arthur Schultze and F. L. Sevenoak, Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 573
Planets: Variability of Eros, 63, 359, 384; Opposition of Eros in 1903, 491; the Planet Saturn, W. F. Denning, 114; the Centenary of the Discovery of Ceres, 129; Dark Spot on Jupiter, 240; Markings on Jupiter, W. F. Denning, 351; Light Variation of the Minor Planet (345) Tercidina, 265; the Minor Planet Tercidina, 289; Photography by the Light of Venus, 336; Diameter of Venus, 556; Observations of Mars, 384; Diameter of Mercury, 523; Periodicity of the Inequalities of Mercury, 524; Evidence of the Existence of an Ultra-Neptunian Planet, Prof. G. Forbes, 524; on a Supposed New Planet beyond Neptune, Prof. G. Forbes, 587; Micrometric Observations of Neptune and its Satellite, 587; Micrometric Observations of Neptune and its Satellite, 639

Plant Physiology, Vitality of Seeds, Dr. Henry H. Dixon, 256; Die Reizleitung und die Reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, Dr. B. Nemec, 371 Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, John M. Coulter, 300

Plants, New Garden, a Study in Evolution, 446

Plate (L.), Ueber Bedeutung und Tragweite des Darwin'schen Selectionsprincips, 49
Plateau (Prof. F.), Sources of Insect-attraction in Flowers, 264
Plato's Staat, F. Schleiermacher, 4
Plowright (Dr. C. B.), Woad as a Blue Dye, 413
Plumstead (E.), on the Determination of Positions in Polar

Exploration, 278
Poch (Dr. R.), Wooden Human Effigies from German New-

Guinea, 358 Poincaré (H.), Electricité et Optique, La Lumière et ses

Theories Electrodynamiques, 273 Polar Exploration, on the Determination of Positions in, E. Plumstead, 278; Civilian, 626

Polarisation, the Colour and, of Blue Skylight, Dr. N. E.

Dorsey, 138 Polish, Lecture at Royal Institution, Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh,

F.R.S., 385 Political Economy, Death and Obituary Notice of Angelo

Messedaglia, 59

Political Evolution, Influence of Geographical Environment on, Prof. Alleyne Ireland, 589

Politics and Culture (1492-1899), Annals of, G. P. Gooch, 53 Polluted Sea-water, on the Absorption of Ammonia from, by Ulva latissima, Prof. Letts, John Hawthorne, 619
Polyphem ein Gorilla, Dr. Th. Zell, 467

Polypherus, on the youngest known Larva of, J. E. Budgett, 588 Pontianak, the, of the Malays, Dr. R. Lasch, 555 Pope (W. J.), Optically Active Nitrogen Compounds, 174 Popplewell (W. C.), Experimental Engineering, Testing and Strength of Materials of Construction, 597 Population of Paris, the Increase of the, 163

Porpoise, on the Pelvic Cavity of the, as a Guide to the Determination of the Sacral Region in Cetacea, Dr. Hepburn, 587;

Dr. Waterston, 587 Porpoise, Viscera of, Dr. D. Hepburn and Dr. Waterston, 344 Porter (William Townsend), an Introduction to Physiology, 298 Positions in Polar Exploration, on the Determination of, E. Plumstead, 278

Post Office, the Telephone System of the British, T. E. Herbert,

Potato, Bacterial Disease of, G. Delacroix, 464
Potato Beetle, the Colorado, W. F. Kirby, 450
Pottery, the Use of Lead Compounds in, Prof. T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., 408
Pouclet (G.), Antimony in Organism, 596
Poucley (Herr), the Telagraphone, 182

Poulsen (Herr), the Telegraphone, 183
Poulton (Prof. Edward B., F.R.S.), National Antarctic Expedition, 156, 206; Resignation of Prof. J. W. Gregory, 83
Poulton (Prof.), Discharges of Formic Acid in Ant-nests, 223
Poultry Farm, G. C. Watson. 575
Powder, Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose Molecule,

Smokeless, John B. Bernadou, 600 Prain (Major), the Indian Rainfall of Autumn, 1900, 530

Preece's (Sir William) System of Etheric Signalling, 163;

James Bowman Lindsay, 521
Prehistoric Astronomy: the French Stonehenge—an Account of
Principal Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, T. Cato Worsfold, 465; a Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and Stonehenge, Lady Antrobus, 465
Prehistoric Implements in the Transvaal and Orange River
Colony, Stanley B. Hutt, 103

Prehistoric Survey of Southern India, A Plea for a, Prof. Alfred C. Haddon, F.R.S., 469 Pressure, Proposed New Unit of, the Megadyne per Square

Centimetre, Dr. Guillaume, 586 Pressure Gauge, a New, Prof. Morley, 586

Pressures, High, on a Recording Manometer for, J. E. Petaval, 613

Prestwich (Grace, Lady). Essays, Descriptive and Biographical, with a Memoir of, by Louisa E. Milne, 349
Primary Cell, a Convenient, A. E. Munby, 30
Prior (G. T.), Isomorphic Relations between Sulphates and Orthophosphates, 247

Prize-subjects in Applied Science, 438 Prizes for Researches in Medical Science, 610

Problems of Geometry, A. B. Basset, F.R.S., 400

Progress of Civil Engineering, Address at American Society of

Civil Engineers, J. J. R. Croes, 438
Progress of Invention in the Nineteenth Century, Edward W.

Byrn, 125

Properties of Steel Castings, the, Prof. J. O. Arnold, 316
Pseudoscopic Vision without a Pseudoscope, a New Optical

Illusion, Prof. R. W. Wood, 351; A. S. Davis, 376 Psychology: the Human Nature Club. E. L. Thorndike, sychology: the Human Nature Club, E. L. Thorndike, 325; Psychology of Reasoning, Alfred Binet, 325; Why do Men Swear? Prof. G. T. W. Patrick, 334; the Evolution of Consciousness, Leonard Hall, 467; Gustav Theodor Fechner,

W. Wundt, 526
Pterodactyles, Dragons of the Air: an Account of Extinct Flying Reptiles, H. G. Seeley, 645
Public Health in America, Mrs. Percy Frankland, 117
Public Water-supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works, F. E. Turneaure and H. L. Russell,

μ Puppis, Spectrum of, 89

RR Puppis and V Puppis, Orbits of Algol Variables, 384

Qualitative Chemical Analysis, Organic and Inorganic, F. Mollwo

Perkin, 397 Quaternions, Elements of, Sir W. Hamilton, 206

Quartz, Vitrified, Lecture at Royal Institution, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102

Queensland, on the Conditions under which Artesian Water is

obtained in, Dr. R. Logan Jack, 565 Quesneville (M. G.), Théorie Nouvelle de la Dispersion, 625

Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford in the Eight Years 1892-99, Results of the Meteorological Observations made at the, Arthur A. Rambaut, F.R.S., 599

Radial Velocity of 1830, Groombridge, 491 Radial Velocity of δ Orionis, Variable, 491

Radial Velocity, Six Stars with Variable, 456
Radiation, the Mechanism of, J. H. Jeans, 199; Laws of
Radiation as Applied to Incandescent Mantles, Dr. Guillaume, 309; Radiation of Uranium Constant at Very Low Temperaago; Radiation of Cranium Constant at very Low Temperatures, H. Becquerel, 344; Measurements of Solar Radiation, Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory at the Smithsonian Institution, S. P. Langley, 352; Solar Radiation, J. Y. Buchanan F.R.S., 456; Radiation of Heat and Light from a Heated Solid, Dr. J. T. Bottomley, 586
Radio-active Substances, Emanations from, Prof. E. Rutherford

ford, 157

Radio-activity of Radium Salts, P. Curie and A. Debierne, 368

Radiography: Magnetic Deflection of Kathode Rays, H. A. Wilson, 95; Attempt to Discover Radiation from Surface of Metals carrying Alternating Currents of High Frequency, O. W. Richardson, 95; l'Optique des Rayons de Röntgen et des Rayons Secondaires qui en dérivent, G. Sagnac, 101; Physiological Action of Radium Rays, H. Becquerel and P. Curie, 175; Radiographs of Mollusk Shells, Dr. G. H. Rodman, 189; Nature of X-Rays, J. Semenov, 344; the Theory of Diffraction of Röntgen Rays, Prof. Sommerfeld, 357; the Röntgen Rays in Military Surgery, J. Hall-Edwards, 454; Effect on Eye of Röntgen &c. Rays, Herren Himstedt and Nagel, 529

Radium, on the Properties of, Prof. Willy Marckwald, 612 Raid on Wild Flowers, a, Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S., 126; Prof.

R. Meldola, F.R.S., 126; David Houston, 156

Railways: Mr. Cheesewright's Projected London and Brighton Electric Railway, 580; on Railway Rolling Stock, Present and Future, N. D. Macdonald, 613
Rain, Blood, F. H. Perry-Coste, 55; the Dust of, Prof. Arthur

W. Rücker, F.R.S., 30

Rain-drops, Curious, 280

Rainfall, the Distribution of, over the Land, Dr. Andrew J. Herbertson, 423

Rainfall Measurement, the Development of, Dr. H. R. Mill,

Rainfall, on the Inverse Ratios of Chlorine to, W. Ackroyd, 612 Ramage (Hugh), Banded Flame-spectra of Metals, 271; Flamespectrum Phenomena of Basic Bessemer Blow, 492

Rambaud (M.), Observations of Comet a (1901) at Algiers, 143 Rambaut (Arthur A., F.R.S.), Results of the Meteorological Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in

the Eight Years 1892 99, 599
Ramsay (Prof. W., F.R.S.), Modern Chemistry, 349; Function of a University, Oration at University College, 388
Randall-Maciver (D.), Libyan Notes, 123; the Earliest Inhabitants of Abydos, a Craniological Study, 647

Range-finder, New, Prof. G. Forbes, F.R.S., 309
Range-finder, on a Folding, for Infantry, Prof. George Forbes, 613; Prof. Barr, 613; Prof. Stroud, 613
Raoult (Prof. François Marie), Obituary Notice of, 17

Rats and the Plague, 18

Ravenstein (E. G.), on Martin Behaim and the History of Geography, 589; Final Report of the Committee on the Climate of Tropical Africa, 589
Ray (R. C.), New Series of Di-mercuri-ammonium Salts, I., 47

Rayleigh (Right Hon. Lord, F.R.S.), Does Chemical Transformation Influence Weight? 181; Polish, Lecture at Royal Institution, 385; on Magnetic Rotation of Light and the Second Law of Thermodynamics, 577
Rea (Mr.), Archæological Exploration of the Tinnevelly (Madras) District, 489

(Madras) District, 439
Reaction Time in different Races, L. Lapicque, 224
Reale Accademia dei Lincei, Prize Awards, 381
Reasoning, Pyschology of, Alfred Binet, 325
Reasoning, the Use of Words in, Alfred Sidgwick, 231
Recent Total Solar Eclipse, the, 79
Red Rain, Analysis of Tunis, E. Bertainchand, 72; Analysis

of Red Rain, M. Barac, 489 Redway (Jacques W.), the New Basis of Geography, a Manual

for the Preparation of the Teacher, 648 Redwood (Boverton), Handbook on Petroleum, 441

Reed (F. R. Cowper), the Geological History of the Rivers of East Yorkshire, 277
Reflex Action and Instinct, Paper read at Derby Medical Society, Dr. W. Benthall, 459
Regeneration and Liability to Injury in Animals, Prof. H. T.

Morgan, 455

Reighard (Jacob), the Anatomy of the Cat, 155

Religion, the Golden Bough; a Study in Magic and, J. G. Frazer, 201; Dr. Frazer's Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, J. S. Stuart-Glennie, 615
Renard (A. F.), the Belgica Soundings, 238
Rengel (Dr. C.), the Lile-history of Hydrophilus piceus, 20
Rentilia: Amphibia and Reptiles the Cambridge Natural

Reptilia: Amphibia and Reptiles, the Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii., Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401; Dragons of the Air, an Account of Extinct Flying

Reptiles, H. G. Seeley, 645
Research, Scientific, Mr. Balfour on, 109; Scientific Research as a Basis of Medical Process, Dr. G. B. Ferguson, 330 Researches in Medical Science, Prizes for, 610 Reuleaux (F.), the Mechanical Forces of Nature and their

Exploitation, 137

REVIEWS AND OUR BOOKSHELF.

A Contribution to the Study of the Blood and Blood-pressure, George Oliver, 1

Von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen; Reiseskizzen eines Naturforschers, F. Doflein, 2 Encyclopædia Biblica, Critical Dictionary of the Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archeology, Geography and Natural History of the Bible, Prof. T. K. Cheyne and Dr. J. Sutherland Black, 3

Plato's Staat, F. Schleiermacher, 4 John Locke's Versuch über den Menschlichen Verstand, 4 Berkeley's Abhandlung über die Prinzipien der Menschlichen Erkenntnis, Dr. F. Ueberweg, 4 Berkeley's Drei Dialoge zwischen Hylas und Philonous, Dr.

R. Richter, 4
The Fishes of North and Middle America; a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama, David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Ever-

Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt, W. Ostwald, 5

An Introduction to Modern Scientific Chemistry, Dr. Lassar-Cohn, 5 First Aid to the Injured, H. Drinkwater, 5

The Annual of the British School at Athens, 11

Evolution of the Thermometer, 1592-1743, Henry Carrington Bolton, 25

A Treatise on Zoology; the Porifera and Coelentera, E. A. Minchin, G. H. Fowler, and G. C. Bourne, with an Introduction by E. Ray Lankester, F.R.S., 26

Il Calcolo Grafico applicato alla Misura delle Volte, Prof.

Ernesto Breglia, 27

Experimental Chemistry, Lyman C. Newell, 27 The Elements of Darwinism; a Primer, A. J. Ogilvy, 28 La Betterave à Sucre, L. Malpeaux, 28

Assimilation Chlorophylienne et la Structure des Plantes, Dr. Ed. Griffon, 28

L'Evolution du Pigment, Dr. G. Bohn, 28

The Birds of Siberia; a Record of a Naturalist's Visit to the Valleys of the Petchora and Yenesei, Henry Seebohm, 32

The Scenery of Scotland viewed in Connection with its

Physical Geology, Sir Archibald Geikie, 33 Ueber Bedeutung und Tragweite des Darwin'schen Selectionsprincips, L. Plate, 49
Deschanel's Natural Philosophy, 111; Electricity, J. D.

Everett, 50

The Periodic Classification and the Problem of Chemical Evolution, G. Rudorf, 51 Der Gesang der Vögel, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52

Physikalisch-chemische Propädeutik, H. Griesbach, 53 Annals of Politics and Culture (1492–1899), G. P. Gooch, 53 The Child: His Nature and Nurture, W. B. Drummond, 53 Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique et Physique de Tachkent, Etudes sur la Structure de l'Univers, W. Stratonoff, Howard Payn, 56
The Natives of South Africa, their Economic and Social Condition, E. Sidney Hartland, 73

Twentieth Century Inventions: a Forecast, George Sutherland, 74 Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, Wilhelm His,

The Scientific Memoirs of Thomas Henry Huxley, 76

Fact and Fable, Effie Johnson, 76 Science and Mediæval Thought, Prof. T. Clifford Allbutt, F.R.S., 76

A Treatise on Physics, Prof. Andrew Gray, F.R.S., 97

The Stalk-eyed Crustacea of British Guiana, West Indies and Bermuda, Charles G. Young, 98 Praktikum des anorganischen Chemikers, Dr. Emil Knoeve-

nagel, 99

Central Electrical Stations: their Design, Organisation and Management, C. H. Wordingham, 100

Hints to Travellers, 100

L'Optique des Rayons de Röntgen et des Rayons secondaires qui en dérivent, G. Sagnac, 101 Cerebral Science; Studies in Anatomical Psychology, Wallace

Wood, 101

The Humane Review, 101 I vulcani dell' Italia Centrale e i loro Prodotti. Vulcano Laziale, V. Sabatini, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 104 Atti della Reale Accademia delle Scienze Fisiche e Matematiche di Napoli, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 104

An Outline of the Development and Application of the Energy

of Flowing Water, Joseph P. Frizell, 121

The Principles of Vegetable Gardening, L. H. Bailey, 122

Libyan Notes, D. Randall-Maciver and A. Wilkin, 123 Meteorologische Beobachtungen vom xiv bis xvii Jahrhundert,

Le Coton, Prof. H. Lecomte, Prof. Roberts Beaumont, 124 Taxidermy, Comprising the Skinning, Stuffing and Mounting

of Birds, Mammals and Fish, 125

Treatise on Electromagnetic Phenomena and on the Compass and its Deviations aboard Ship, Mathematical, Theoretical and Practical, Commander T. A. Lyons, 125

The Steam-engine Indicator, Cecil H. Peabody, 125 Progress of Invention in the Nineteenth Century, Edward W.

Byrn, 125 Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S., Leonard Huxley, Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S., 145

The Norwegian North Polar Expedition, 1893-96, Scientific Results, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151

Report on Observations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the Year 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151 Reservoirs for Irrigation, Water-Power and Domestic Water-

supply, James D. Schuyler, 154
The Anatomy of the Cat, Jacob Reighard and H. S. Jennings,

Essays in Illustration of the Action of Astral Gravitation in Natural Phenomena, William Leighton Jordan, F.S.A., 155

Charles St. John's Note Book, 1846-1853, Invererne, Nairn, Elgin, T. Digby Pigott, C.B., 177

The Science of Hygiene: a Text-Book of Laboratory Practice, Walter C. C. Pakes, 178

Public Water-supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works, F. E. Turneaure and H. L.

Russell, 179
Leitfaden der Wetterkunde, gemeinverständlich bearbeitet,
Dr. R. Bornstein, 180

Myths of Greece Explained and Dated; an Embalmed History from Uranus to Perseus, including the Eleusinian Mysteries and the Olympic Games, George St. Clair, 180 The Golden Bough: a Study in Magic and Religion, J. G.

Fraser, 201

Uber die geologische Geschichte der Insel Celebes auf Grund der Thierverbreitung, Dr. Paul Sarasin and Dr. Fritz Sarasin, 203

Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education held in New York City, July 2-3, 1900, Prof. F. W. Burstall, 204 Chemical Technology; or, Chemistry in its Applications to Arts and Manufactures, vol. iii. Gas Lighting, Charles

Hart, 205

Elements of Quarternions, Sir W. Hamilton, 206

Our Country's Shells and How to Know Them: a Guide to the British Mollusca, W. J. Gordon, 206
England's Neglect of Science, Prof. Perry, F.R.S., Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 226

Notes from a Diary, 1889-1891, Sir Mountstuart E. Grant

Duff, Lord Avebury, F.R.S., 228 Cultura del Frumento, 1899-1900, XIII Anno di cultura continua del Frumento e del Granturco, Prof. Italo Giglioli,

Die Erdstrome im Deutschen Reichstelegraphengebiet und ihr zusammenhang mit Erdmagnetischen Erscheinungen, Dr.

B. Weinstein, 230 The Life of the Bee, Maurice Maeterlinck, 231 West African Studies, Mary H. Kingsley, 231 The Use of Words in Reasoning, Alfred Sidgwick, 231

Holidays in Eastern Counties, 232

North American Fauna, 242

Novitates Zoologicæ, a Journal of Zoology in connection with

the Tring Museum, 249 Le Système Métrique, G. Bigourdan, 250 Last Essays, Right Hon. Prof. F. Max Müller, 251

Die Heterocyklischen Verbindungen der organischen Chemie, Edgar Wedekind, 252

The Induction Motor, a Short Treatise on its Theory and Design, with numerous Experimental Data and Diagrams, B. A. Behrend, 252

Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of Washington, 253 The Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox 1875, David Gill, C.B., F.R.S., and J. C. Kapteyn, 257 A Photometric Durchmusterung, including all Stars of the

Magnitude 7.5 and Brighter North of Declination  $-40^{\circ}$  obtained with the Meridian Photometer during the Years 1895-98, Edward C. Pickering, 257

Report of Prof. S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the Year ending June 30, 1900, 269 Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian

Institution for the Year ending June 30, 1899, 269 Report of the U.S. National Museum for the Year ending

June 1899, 269

Electricité et Optique, La Lumière et ses Théories Electro-dynamiques, Leçons Professées à la Sorbonne en 1888, 1890 et 1899, H. Poincaré, 27;

The Life and Letters of Gilbert White of Selborne, Rashleigh Holt-White, 276

The Natural History of Selborne, Gilbert White, 276 Entstehen und Vergehen der Welt als Kosmischer Kreizprozess, auf Grund des pyknotischen Substanzbegriffes,

J. G. Vogt, 277
The Geological History of the Rivers of East Yorkshire,

F. R. Cowper Reed, 277

Fergusson's Surveying Circle and Percentage Tables, J. C. Fergusson, 278

How to Know the Indian Ducks, F. Finn, 278

The Oldest Civilisation of Greece, Studies of the Mycenæan Age, H. R. Hall, 280

A Handbook of British Birds, J. E. Harting, 297

An Introduction to Physiology, William Townsend Porter, Benjamin Moore, 298

Plant Studies, an Elementary Botany, John M. Coulter, 300 B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen des Tier- und Pflanzenreiches, Naturgeschichte der mikroskopischen Süsswasserbewohner, Dr. Walther Schönichen and Dr. Alfred Kalberlah, C. S. West, 301 Handbook of British, Continental and Canadian Universities,

with special mention of the Courses open to Women,

Isabel Maddison, 301

Les Problèmes de la Vie, Essai d'une Interprétation scientifiques de Phénomènes vitaux, la Substance Vivante et la Cytodiérèse, Dr. Ermanno Giglio-Tos, 321

The Limits of Evolution, Prof. Howison, 323
A Text-book of Coal-mining, Herbert W. Hughes, 324
The Human Nature Club, E. L. Thorndike, 325
Psychology of Reasoning, Alfred Binet, 325
Outlines of Physiography, an Introduction to the Study of

the Earth, A. J. Herbertson, 325 Bird Watching, Edmund Selous, 325

Greek Thinkers, a History of Ancient Philosophy, Theodor

Gomperz, 345 A Civilian War Hospital, being an Account of the Work of the Portland Hospital, and of Experience of Wounds and Sickness in South Africa, 1900, with a Description of the Equipment, Cost and Management of a Civilian Base Hospital in Time of War, 346

Catalog der Lepidopteren des palæarctischen Faunen-gebietes, Famil. Papilionidæ-Hepialidæ, Dr. O. Stau-dinger and Dr. H. Rebel, Famil. Pyralidæ-Microptery-

gidæ, Dr. H. Rebel, 348 odern Chemistry, Theoretical Chemistry, Systematic Modern Chemistry, Chemistry, William Ramsay, 349

Essays, Descriptive and Biographical, Grace, Lady Prestwich, Louisa E. Milne, 349

Chemical Lecture Experiments, Francis Gano Benedict, 350 A Manual of Laboratory Physics, H. M. Tory and F. H.

Pitcher, 350
The Story of Wild Flowers, Rev. Prof. G. Henslow, 350
Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution, S. P. Langley, 352
Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel, Central

and South America, A. H. Keane, George Earl Church, 353

The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, Gilbert White, L. C. Miall, F.R.S., and W. Warde Fowler, 369 The Mediterranean Race: a Study of the Origin of European

Peoples, G. Sergi, 370
Die Reizleitung und die reizleitenden Strukturen bei den Pflanzen, Dr. B. Nemec, 371
Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1900, Prof. R. Warington, F.R.S., 372

School Hygiene, Edward Shaw, 373 A Manual of School Hygiene, E. W. Hope, E. A. Browne,

Illustrations of the Botany of Captain Cook's Voyage round the World in H.M.S. Endeavour in 1768-71, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Daniel Solander and James

Britten, part ii., Australian Plants, W. Botting Hemsley, 374 Essays on the Theory of Numbers, i. Continuity and Irrational Numbers, ii. the Nature and Meaning of Numbers, Richard Dedekind, 374
Familiar Butterflies and Moths, W. F. Kirby, 375

Lehrbuch der mathematischen Chemie, J. J. van Laar, 375 Philip's Educational Terrestrial Globe, 375

Die Krystallisation von Eiweisstoffen und ihre Bedeutung

für die Eiweisschemie, 375 Flowers and Ferns in their Haunts, M. O. Wright, 375 Studies on the Hexactinellida, Euplectellidae, Isao Iijima,

Prof. E. A. Minchin, 393 Rural Readers, Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S.,

394
The Teacher's Manual of Object Lessons for Rural Schools,
Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394
Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394

Vincent T. Murché, Prof. H. A.

The Mineralogy of Scotland, M. Forster Heddle, Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S., 395 Mémoires originaux sur la Circulation générale de l'Atmo-

sphère, Marcel Brillouin, 396 The Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus,

J. W. A. Young and C. E. Linebarger, 396
Differential and Integral Calculus with Applications for Colleges, Universities and Technical Schools, E. W. Nichols, 396

Album de Aves Amazonicas, Emilio A. Goeldi, 397 Qualitative Chemical Analysis, Organic and Inorganic, F. Mollwo Perkin, 397

Amphibia and Reptiles, Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401

Lectures on the History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., 417

Water Filtration Works, James H. Fuertes, 421

Modern Natural Theology, with the Testimony of Christian Evidences, Frederick James Grant, 422

The Distribution of Rainfall over the Land, Andrew J.

Herbertson, 423 Tierleben der Tiefsee, Oswald Seeliger, 423 A Guide to the Shell and Star-fish Galleries (Mollusca, Polyzoa, Brachiopoda, Tunicata, Echinoderma and Worms) in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), 423
A Text-book of Astronomy, Prof. George C. Comstock, 424

An Introduction to the Practical Use of Logarithms, F. G. Taylor, 424

The Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology,

J. W. Powell, 425 Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-1897, Henry

Carrington Bolton, 430 On the Supersession of the Steam by the Electric Locomotive,

W. Langdon, 437 Electric Traction, Major P. Cardew, 437

Handbook on Petroleum, Captain J. H. Thomson and Boverton Redwood, W. T. Lawrence, 441 Commercial Education at Home and Abroad, a Comprehen-

sive Handbook providing Materials for a Scheme of Com-mercial Education for the United Kingdom, including Suggested Curricula for all Grades of Educational Institutions, Frederick Hooper and James Graham, 442

Manual of the Birds of Iceland, Henry H. Slater, 443 Blütengeheimnisse, eine Blütenbiologie in Einzelbildern,

Georg Worgitzky, 444
The Lepidoptera of the British Islands, a Descriptive Account of the Families, Genera and Species Indigenous to Great Britain and Ireland, their Preparatory States, Habits and Localities, Charles G. Barrett, vol. vii., Heterocera, Geometrina, 444

The French Stonehenge, an Account of the Principal Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, T. Cato Worsfold, 465

A Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and Stone-

henge, Lady Antrobus, 465 Polyphem ein Gorilla, Dr. Th. Zell, 467 The Evolution of Consciousness, Leonard Hall, 467

The Self-Educator in Chemistry, James Knight, 467 Drahtlose Telegraphie durch Wasser und Luft, Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Braun, 497

Geometrical Exercises from Nixon's "Euclid Revised" with Solutions, Alexander Larmor, 497 Histoire du Ciel, Clémence Royer, 497 Papers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, Prof. Osborne

Reynolds, F.R.S., 549
The Insect Book, a Popular Account of the Bees, Wasps, Ants, Grasshoppers, Flies and other North American Insects, exclusive of the Butterflies, Moths and Beetles, with full Life-histories, Tables and Bibliographies, Leland O. Howard, 549

Nature Teaching, Francis Watts, 550 Cassell's Eyes and No Eyes Series, Arabella B. Buckley, 550 Plane and Solid Geometry, Arthur Schultze and F. L. Sevenoak, Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 573 Occasional Essays on Native South Indian Life, Stanley P.

Rice, 574 Essai d'une Explication par les Causes actuelles de la Partie théorique de la Géologie, H. Hermite, 575

La Géologie, H. Guède, 575
Farm Poultry, G. C. Watson, 575
The Collected Scientific Papers of John Couch Adams, 576
Experimental Engineering, Testing and Strength of Materials of Construction, W. C. Popplewell, 597
Der Hammer-Fennel'sche Tachymeter-Theodolit und die

Tachymeter-kippregel zur unmittelbaren Lattenablesung von Horizontaldistanz und Höhenunterschied, Dr. E. Hammer,

Results of Meteorological Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the eight years 1892-99, Arthur A. Rambaut, F.R.S., 599

The Telephone System of the British Post Office, T. E.

Herbert, 599
Maps, their Uses and Construction, a Short Popular Treatise on the Advantages and Defects of Maps on Various Projections, followed by an Outline of the Principles involved in their Construction, G. James Morrison, 599 Smokeless Powder, Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose

Molecule, John B. Bernadou, 600
Catalogue of the Collection of Birds' Eggs in the British
Museum (Natural History), E. W. Oates, 600

Essays and Photographs, some Birds of the Canary Islands and South Africa, H. E. Harris, 603

Life by the Sea-shore: an Introduction to Natural History, Marion Newbigin, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 621

Recherches sur les instruments, les méthodes et le dessin Topographiques, Colonel A. Laussedat, 622

Euclid's Elements of Geometry, Charles Smith and Sophie Bryant, 623

The Life History of British Serpents and their Local Distribution in the British Isles, Gerald R. Leighton, 624 The Feeding of Animals, W. H. Jordan, 625

First Stage Building Construction, Brysson Cunningham, 625 Théorie Nouvelle de la Dispersion, G. Quesneville, 625

Status of the Mesozoic Floras of the United States, the Older Mesozoic, Lester F. Ward, W. M. Fontaine, A. Warner and F. H. Knowlton, 633

Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologiche sulla Valsesia, E. Artini and G. Melzi, 640

Dragons of the Air: An Account of Extinct Flying Reptiles, H. G. Seeley, 645

Theoretical Mechanics: an Elementary Treatise, W. Woolsey

Johnson, 646 The Earliest Inhabitants of Abydos: a Craniological Study,

D. Randall-Maciver, 647

The New Basis of Geography: a Manual for the Preparation of the Teacher, Jacques W. Redway, 648
Expertises et Arbitrages, F. Rigaud, 648

Tibet and Chinese Turkestan, Captain Deasy, 653 Reynolds (Prof. Osborne, F.R.S.), Papers on Mechanical and Physical Subjects, 549

Rheinberg (J.), Contrivance for viewing Diffraction Patterns of Diatoms through the Microscope, 60 Rhinoceros, the, Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S., 223

Rhodes (Herbert), Glycolytic Enzyme in Muscle, 198 Rhodesia, N.E., Fauna of, C. P. Chesnaye, 383 Ricco (Signor A.), Deformation of the Sun's Disc, 289; the

International Survey of the Heavens, 582

Rice (Stanley P.), Occasional Essays on Native South Indian Life, 574

Richardson (O. W.), Attempt to Discover Radiation from

Surface of Metals carrying Alternating Currents of High

Frequency, 95 Richter (Dr. R.), Berkeley's Drei Dialoge zwischen Hylas und

Philonous, 4
Rideal (Dr. S.), on Humus and the so-called Irreducible
Residue in Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, 612; on Sulphuric Acid as a Typhoid Disinfectant, 612

Ridewood (Dr. W. G.), the Hair of the Patagonian Ground-

Sloth, 190 Ridley (Mr.), on a Specimen of Ophioglossum simplex col-

lected by, in Sumatra, 617 Rigaud (F.), Expertises et Arbitrages, 648 Ritchie (Foster), the Telautograph, 107

Rivers of East Yorkshire, the Geological History of the, F. R. Cowper Reed, 27

Riviere (Emile), Palæolithic Drawings on Walls of Cave of La Mouthe. 596

Roberts (Dr. Alex. W.), Density and Figure of Close Binary Stars, 468

Roberts-Austen (Sir W., K.C.B., F.R.S.), Alloys for Bronze Medals, 309; Metals as Fuel, Lecture at Royal Institution, 360 Robertson (W.), 2:6-dibromo-4-nitrosophenol, 94 Robinson (H.), Natural History Notes, 331 Robinson (Mr.), on the half-Siamese half-Malay Community of

Sai-Kau, 614

Rocks, Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and Basic, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., Prof. Edw. Suess, 629

Rodman (Dr. G. H.), Röntgen Radiographs of Mollusk Shells,

Rolling Angle of a Ship found by Photography, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 576

Rolston (W. E.), the August Meteors of 1901, 411

Röntgen Rays: L'Optique des Rayons de Röntgen et des Rayons secondaires que en dérivent, G. Sagnac, 101; Nature of Röntgen Rays, J. Semenov, 344; the Theory of Diffraction of Röntgen Rays, Prof. Sommerfeld, 357; the Röntgen Rays in Military Surgery, J. Hall-Edwards, 454; Effect on Eye of the Röntgen Rays, Herren Himstedt and Nagel, 529; Radiographs of Mollusk Shells, Dr. G. H. Rodman, 189

Rood (O. N.), Experiments on High Electrical Resistances, 415 Roscoe (Sir Henry), on the Organisation of Technical and Secondary Education, 593

Rose-Innes (J.), Thermal Properties of Isopentane and Normal

Pentane, 93 Rosin-cored Solder, 60

Ross (Major Ronald, F.R.S.), Mosquitoes and Malaria, 453; the Anti-mosquito Campaign in Sierra Leone, 489; on the Story of Malaria, 588; Mosquitoes and Sounds, 607; the West African Campaign against Malaria, 636

Rotch (A. Lawrence), Meteorological Kite, Investigation at Smithsonian Institute, 269; Meteorological Kite-raising by Tug-motion, 453; on the Exploration of the Upper Strata of the Atmosphere by means of Kites, 590

Rothschild's Novitates Zoologicæ, a Journal of Zoology in connection with the Tring Museum, 249

Rouvière (M.), Action of Currents of High Frequency on Urinary Secretion, 272

Roux (E.), Glucamine, 24

Rowe (Dr. A. W.), Zones in Chalk, 355 Rowland (Prof. H. A.), Obituary Notice of, 16 Royal College of Science and the University of London, Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., 583

Royal Geographical Society: Sand Waves in Tidal Currents, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412; see also Geography

Royal Horticultural Society's Lily Conference, the, Wilfred Mark Webb, 316

Royal Institution: Vitrified Quartz, W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102; Some Recent Work on Diffusion, Dr. Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., 171, 193; the Aims of the National Physical Laboratory, Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., 290; Metals as Fuel, Sir W. Roberts-Austen, V.C. F. F. S. 260; Physical Laboratory, Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., 290; Metals as Fuel, Sir W. Roberts-Austen, V.C. F. F. S. 260; Physical Review, Physical K.C.B., F.R.S., 360; Polish, Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S., 385

Royal Society: Scope of the Royal Society, Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F.R.S., 29; Royal Society Selected Candidates, 36; Royal Society, 45, 57, 69, 93, 141, 198, 221, 246, 341, 365, 415, 496; Royal Society Conversazione, 57; the Antarctic Expedition, 131; Resignation of Dr. J. W. Gregory, 132; the Solar Activity 1833–1900, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 196; Bakerian Lecture at the Royal Society: the Nadir of

Temperature and Allied Problems, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 243; on the Separation of the Least Volatile Gases of Atmospheric Air and their Spectra, Prof. G. D. Liveing, F.R.S., and Prof. J. Dewar, F.R.S., 294; Brightness of the Solar Corona, January 22, 1898, 437
Royer (Clemence), Histoire du Ciel, 497
Histoire (Prof. Arthur W. F.P. S. the Dust of "Plead sain")

Rücker (Prof. Arthur W., F.R.S.), the Dust of "Blood-rain," 30; Inaugural Address at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, 470; on the Teaching of Mathematics,

Rudolf (G.), the Periodic Classification and the Problem of Chemical Evolution, 51

Ruff (Dr. O.), the Existence of Ammonium, 637 Rural Readers, Book I., Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394 Rural Schools, the Teacher's Manual of Object Lessons for,

Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394

Russell (H. L.), Public Water-supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works, 179

Russell (Hon. Rollo), Unusual Agitation of the Sea, 6 Russian Geographical Society's Medal Awards, 286

Rutherford (Prof. E.), Emanations from Radio-active Substances, 157

Ryan (H.), Preparation of Synthetical Glucosides, 47

Sabatier (Paul), the Addition of Hydrogen to Hydrocarbons, 143; New Method of preparing Aniline, 392

Safford (Prof. T. H.), Death of, 261

Sagnac (G.), L'Optique des Rayons de Rôntgen et des Rayons

Secondaires que en Derivent, 101 St. Clair (George), Myths of Greece Explained and Dated, an Embalmed History from Uranus to Perseus, including the

Eleusinian Mysteries and the Olympic Games, 180 St. John's (Charles) Note-book, 1846-1853, T. Digby Pigott,

St. Louis Academy of Science, 72 Sakurai (Prof. Joji). on Some Points in Chemical Education, 612

Salt-deposits of Salton, California, 18

Salt Solutions, the Crystallisation of, Dr. H. M. Dawson, 336 San Francisco, Lane Lectures at Cooper Medical College in, History of Physiology during the Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, Sir M. Foster, K.C.B., Sec.R.S., 417 Sanchez (P.C.), the Subterranean Waters of the Ajusco (Mexico)

Chain, 288

Sand Waves in Tidal Currents, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412 Sarasin (Dr. Paul and Dr. Fritz), Über die geologische Geschichte der Insel Celebes auf Grund der Thierverbreitung,

Saturn, the Planet, W. F. Denning, 114

Savage (Mr.), Neutral Red a Test for Colon Bacillus, 637

Sawyer (B.), the Caves of Fiji, 143 Sazerac (R.), Biochemical Differentiation of Two Ferments of Vinegar, 224

Scenery, the, of Scotland, viewed in connection with its Physical Geology, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 33 Schaefer (C.), Influence of Temperature on the Elasticity of

Metals, 119
Schenck (C. C.), the Spark Spectrum of Cadmium, 358
Schimper (Prof. A. F. W.), Death and Obituary Notice of, Percy Groom, 551 Schleiermacher (F.), Plato's Staat, 4

Schloesing (T.), Alumina in Madagascar Soil, 119

Scholl (R.), Synthesis of Aromatic Aldoximes by Fulminating Silver, 191

Schönichen (Dr. Walther), B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen des Tier-und Pflangenreiches, 301

School Hygiene, Edward Shaw, 373 School Hygiene, a Manual of, E. W. Hope and E. A. Browne,

Schott (Charles A.), Death and Obituary Notice of, 406 Schott (Dr. G.), Oceanographical Results of Valdivia Expedi-

Schrader (F. C.), the Cape Nome (Alaska) Gold Region, 409

Schulten (A. de), Synthesis of Boronatrocalcite, 248
Schultze (Arthur), Plane and Solid Geometry, 573
Schulz (Dr. Fr. N.), Die Krystallisation von Eiweissstoffen und

ihre Bedentung für die Eiweisschemie, 375 Schur (Dr. W.), Death of, 356; Obituary Notice of, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 380

Schuster (Prof.), Experiments on the Passage of Electricity

Schuster (Frof.), Experiments on the Passage of Electricity through Mercury Vapour, 587
Schuyler (James D.), Reservoirs for Irrigation, Water-power and Domestic Water-supply, 154
Science: Science and Medieval Thought, Prof. T. Clifford Allbutt, F.R.S., 76; the Scientific Memoirs of Thomas Henry Huxley, 76; Mr. Balfour on Scientific Research, 109; the Leipzig Chamical Lebestry, 127; the Sixth Appual the Leipzig Chemical Laboratory, 127; the Sixth Annual Congress of the South-eastern Union of Scientific Societies, Congress of the South-eastern Union of Scientific Societies, 192; Recent Scientific Work in Holland, 208; Scientific Worthies, Sir William Huggins, K.C.B., Prof. H. Kayser, 225; England's Neglect of Science, Prof. Perry, F.R.S., Prof. George M. Minchin, F.R.S., 226; Science in Australia, Prof. Liversidge, 296; Scientific Work in Egypt, 317; History as a Science, J. S. Stuart Glennie, 326; Some Scientific Centres, the Laboratory of Wilhelm Ostwald, 428; Price whitests in Applied Science, 428, the Deaver Meeting. Prize-subjects in Applied Science, 438; the Denver Meeting of the American Association, Address by Prof. R. S. Woodward, President of the Association, 498; Opening Address in Section E at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, on Research in Geographical Science, Dr. Hugh Robert Mill, 532; Zoology of the Twentieth Century, Address at the American Association for Advancement of Science at Denver, Prof. C. B. Davenport, 566; Royal College of Science and the University of London, Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., 583; Forthcoming Books of Science, 593; Addresses of Authors of Scientific Papers, Prof. Sydney J. Hickson, F.R.S., 601; Scientific Topography, Recherches sur les Instruments, les Méthodes et le Dessin Topographiques, Colonel A. Laussedat,

Scope of the Royal Society, Sir W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, F. R. S.,

Scotland: the Scenery of Scotland, Viewed in Connection with its Physical Geology, Sir Archibald Geikie, F.R.S., 33; the Mineralogy of Scotland, M. Forster Heddle, Prof. H. A. Miers, F.R.S., 395; Recent Advances in Scottish Geology, Opening Address in Section C at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, John Horne, F.R.S., 509; on the Scottish Ores of Copper, J. G. Goodchild, 565; on the Geological Distribution of the Fishes of the Carbonicary of the Carbonicar ferous Rocks and of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, Dr. Traquair, 565; R. Kidston, 565; on a Botanical Survey of Scotland, Prof. W. G. Smith, 590; on the Methods and Plans of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, W. S. Bruce, 591; on the Distribution of certain Forest Trees in Scotland, W. N. Niven, 618

Scott (Dr. D. H., F.R.S.), on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593; on a Primitive Type of Structure in Calamites, 617; on a Calamite from the Calciferous Sandstone of Burnt-

island, 617

Sea, Unusual Agitation of the, Hon. Rollo Russell, 6 Sea, the Second International Conference for the Exploration of the, 218

Sea Birds of Louisiana Gulf Coast, Protection of, Prof. Beyer, 19

Sea Fisheries: the Decay of our Sea Fisheries, 310; the Destruction of Shore-fish Ova and Fry, Prof. M'Intosh, 523 Seashore, Life by the, an Introduction to Natural History, Marion Newbigin, Prof. W. A. Herdman, F.R.S., 621

Sea-urchin, on a Large Nematode Parasitic in the, Dr. J. F. Gemmill, 588
Seebohm (Henry), the Birds of Siberia, a Record of a

Naturalist's Visit to the Valleys of the Petchora and Yenesei, 32

Seed-sowing: the Moon and Vegetation, 454
Seeds, Agricultural, Dr. Maxwell T. Masters, F.R.S., 30
Seeds, Vitality of, Dr. Henry H. Dixon, 256

Seeds and Fruits, on the Strength and Resistance to Pressure of Certain, Prof. G. F. Scott Elliot, 619

Seeley (H. G.), Dragons of the Air: an Account of Extinct Flying Reptiles, 645 Seeliger (Oswald), Tierleben der Tiefsee, 423 Seismograph as Sensitive Barometer, F. N. Denison, 271

Seismology: the Reported Earthquakes in the Channel Islands and South Devon on April 24, Dr. Charles Davison, 126; the Palombara Earthquake of April 24, 1901, Dr. Luigi Palazzo, 288; the International Seismological Conference at Strassburg, Dr. F. Omori, 340; the Inverness Earthquake of September 18, Dr. Charles Davison, 527; Rev. Dr. Andrew Henderson, 601; the Non-existence of Isophygmic Curves, F. de M. de Ballore, 524; Simple Recording Tide-gauge, Prof. Grablovitz, 554; the Seismological Committee on certain Frequent Small Movements of the Seismograph Trace, 586; the Depression of the Earth's Crust due to an Area of High Barometric Pressure can be Detected by a Seismograph at Great Distances from the Centre of the Depression, F. L. Denison, 587

Selborne, the Life and Letters of Gilbert White of, Rashleigh

Selborne, the Life and Letters of Globert
Holt-White, 276
Selborne, the Natural History and Antiquities of, Gilbert
White, L. C. Miall, F.R.S., and W. Warde Fowler, 369
Selous (Edmund), Bird Watching, 325
Semenov (J.), Nature of Röntgen Rays, 344
Semmola (Prof. E.), the New Eruptive Cone on Vesuvius, 334
Semmola (Prof. E.), the Addition of Hydrogen to Hydrogarbons, Senderens (J. B.), the Addition of Hydrogen to Hydrocarbons, 143; New Method of Preparing Aniline, 392 Senegal Galago, the Food of the, M. O. Hill, 376 Sergi (G.), the Mediterranean Race, a Study of the Origin of

European Peoples, 370 Serotherapy: the Pasteur Monument at Dôle, 163; the Work

of the Pasteur Institute at Kasauli, India, 383; the Value of Dr. Calmette's Anti-venene, 657 Serpents and their Local Distribution in the British Isles, the

Serpents and their Local Distribution in the British Isles, the Life-history of British, Gerald R. Leighton, 624
Settlement of Solid Matter, the, in Fresh and Salt Water, W. H. Wheeler, 181; H. S. Allen, 279
Setting Sun, a Vertical Light-beam through the, Prof. A. S. Herschel, F.R.S., 232
Sevenoak (F. L.), Plane and Solid Geometry, 573
Sewage: on the Chemical and Biological Changes occurring during the Batterial Treatment of Sewage, Prof. E. A. Letts

during the Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Prof. E. A. Letts and R. F. Blake, 612; on Humus and the so-called Irreducible Residue in Bacterial Treatment of Sewage, Dr. T. Rideal, 612

Seward (A. C., F.R.S.), on the Anatomy of *Todea*, 617; on the Structure and Origin of Jet, 618
Seyewitz (A.), Conversion of Uncoloured into Coloured Compound of Sodium Tetrazotolylsulphite with Ethyl-\$-naphthylamine, 272 Shark's Teeth found at Woking, 523

Shasta, Mount, the Biology of, 242 Shaw (Edward), School Hygiene, 373

Shaw (W. N., F.R.S.), Hailstorm Artillery, 159; on the Effects of Sea Temperature and Wind Direction on the Seasonal Variation of Air Temperature in these Islands, 587; on Weather Maps published Daily by Various Countries,

591; London Fog Inquiry, 649 Shaw (Mrs. W. N.), on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592 Shell and Star-fish Galleries, a Guide to the, in the British

Museum, 423
Shells and How to Know Them, Our Country's: a Guide to the British Mollusca, W. J. Gordon, 206
Shenstone (W. A., F.R.S.), Vitrified Quartz, Lecture at Royal

Institution, 65, 126

Shepard (W. K.), New Solution for Copper Voltmeter, 365
Sherman (Dr.), Food Consumption and Metabolism; the
Mechanical Efficiency of Bicyclists, 382
Sherwood (E. C.), the Subjective Lowering of Pitch, 233

Ship, the Rolling Angle of a, found by Photography, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 576
Shufeldt (Dr. R. W.), Position of Auks and Puffins, 408; the

Skeleton of the Cuckoos, 435
Siberia: the Birds of Siberia, a Record of a Naturalist's Visit to the Valleys of the Petchora and Yenesei, Henry Seebohm, 32; Buried Glaciers on Great Lyakhoff Island, Baron Toll,

32', Balling Siderostat, Stellar Photography with a, 42 Sidgwick (Alfred), the Use of Words in Reasoning, 231 Signalling, Electric, Recent Developments in, 6; the Telautograph, Foster Ritchie, 107 Silber (Herr), Chemical Effects of Light on Plant Life, 658 Silberter, Report of the British Association Excavation Committee, 615

Silicon Compounds, the Spectra of Carbon Monoxide and, Dr. Karl v. Wesendonk, 29

Silurian and Ordovician Rocks of North-west Ireland, on the Relation of the, to the Great Metamorphic Series, A. McHenry, J. H. Kilroe, 565; G. H. Kinahan, 565 Simmonds (C.), Lead Silicates in Relation to Pottery Manu-

facture, 94; Influence of Grinding on Solubility of Lead in Lead Fritts, 175

Simon (L. J.), Action of Urethane on Pyruvic Acid, 620; Action of Urea on Pyruvic Acid, 644

Simplon Tunnel, the, 235
Simpson (Dr. J. Y.), Binary Fission in Ciliata, 199; on the Relation of Binary Fission and Conjugation to Variation, 588
Sinology: Death and Obituary Notice of Dr. E. Bretschneider,

Sixth Annual Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific

Societies, the, 192

Skye, Ice-erosion in, Alfred Harker, 143

Skye, ice-erosion in, Africa Harker, 143
Skye, on the Sequence of the Tertiary Igneous Eruptions in,
A. Harker, 565
Slate (Prof. F.), the Use of Axis-vectors, 54
Slater (Henry H.), Manual of the Birds of Iceland, 443
Slide-rule, Simple Circular, Pierre Weiss, 523
Sloth, the Hair of the Patagonian Ground-, Dr. W. G. Ride-

wood, 190 Slugs from North-West Borneo, Anatomy of, W. E. Collinge,

100

Smeerenburg, Spitsbergen, the Rise and Fall of, Sir Martin Conway, 40

Smith (Charles), Euclid's Elements of Geometry, 623
Smith (Prof. G. E.), the Name of the Sensorium Commune
Region of the Brain, 435
Smith (Herbert), Crystals of Calaverite, 247

Smith (J. Hamblin), Death of, 285 Smith (R. Greig), Bacteria and Cement-disintegration, 144; Vibrio denitrificans, 144; Bacteroids of Leguminous Nodule

and Culture of Rhizobium leguminosarum, 272
Smith (Rupert T.), Periodicity of Cylonic Winds, 95
Smith (Prof. W. G.), on a Botanical Survey of Scotland, 590
Smithsonian Institution, Recent Reports, 269

Smithsonian Solar Eclipse Expedition, the, Prof. S. P. Langley,

53 Smokeless Powder, Nitro-cellulose and Theory of the Cellulose

Molecule, John B. Bernadou, 600 Snake Poison: the Value of Dr. Calmette's Anti-venene, 657

Snow on the Moon's Surface, 136

Snow Conditions in the Antarctic, C. E. Borchgrevink, 257
Society of Arts: Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi,
130; Society of Arts Medal Awards, 213; Journal of the
Society of Arts, Electric Traction, Major Cardew, 437
Soil Maps, on the Application of Geology to Agriculture by

the Preparation of, J. R. Kilroe, 565
Solander (Dr. Daniel), Illustrations of the Botany of Captain
Cook's Voyage Round the World in H.M.S. *Endeavour* in 1768-1771, 374
Solar Activity 1833-1900, the, Paper Read before Royal Society, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 196
Solar Corona, Brightness of the, January 22, 1898, Prof. Turner,

Solar Corona, Angunetic Observations during Total, Dr. William Solar Eclipse, Magnetic Observations during Total, Dr. William Ellis, F.R.S., 15; the Smithsonian Solar Eclipse Expedition, Prof. S. P. Langley, 53; Observations of Solar Eclipse, May 28, 1900, 269

Solar Radiation, Measurements of, Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory at the Smithsonian Institution, S. P. Langley, 252; Solar Radiation, I. V. Buchanan, F.R.S., 456

352; Solar Radiation, J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., 456

Solder, Rosin-cored, 60
Solder, Rosin-cored, 60
Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, the Settlement of, W.
H. Wheeler, 181; H. S. Allen, 279
Sollas (Prof.), on a Machine for Investigating Fossil Remains,

565

Solly (R. H.), Liveingite, 95; Notes on Minerals from the Lengenbach Binnenthal, 577 Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations, Prof. G.

Chrystal, 5
Solutions, Dilute, on Determining the Depression of the Freezing Points of Extremely, E. H. Griffiths, 586
Sommerfeld (Prof.), the Theory of Diffraction of Röntgen

Rays, 357 Sommerville (D. M. Y.), Two Problems of Geometry, 526 South Africa, the Natives of, their Economic and Social Conditions, E. Sidney Hartland, 73; see also Africa

South African Philosophical Society, 144
Specimens of Aecidium berberidis, J. Lewton Brain, 77 Spectrum Analysis: the Flash-Spectrum, R. W. Wood, 23; the Spectra of Carbon Monoxide and Silicon Compounds, Dr. Karl v. Wesendonk, 29; the Persistence of the Spectrum of Carbon Monoxide, Prof. W. N. Hartley, F.R.S., 54;

Enhanced Lines in Spectrum of Chromosphere, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., and F. E. Baxandall, 45; the Arc Spectrum of Vanadium, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., and F. E. Baxandall, 45; the Band Spectrum of Nitrogen in the Oscillating Spark, G. A. Hemsalech, 48; Spectrum of Nova Persei, 240, 456, 556, 639; Prof. Copeland and Dr. J. Halm, 119; Further Observations on Nova Persei, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., 69, 341; Spectrum of & Puppis, 89; the Absorption Spectra of Cyanogen Compounds, W. N. Hartley, J. J. Dobbie and A. Lauder, 175; the Mechanism of Radiation, J. H. Jeans, 199; Negative After-images and Colour-vision, Shelford Bidwell, F.R.S., 216; Spectrum and Cyanogen, E. C. C. Baly and Dr. H. W. Syers, 247; Banded Flame-spectra of Metals, Prof. Hartley, F.R.S., and Hugh Ramage, 271; Wave-length of Green Corona Line, Signor Ascarza, 289; on the Separation of the Least Volatile Gases of Atmospheric Air and their Spectra, Prof. G. D. Liveing, F.R.S., and Prof. J. Dewar, F.R.S., 294; Laws of Radiation as applied to Incandescent Mantles, Dr. Guillaume, 309; Observations at Santa Pola of Solar Eclipse of May 28, 1900, Observations at Santa Pola of Solar Eclipse of May 28, 1900, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., 343; the Spark Spectrum of Cadmium, C. C. Schenck, 358; Celestial Objects having Peculiar Spectra, 359; the Michelson Echelon Grating, A. Hilger, 383; the Spectroscopic Binary "Mizar," 437; Constitution of White Light, O. M. Corbino, 464; Flame-spectrum Phenomena of Basic Bessemer Blow, Prof. W. N. Hartley and H. Ramage, 492; Photograph of the Spectrum of Lightning, 583; Spectroscopic Binary η Pegasi, 609; Spectroscopic Binary Capella, 620. scopic Binary Capella, 639

Speculative Biology, Dr. Ermanno Giglio-Tos, 321
Spencer (Prof. J. W.), Geological Development of Antigua,
Guadeloupe, Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Bartholomew, Lombrero, St. Christopher Chain, and Saba Bank, 94

Spiders, Mimicry in, Dr. W. A. Wagner, 41
Sponges, Japanese, Studies on the *Hexactinellida*, Isao Iijima, Prof. E. A. Minchin, 393
Sponges, Tobago, 637
Spot on Jupiter, Black, 216
Spot on Jupiter, Dark, 240
Stalactites and Stalagmites, Peculiar Forms of, Dr. O. C.

Farrington, 288

Stalk-eyed Crustacea, the, of British Guiana, West Indies and Bermuda, Dr. Charles G. Young, 98 Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel, Central and

South America, A. H. Keane, Colonel George Earl Church,

Stanoïéwitch (G. W.), a Method for Hail-prevention, 415 Stapes, on the Origin of the Cartilage of the, and its Continuity

Stapes, on the Origin of the Cartilage of the, and its Continuity with the Hyoid Arch, Dr. J. F. Gemmill, 614
Stars: Stellar Photography with a Siderostat, 42; Forms of Images in Stellar Photography, 191; Stellar Photometry, B. Baillaud, 63; New Variable Star 71 (1901) Aurigæ, Stanley Williams, 89; Two New Variable Stars, Prof. W. Ceraski, 167; New Variable Stars, 191; Orbits of Algol Variables, RR Puppis and V Puppis, 384; New Variable Star 77 (1901) Herculis, 532; New Southern Algol-Variable, 639; Ten-Year Greenwich Star Catalogue for 1890, 216; on the Theory of Temporary Stars, Dr. J. Halm, 253; the Cape Theory of Temporary Stars, Dr. J. Halm, 253; the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung for the Equinox, 1875, David Gill, F.R.S., J. C. Kapteyn, 257; a Photometric Durchmusterung, including all Stars of the Magnitude 7.5, and Brighter North of Declination -40°, Edward C. Pickering, 257; Motion of α Persei in the Line of Sight, 359; Period of Mira Ceti. Prof. A. A. Nijland, 410; Nova Persei. 257; Motion of α Persei in the Line of Sight, 359; Period of Mira Ceti, Prof. A. A. Nijland, 410; Nova Persei, 42, 191, 240, 410, 437, 491; Spectrum of Nova Persei, 8456, 556, 639; Further Observations on Nova Persei, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., 341; Appearance of the Photographic Image of Nova Persei, 639; New Double Stars, 456; Six Stars with Variable Radial Velocity, 456; Density and Figure of Close Binary Stars, Dr. Alex. W. Roberts, 468; Variable Radial Velocity of δ Orionis, 491; Radial Velocity of 1820 Groombridge, 401; Chemistry of the Cygnia Stars of 1830 Groombridge, 491; Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and Basic Rocks, Sir Norman Lockyer, K.C.B., F.R.S., Prof. Edw. Suess, 629; Spectroscopic Binary Capella, 639 Stassano (M.), Iodine in Blood, 248 Statistical Investigations on Variability and Heredity, Prof.

Karl Pearson, F.R.S., 102 Statistics: the Increase of the Paris Population, 163

Stead (J. E.), Idiomorphic Crystals in Blast Furnace Hearth, 64; Influence of Copper on Steel Rails and Plates, 64; Copper and Iron Alloys, 492; Steel Wire with and without Copper, 492

Steam, on the Supersession of the, by the Electric Locomotive,

W. Langdon, 437
Steam-engine Indicator, the, Cecil H. Peabody, 125
Stebba (Jean), Electrolytic Preparation of Pure Oxide of

Steel Castings, the Properties of, Prof. J. O. Arnold, 64, 316 Steele (B. D.), Measurement of Ionic Velocities in Aqueous Solutions, 222

Stellar Photography, Forms of Images in, 191
Stellar Photography with a Siderostat, 42
Stellar Photometry, B. Baillaud, 63
Sterba (Jean), the Crystallisation of Cerium Oxide, 368
Stern (A. L.), the Nutrition of Yeast, 175
Stimuli in Plants, a Mechanism for the Transmission of, Dr. B.

Nemec, 371
Stromeyer (C. E.), Fireball of September 14, 1492, 577
Stone Age of Man, on the Chronology of the, Sir W. Allen Sturge, 615; Sir John Evans, 615; Prof. Kendal, 615
Stone Circles, Excavations at Arbor Low, 615

Stone-movements, Vertical, due to Soil-moisture and Frost, Horace Darwin, 222

Stonehenge: a Sentimental and Practical Guide to Amesbury and, Lady Antrobus, 465; the Recent Work at Stonehenge, Lady Antrobus, 602; Folklore about Stonehenge, Rev. O.

Fisher, 648
Storage Cell, the "Edison," 241
Stordy (R. J.), Veterinary Work in British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, 67

Strahan (Aubrey), Passage of Coal-seam into Seam of Dolomite,

Strain-measurement, Apparatus for, Dr. E. G. Coker, 199 Strassburg, the International Seismological Conference at, Dr.

F. Omori, 340 Stratonoff (W.), Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique et Physique de Tachkent, Études sur la Structure de

l'Univers, 56 Stress, its Definition, R. F. Muirhead, 207; Reviewer, 207 Edding Range Finder for Infantry, 61 Stroud (Prof.), on a Folding Range Finder for Infantry, 613 Structure des Plantes, Assimiliation Chlorophylienne et la, Dr.

Ed. Griffon, 28
Structure of the Universe, Studies on the, W Stratonoff,
Howard Payn, 56
Stuart-Glennie (J. S.), History as a Science, 326; on Dr.
Frazer's Views of the Relations between Magic, Religion and Science, 615 Sturge (Dr. W. Allen), on the Chronology of the Stone Age of

Man, 615
Subjective Lowering of Pitch, the, E. Hurren Harding, 103, 182; Prof. T. J. Allen, 182, 301; G. W. Hemming, 182; E. C. Sherwood, 233; Suggested Experiment, G. W.

Hemming, 308 Submarine Telegraphy, on a Form of Artificial Submarine

Cable, Prof. A. Trowbridge, 77 Sucre, La Betterave à, L. Malpeaux, 28

Suering (Dr.), High Balloon Ascent, 356 Suess (Prof. Edw.), Chemistry of the Cygnian Stars and Basic Rocks, 629

Sugar, Indigo and, Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, 10 Sumatra, on a Specimen of Ophioglossum simplex collected by

Mr. Ridley in, Prof. Bower, F.R.S., 617

Sun: the Recent Total Eclipse of the, 79, 114, 136; the Total Solar Eclipse, May 18, 1901, 289, 311; a Vertical Lightbeam through the Setting Sun. Prof. A. S. Herschel, F.R.S., 232; Solar Radiation, J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., 456; on the Rotation of Faculæ on the Sun's Surface, Father Cortie, 587; Deformation of the Sun's Disc, Signor A. Ricco, 289

Sun-spot Variation, a Long Period, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer, 106

Suppression of Tuberculosis, the, Prof. Robert Koch, 312 Surface Waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, Circulation of the, H. N. Dickson, 665

Surgery: 'Tannoform," 113; Electrolytical Method of Removing Superfluous Hairs, Dr. A. Whitfield, 311; a Civilian War Hospital, 346; the Röntgen Rays in Military Surgery,

J. Hall-Edwards, 454
Surnames, on the Frequency and Pigmentation Value of the, of Scottish School Children in Eastern Aberdeenshire, J. F.

Tocher, J. Gray, 614

"Surrey," Origin of Name, T. le M. Douse, 490 Survey of Southern India, a Plea for a Prehistoric, Prof. Alfred

C. Haddon, F.R.S., 469
Surveying: Fergusson's Surveying Circle and Percentage Tables, J. C. Fergusson, 278; a New Surveying Instrument, Der Hammer-Fennel'sche Tachymeter-Theodolit und die Tachymeter-kippregel zur unmittelbaren Lattenablesung von Horizontaldistanz und Höhenunterschied, Dr. E. Hammer, 598 Sutherland (George), Twentieth Century Inventions, a Fore-

cast, 74

Sutherlandshire, on the Resemblance of the Old Red Sandstone of North-west Ireland to the Torridon Rocks of, A.

McHenry, J. H. Kilroe, 565
Suzuki (U.), Theine in the Tea-plant and Organic Iron Compounds in Plants, 582
Swan (J. W., F.R.S.), Position and Prospects of Electro-

chemical Industries, 329 Swearing: Why do Men Swear? Prof. G. T. W. Patrick, 334 Swimming, Spiral, the Significance of, Dr. H. S. Jennings, 165 Swimming Instinct, the, Prof. C. Lloyd Morgan, F.R.S., 208 Sy (F.), Observations of Comet A (1901) at Algiers, 143; Observations at Algiers of Planet GG, 524

Syers (Dr. W. H.), Spectrum of Cyanogen, 247 Symbiosis, Social, among American Ants, W. H. Wheeler, 409 Symington (Prof. J.), on the "Temporary Fissures" of the Human Cerebral Hemispheres, 614

Symons's Meteorological Magazine, 119 Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi, 130

Tabor (J. M.), Foreign Oysters acquiring Characters of Natives, 126

Tacheometer-theodolite, der Hammer-Fennel'sche Tachymeter Theodolit und die Tachymeter-Kippregel zur unmittelbaren Lattenablesung von Horizontaldistanz und Höhenunterschied, Dr. E. Hammer, 598

Tachkent, Publications de l'Observatoire Astronomique et Physique de, Etudes sur la Structure de l'Univers, W.

Stratonoff, Howard Payn, 56

Tahiti, the Fire-Walk Ceremony in, Prof. S. P. Langley, 397 Tailleur (P.), Glucoside Characteristic of Germinating Period of Beech, 120

Tait (Prof. P. G.), Death of, 261; Obituary Notice of, Prof.

G. Chrystal, 305 Tanks for Water-Works, Towers and, J. N. Hazlehurst, 525

"Tannoform," 113 Tansley (A. G.), on the Vegetation of Mount Ophir, 616 Tarbouriech (J.), Acidimetry of Arsenic Acid, 272

Tasmania, the Marine Mollusca of, Prof. Ralph Tate and W. L. May, 548

Tate (Prof. Ralph), the Marine Mollusca of Tasmania, 548 Taxidermy, comprising the Skinning, Stuffing and Mounting of Birds, Mammals and Fish, 125

Taylor (F. G.), an Introduction to the Practical Use of

Logarithms, 424
Taylor (Canon Isaac), Death of, 635

Tea, Causes of Difference in Colour between Green and Black Tea, Mr. Asu, 607

Teachers' Manual of Object Lessons for Rural Schools, the, Vincent T. Murché, Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 394 Technical School at Pittsburg, the Carnegie, 570

Telautograph, Foster Ritchie's, 107 Telegony, Hybrid Oochromy, with a Note on Xenia, G. P.

Bulman, 207

Telegraphone, the, Herr Poulsen, 183 Telegraphy: on a Form of Artificial Submarine Cable, Prof. A. Trowbridge, 77; Uniform Transmission of Astronomical Telegrams, 167; Measurement of Sentiveness of Coherer Telegrams, 107; Measurement of Sentiveness of Coherer for Wireless Telegraphy, Carl Kinsley, 60; Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi, 130; Marconi's Wireless Telegraphy on the Lake Champlain, Atlantic Liner, 111; Sir William Preece's System of Etheric Signalling, 163; Wireless Telegraphy on Ocean Liners, 188; on the Lucania, 381, 406, 553; Wireless Telegraphy for War Purposes, 383; Drahtlose Telegraphie durch Wasser und Luft, Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Braun, 497; Wireless Telegraphy, James Bowman Lindsay, Sir William Preece, 521; a New Principle Dis-Lindsay, Sir William Preece, 521; a New Principle Discovered, A. Orling and J. Armstrong, 636; Wireless Telegraphic Communication with Zugspitze Observatory, Bavaria, 637

Telephone System of the British Post Office, T. E. Herbert,

Telescope, the McClean, at the Cape Observatory, 632

Temperament and Exercise, W. W. Davis, 435
Temperature: the Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems, Bakerian Lecture at Royal Society, Prof. James Dewar, F.R.S., 243; a Possible Method of Attaining the Absolute Zero of Temperature, Geoffrey Martin, 376; on the Mean Temperature of the Atmosphere and the Causes of Glacial Periods, H. N. Dixon, 590 Temporary Stars, on the Theory of, Dr. J. Halm, 253

Ten-Year Greenwich Star Catalogue for 1890, 216 Tercidina, Light Variation of the Minor Planet (345), 265

Tercidina, the Minor Planet, 289

Terrestrial Globe, Philip's Educational, 375 Terrestrial Magnetism: the Norwegian North Polar Expedition 1893-96, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Report on Observavations in Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity made at the Central Meteorological Observatory of Japan for the Year 1897, Dr. C. Chree, F.R.S., 151; Die Erdstrome im Deutschen Reichstelegraphengebiet und ihr Zusammenhang mit den Erdmägnetischen Erscheinungen, Dr. B. Weinstein, 230; the Collected Scientific Papers of John Couch Adams, 576

Terrestrial Surface Waves, Report of the Committee on, Dr.

Vaughan Cornish, 590

Testing of some Ballistic Experiments, Rev. F. Bashforth, 445 Testing and Strength of Materials of Construction: Experimental Engineering, W. C. Popplewell, 597

Thane (G. D.), Report on Licensed Vivisection Experiments

for 1900, 133 Theology, Modern Natural, with the Testimony of Christian

Evidences, Frederick James Gant, 422

Theory of Temporary Stars, on the, Dr. J. Halm, 253
Therapeutics: the Treatment of Disease by Light, 259;
Lecithin in Tuberculosis, H. Claude and A. Zaky, 572

Thermodynamics: Lehrbuch der Mathematischen Chemie, J. J. van Laar, 375; on Magnetic Rotation of Light and the Second Law of Thermodynamics, Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S.,

Thermometry: Thermodynamical Correction of Gas Thermometer, Prof. H. L. Callendar, 23; Evolution of the Thermometer, 1592-1743. Henry Carrington Bolton, 25 Thibet: the Sven Hedin Expedition, 606

Thibet and Chinese Turkestan, Captain Deasy, 653 Thierverbreitung, Über die geologische Geschichte der Insel-Celebes auf Grund der, Dr. Paul Sarasin and Dr. Fritz

Sarasin, 203
Third (J. A.), Tri-homologous Triangles, 41
Thiselton-Dyer (Sir W. T., F.R.S.), Scope of Royal Society,
Thiselton-Dyer (Sir W. T., F.R.S.), Henry Huxley, F.R.S., 29; the Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley, F.R.S., by Leonard Huxley, 145; Death and Obituary Notice of Maxime Cornu, 211

Thomas (Oldfield, F.R.S.), New Mammals from Uganda, 142; the Rhinoceros, 223; Antlers of Central Borneo Deer, 247

Thomas (V.), Chlorobromides of Thallium, 224

Thompson (Beeby), Use of a Geological Datum, 295 Thompson (Prof. S. P., F.R.S.), Jena Glass, 199; on the Teaching of Mathematics, 592

Thompson Yates Laboratories, the Report of the, 604
Thompson (Prof. J. Arthur), on the Behaviour of Young Gulls
Naturally and Artificially Hatched, 588; on Germinal Selection in Relation to Inheritance, 588
Thomson (Captain J. H.), Handbook on Petroleum, 441
Thomson (W.), on the Detection and Estimation of Arsenic in

Beer and Articles of Food, 612

Thorpe (J. F.), Derivatives of Bicyclopentane, 94 Thorpe (Dr. T. E., F.R.S.), Lead Silicates in Relation to Pottery Manufacture, 94; Influence of Grinding on Solubility of Lead in Lead Fritts, 175; the Use of Lead Compounds in Pottery, 408; the Work of the Government Laboratory, 553; on Duty-free Alcohol, 611

Thrush, Winter Singing of, W. W. Fowler, 215 Thudicum (Dr. J. L. W.), Death of, 489; Obițuary Notice of,

Thunderbolts as Charms, Rev. P. O. Bodding, 264
Tidal Currents, Sand Waves in, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412
Tierleben der Tiefsee, Oswald Seeliger, 423
Tiden (Prof. W. A., F.R.S.), Royal College of Science and

the University of London, 583

Time, Climate and, and Mars, 106

Tissier (M.), the Aromatic Organo-magnesium Compounds, 96

Toad in Flint Nodule, Charles Dawson, 70

Tobago Sponges, 637

Tocher (J. F.), on the Frequency and Pigmentation Value of the Surnames of Scottish School Children in Eastern Aberdeenshire, 614

Todea, on the Anatomy of, A. C. Seward, F.R.S., Miss Sibille O. Ford, 617

Toll (Baron), Buried Glaciers on Great Lyakhoff Island, 310 Topography and Resources of Northern Ontario, Canada, Dr. R. Bell, 590

Topography, Scientific, Recherches sur les Instruments, les Méthodes et le Dessin Topographiques, Colonel A. Laussedat,

Total Solar Eclipse, May 28, 1900, Magnetic Observations during, Dr. William Ellis, F. R. S., 15; Observations at Santa Pola, Sir Norman Lockyer, F.R.S., 343

Total Solar Eclipse of May 18, 1901, the, 79, 114, 136, 289, 311 Totemism, a New Record of, Hon. Auberon Herbert, 522 Towers and Tanks for Water-works, J. N. Hazlehurst, 525 Toxicology: Poison of Lotus arabicus, W. R. Dunstan, F.R.S.,

and T. A. Henry, 367; Antimony in Organism, G. Pouchet,

Traction, Report of the Committee on the Resistance of Road Vehicles to, 613

Tradition, on Hints of Evolution in, D. MacRitchie, 615 Transactions of American Mathematical Society, 548 Transvaal and Orange River Colony, Prehistoric Implements

in the, Stanley B. Hutt, 103

Traquair (Dr. R. H.), Fossil Fishes in Edinburgh Carboniferous and South Scottish Silurian Rocks, 343; on the Geological Distribution of the Fishes of the Carboniferous Rocks and of the Old Red Sandstone of Scotland, 565

Travellers, Hints to, John Coles, 100 Treatment of Disease by Light, the, 259

Trees, Fruit, Fumigation of, 642 Trees, on the Diameter Increment of, A. W. Borthwick, 619 Trias of Elgin and Nairn, on the, Dr. W. Mackie, 565 Trillat (J. A.), Oxidation of Primary Alcohols by Contact

Action, 120 Tring Museum, Novitates Zoologicæ, a Journal of Zoology in

Connection with the, 249

Trinidad, Notes on Natural History of, J. H. Hart, 40 Trouton (Dr. F. T., F.R.S.), Creeping of Liquids and Tension of Mixtures, 223

Trowbridge (Prof. A), on a form of Artificial Submarine Cable,

Tuberculosis: Influence of Feeding, Work and Dust on, MM. Lannelongue, Achard and Gaillard, 71; the Congress on Tuberculosis, 301, 327; the Suppression of Tuberculosis, Prof. Robert Koch, 312; Lecithin in Tuberculosis, H. Claude and A. Zaky, 572; Influence of Variations of Temperature on Tuberculosis, MM. Lannelongue, Achard and Gaillard, 644

Tucker (S. A.), New Metallic Borides, 175

Tuning-lorks, a New Method of using, in Chronographic Measurements, Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith, F.R.S., 232

Turnel, the Simplon, 235
Turbine-driven Vessel, New, 133
Turbine Propulsion, the King Edward, 334
Turkestan, Tibet and Chinese, Captain Deasy, 653
Turneaure (F. E.), Public Water-supplies, Requirements, Resources and the Construction of Works, 179 Turner (Prof.), Brightness of the Solar Corona, January 22, 1898,

436

Tutton (A. E., F.R.S.), Comparative Study of Magnesium Group of Double Selenates, 141

Twentieth Century Inventions: a Forecast, George Sutherlan',

Twigg (John Hill), Electro-Chemistry, 5

Tycho Brahe's Tomb, Opening of, 261
Type-casting, on a Machine for the Manufacture of Type, M. Barr, 613

Tyrer's Marsh-Berzelius Arsenic Test Apparatus, 215

Ueberweg (Dr. F.), Berkeley's Abhandlung über die Prinzipien der Menschlichen Erkenntnis, 4

Uganda Protectorates, Veterinary Work in British East Africa and, R. J. Stordy, 67

Ule (E.), Ant-Gardens in Amazon Region, 553

Prof. J. Forbes, 119, 524, 587

Ulva latissima, on the Absorption of Ammonia from Polluted Sea-water by, Prof. Letts, John Hawthorne, 619

Ungulate, a New Name for an, Dr. Charles W. Andrews, 577 Uniform Transmission of Astronomical Telegrams, 167

United States: United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Magnetic Observations during Total Solar Eclipse, 15; Recent Work of the United States Weather Bureau, 80; United States Monthly Weather Review, the Colour and Polarisation of Blue Sky Light, Dr. N. E. Dorsey, 138; Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education held in New York City, July 2-3, 1900, Prof. F. W. Burstall, 204; United States Department of Agriculture, North American Fauna, 242; Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture 1900, Prof. R. the United States Department of Agriculture 1900, Prof. R. Warington, F.R.S., 372; Government Aid to Higher Education in the United States, Dr. C. D. Walcott, 261; United States Naval Observatory, 265; United States Monthly Weather Review, Relations between Climate and Crops, H. B. Wren, 493; Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United States, the Older Mesozoic, Lester F. Ward, W. M. Fontoine, A. Warper and F. H. Knowlton, 622 United States, the Older Mesozoic,
Fontaine, A. Warner and F. H. Knowlton, 633

Structure of the, W. Stratonoff,

Universe, Studies on the Structure of the, Howard Payn, 56

Universities: University Intelligence, 22, 43, 68, 92, 118, 140, 174, 198, 220, 244, 270, 295, 319, 341, 364, 392, 415, 440, 463, 495, 524, 547, 571, 595, 619, 642, 666; the University of London, 89; the Extension of Knowledge, Dr. D. J. Hill, 117; the Ninth Jubilee of Glasgow University, 186; Handbook of British, Continental and Canadian Universities, with Special Mention of the Courses open to Women, 301; Function of a University, Oration at University College, Prof. W. Ramsay, F.R.S., 388; Royal College of Science and the University of London, Prof. W. A. Tilden, F.R.S., 583

Use of Words in Reasoning, the, Alfred Sidgwick, 231

Vaillant (G.), Colour of Ions, 415

Valdivia Expedition, Oceanographical Results of, Dr. G. Schott, 263

Valsesia, Ricerche Petrografiche e Geologie sulla, E. Artini and G. Melzi, Dr. H. J. Johnston-Lavis, 640

Vanderlinden (Dr. E.), Atmospheric Conditions of Fog in Belgium, 357

Variability and Heredity, Statistical Investigations on, Prof. Karl Pearson, F.R.S., 102

Variability of Earthshine, Causes of the, 456 Variable Radial Velocity, Six Stars with, 456

Variable Radial Velocity, Six Stars with, 456
Variable Radial Velocity of δ Orionis, 491
Variable Stars: New Variable Star 71 (1901), Aurigæ, Stanley
Williams, 89; Two New Variable Stars, Prof. W. Ceraski,
167; New Variable Stars, 191; Orbits of Algol Variables,
RR Puppis and V Puppis, 384; Period of Mira Ceti, Prof.
A. A. Nijland, 410; New Variable Star 77 (1901) Herculis,
532; New Southern Algol-Variable, 639; New Algol-type
Variable, 78 (1901), Cygni, 583
Variation of Eros, 63, 359, 383
Variation of Latitude, Formulæ for, 42
Variation, a Long Period Sunspot, Dr. William J. S. Lockyer,

196

Variation in a Bee, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 158; Variation, the Experimental Study of, Opening Address in Section D at the Glasgow Meeting of the British Association, Prof. J. Cossar Ewart, 482; on the Relation of Binary Fission to Variation, Dr. J. Y. Simpson, 588 Variations of the Magnetic Needle, 384

Vatican Observatory, the, 61 Vaults, the Graphical Mensuration of, Prof. Ernesto Breglia, 27 Vegetable Gardening, the Principles of, L. H. Bailey, 122

Velocity, Radial, of 1830 Groombridge, 491 Velocity, Variable Radial, Six Stars with, 456 Velocity, Variable Radial, of 8 Orionis, 491 Venus, Photography by the Light of, 336

Venus, Diameter of, 556

Vermorel (V.), Luminous Traps for Pyralis in Beaujolais, 572 Verneuil (A.), Secondary Products of Action of Sulphuric Acid on Wood Charcoal, 176 Vertebrates, Lecithoblast und Angioblast der Wirbelthiere, Index

Wilhelm His, 75; on the Origin of Vertebrate Limbs, J. Graham Kerr, 588

Vertical Light-beam through the Setting Sun, a, Prof. A. S.

Herschel, F.R S., 232 Vesse, the Intermittent Spring at, F. Parmentier, 296

Vesuvius in April-May, 1900, Activity of, Prof. R. V. Matteucci, Vesuvius, the New Eruptive Cone, Prof. E. Semmola, 334

Veterinary Work in British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, R. J. Stordy, 67

Victoria, Curious Incrustations on Roots in Littoral Sand Dunes

of, 409

Vignon (Léo), Nitro-mannite and Nitrocellulose, 596; Reducing Properties of Nitric Esters, 620; Nitro-Derivatives of Pentaerythrite, 644; Nitro Derivatives of Arabite and Rhamnite, 668

Villiger (M.), Researches on Organic Peroxides, 64

Viper, the Cape, Claude E. Benson, 126 Virchow Celebration, the, 601

Vision, Pseudoscopic, without a Pseudoscope, a New Optical Illusion, Prof. R. W. Wood, 351; A. S. Davis, 376 Vitality of Seeds, Dr. Henry H. Dixon, 256

Viticulture: Utilisation of Wine Residues and Spoilt Wines as Manure, F. Garrigou, 344; Viticulture, Sir James Blyth, 432; Luminous Traps for Pyralis in Beaujolais, G. Gastine and V. Vermorel, 572

Vitrified Quartz, Lecture at Royal Institution, W. A. Shenstone,

F.R.S., 65, 126; Prof. J. Joly, F.R.S., 102 Vitznou (A. N.), Excitability of Spinal Marrow, 620 Vivisection: the National Anti-Vivisection Society and Lord Lister, 55: Hon. Stephen Coleridge, 101; Editor, 101; Report on Licensed Experiments for 1900, G. D. Thane, 133 Voandzou plant, the, M. Balland, 48

Vögel, Der Gesangder, Dr. Valentin Häcker, 52 Vogt (J. G.), Entstehen und Vergehen der Welt als Kosmischer

Kreizprozess, 277

Volcanoes: Recent Studies of Old Italian Volcanoes, Sir Arch. Geikie, F.R.S., 103; Activity of Vesuvius in April-May 1900, Prof. R. V. Matteucci, 134; the New Eruptive Cone on Vesuvius, Prof. E. Semmola, 334; on the Sequence of the Tertiary Igneous Eruptions in Skye, A. Harker, 565 Vries (Prof. Hugo de), Die Mutationstheorie, Versuche und

Beobachtungen über die Entstehung von Arten in Pflanzen-

reich, 208

Wager (Harold), on the Cytology of the Cyanophyceæ, 616; on the Teaching of Botany in Schools, 592

Wagner (Dr. W. A.), Mimicry in Spiders, 41
Wagstaffe (W. W.), the Climate of Sevenoaks, 637
Wahl (A.), Ethyl Nitro-acetates, 48; Dimethyl-pyruvic Acid, 72 Wahlberg (A.), Brinell's Method of Determining Hardness of Iron and Steel, 64 Walcott (Dr. C. D.), Government Aid to Higher Education in

United States, 261 Walker (Gilbert T.), Boomerangs, 338

Walker (G. W.), Asymmetry of Zeeman Effect, 668 Wallace (R. H.), the Scientific Study of Commercial Cross Cultivation, 164

Walton (William), Death and Obituary Notice of, 164 War Hospital, a Civilian, 346 Ward (Lester), Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United

States, the Older Mesozoic, 633
Ward (F. W.), the Teaching of Mathematics, 280
Ward (Prof. Marshall), on the Teaching of Botany in Univerward (Froi. Marshall), on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593; on the Bromes and their Brown Rust, 616
Ward (R. de C.), Climate of Mammoth Tank, Colorado, 357
Warfare, Future, H. G. Wells, 454
Warington (Prof. R., F.R.S.), Year-book of the United States
Department of Agriculture, 1900, 372
Warner (A.), Status of the Mesozoic Floras of United States,
the Otler Macroscoic, 620

the Older Mesozoic, 633

Washington, Bulletin of the Philosophical Society of, 253

Washington Observations, 1891-92, 63 Water: The Thermal Variations of Waters, F. A. Forel, 71; of Flowing Water, Joseph P. Frizell, 121; Reservoirs for Irrigation, Water-power and Domestic Water-supply, James D. Schuyler, 154; Public Water-supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works, F. E. Turneaure and H. L. Russell, 179; the Settlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, W. H. Wheeler, 181; II. S. Allen, 279; Water Filtration Works, James H. Tuertes, 421; Towers and Tanks for Water-works, J. N. Hazlehurst, 525

Water Vapour, on Determining the Influence of, on the Energy Lost by a Heated Body placed in an Enclosure containing Air, Hydrogen or Water Vapour, Prof. Morley, Mr. Brush,

Waterston (Dr. D.), Viscera of Porpoise, 344; on the Pelvic Cavity of the Porpoise as a Guide to the Determination of the Sacral Region in the Cetacea, 587 Waterways and Maritime Works, Recent Progress in Papers

read at International Engineering Congress at Glasgow, 639

Watson (G. C.), Farm Poultry, 575 Watt (Dr. George), the Hanbury Medallist for 1901, 162

Watts (Francis), Nature Teaching, 550
Wave-length of Green Corona Line, Sig. Ascarza, 289
Waves, Sand, in Tidal Currents, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 412 Wead (C. K.), Some Discontinuous and Indeterminate Functions,

Weather, the Moon and Wet Days, Alex. B. MacDowall, 424 Weather Maps Published Daily by Various Countries, on, W. N.

Shaw, F.R.S., 591
"Weather-shooting," Dr. J. M. Pernter, 39
Webb (Wilfred Mark), the Royal Horticultural Society's Lily

Conference, 316
Wedekind (Edgar), die Heterocyklischen Verbindungen der Organischen Chemie, 252
Weight, Does Chemical Transformation Influence, Lord Ray-

leigh, F.R.S., 181 Weights and Measures, le Système Metrique, G. Bigourdan,

250 Weinstein (Dr. B.), die Erdstrome im Deutschen Reichstele-graphengebiet und ihr Zusammenhang mit den Erdmagnet-

ischen Erscheinungen, 230 Weiss (Georges), Law of Electrical Stimulation of Nerves, 72 Weiss (Pierre), New System of Ammeters and Voltmeters, 23;

Simple Circular Slide-Rule, 523

Wells (H. G.), Future Warfare, 454

Wells (H. L.), a Cæsium-Tellurium Fluoride, 547

Wesendonk (Dr. Karl v.), the Spectra of Carbon Monoxide and Silicon Compounds, 29

West (G. S.), B. Eyferth's Einfachste Lebensformen Thes Tierund Pflanzenreiches, Dr. Walther Schönichen und Dr. Alfred Kalberlah, 301

West (William), Death and Obituary Notice of, 579

West African Studies, Mary H. Kingsley, 231 West Indies, British, the Marine Resources of, Dr. J. E. Duerden, 31

Wet Days, the Moon and, Alex. B. MacDowall, 424 Wethered (E. G.), the Coal Exports of Great Britain, 19 Wetterkunde, Leitfaden der, Dr. R. Börnstein, 180 Whale, Cogia, Viscera of, Dr. W. B. Benham, 142 Whales, Armour-clad, 652

Wharton (Sir W. J. L.), the Admiralty Survey, 1900, 309 Wheat, Field Experiments on, Prof. Italo Giglioli, 229

Wheeler (W. H.), the Settlement of Solid Matter in Fresh and Salt Water, 181; Social Symbiosis among American Ants, 409; on the Sources of the Warp in the Humber, 566

Wheeler (W. M.), Imposters among Animals, 264
White (Gilbert), the Natural History of Selborne, 276; the Life and Letters of Gilbert White, of Selborne, Rashleigh Holt-White, 276; the Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, 369

White (S. A. F.), Effect of High Frequency Oscillatory Field on Electrical Resistance, 246

Whitfield (Dr. A.), Electrolytical Method of Removing Super-

Whitheld (Dr. A.), Electrolytical Method of Removing Superfluous Hairs, 311
Wigham (F. H.), Steel Wire with and without Copper, 492
Wigham (J. R.), on a Long-continuous-burning Petroleum Lamp for Beacons and Buoys, 613
Wild Flowers, a Raid on, Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S., Prof. R. Meldola, F.R.S., 126; David Houston, 156
Wild Flowers, the Story of, Rev. Prof. G. Henslow, 350
Wilkin (Anthony), Death and Obituary Notice of, 110

Wilkin (A.), Libyan Notes, 123 Williams (Stanley), New Variable Star 71 (1901) Aurigæ, 89 Willis (E. C.), the New Comet, 55

Willis (J. M.), a Cæsium-Tellurium Fluoride, 547
Wilson (Ernest), the Growth of Magnetism in Iron under
Alternating Magnetic Force, 46]

Wilson (Prof. E.), on the Commercial Importance of Aluminium,

Wilson (Dr. H. A.), Electrical Conductivity of Air and Salt Vapour, 70; Magnetic Deflection of Kathode Rays, 95; on the Magnetic Effects of Electrical Convection, 586

Wingham (Arthur), Bearing on Fracture of Internal Strains of Iron and Steel. 492

Wireless Telegraphy: Marconi's, on the Lake Champlain, Atlantic Liner, 111; Wireless Telegraphy on Ocean Liners, 188; Wireless Telegraphy on the *Lucania*, 381, 406, 553; Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi, 130; Wireless Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy, Mr. Marconi, 130; Wireless Telegraphy for War Purposes, 383; Drahtlose Telegraphie durch Wasser und Luft, Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Braun, 497; Wireless Telegraphy, James Bowman Lindsay, Sir William Preece, 521; a New Principle discovered, A. Orling and T. Armstrong, 636; Wireless Telegraphic Communication with Zugspitze Observatory, Bavaria, 637

Wislicenus (Johannes), the Leipzig Chemical Laboratory, 127 Withers (Prof. H. L.), on the Scope of Educational Science, 591

Withers (Prof.), on the Teaching of Botany in Universities, 593 Woad as a Blue Dye, Dr. C. B. Plowright, 413 Woburn Abbey, Musk-Ox and Bison at, 63 Woburn Abbey Musk-Ox, the Age of the, R. Lydekker, F.R.S.,

Women, Handbook of British, Continental and Canadian Universities, with Special Mention of the Courses open to, 301 Wood (R. W.), the Flash-Spectrum, 23 Wood (Prof. R. W.), Pseudoscopic Vision without a Pseudo-

scope, a New Optical Illusion, 351 Wood (Dr. Wallace), Cerebral Science Studies in Anatomical

Psychology, 101 Woodward (Dr. A. Smith), on the Bone-beds of Pikermi, Attica, 566; on a Newly-discovered Bone-bed at Achmet

Aga, North Eubcea, 566 Woodward (Martin Fountain), Death of, 528; Obituary Notice

of, 578

Woodward (Prof. R. S.), Address at the Denver Meeting of the American Association, 498 Woolnough (W. G.), New Rock from Kosciusko, New South

Wales, 416

Wordingham (C. H.), Central Electrical Stations, their Design, rganisation and Management, 100

Words in Reasoning, the use of, Alfred Sidgwick, 231 Worgitzky (Georg), Blütengeheimnisse: Eine Blütenbiologie in

Einzelbildern, 444 Worsfold (T. Cato), French Stonehenge: an Account of the Megalithic Remains in the Morbihan Archipelago, 465 Worsdell (W. C.), on the Morphology of the "Flowers" of

Cephalotaxus, 618

Wren (H. B.), Relations between Climate and Crops, 493 Wright (M. O.), Flowers and Ferns in their Haunts, 375 Wundt (W.), Gustav Theodor Fechner, 526

J.), Nernst Lamp in America, Paper read at American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 632 Wye, the South Eastern Agricultural College at, 283

Xenia, Hybrid Oochromy, with a Note on, G. P. Bulman, 207

Yapp (R. H.), on two Malayan "Myrmecophilous" Ferns, 617 Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1900, Prof. R. Warington, F.R.S., 372 Yeast, the Nutrition of, A. L. Stern, 175 Yellow Fever, Mosquitoes and, 453; Dr. H. de Gouvea, 655

Yew, on the Past History of the, in Great Britain and Ireland, Prof. Conwentz, 617

Yorkshire Earthworks, Mrs. E. S. Armitage, 531 Yorkshire East, the Geological History of the Rivers of, F. R.

Cowper Reed, 277
Young (Dr. Charles G.), the Stalk-eyed Crustacea of British Guiana, West Indies and Bermuda, 98
Young (J. W. A.), the Elements of the Differential and Integral Calculus, 396

Young (Prof. S.), Thermal Properties of Isopentane and Normal Pentane, 93

Zaky (A.), Lecithin in Tuberculosis, 572
Zaremba (S.), Proof of Fundamental Surface Functions, 214
Zebras and Zebra Hybrids, Prof. J. C. Ewart on, 588, 589
Zeeman Effect, Asymmetry of, G. W. Walker, 668
Zell (Dr. Th.), Polyphem ein Gorilla, 467
Zero of Temperature, a Possible Method of Attaining the

Absolute, Geoffrey Martin, 376 Zodiacal Light, Photographs of the, 42

Zones in Chalk, Dr. A. W. Rowe, 355
Zoogeography: Über die geologische Geschichte der Insel Celebes
auf Grund der Thierverbreitung, Dr. Paul Sarasin and Dr.

Fritz Sarasin, 203 Zoology: Zoological Gardens, Additions to, 21, 42, 62, 89, 113, 136, 167, 191, 216, 240, 265, 289, 311, 335, 359, 384, 410, 436, 456, 491, 523, 531, 556, 583, 609, 638, 658; a Treatise on Zoology, Prof. E. Ray Lankester, F.R.S., Part II. the Porifera and Coelentera, E. A. Minchin, G. H. Fowler and Porifera and Cœlentera, E. A. Minchin, G. H. Fowler and G. C. Bourne, 26; Zoological Society, 70, 142, 223, 247; Musk-Ox and Bison at Woburn Abbey, 63; the Age of the Woburn Abbey Musk-Ox, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 103; the Australian Marsupials, B. A. Bensley, 88; the Wood Bison of Great Slave Lake, Dr. J. A. Allen, 135; New Mammals from Uganda, Oldfield Thomas, 142; Viscera of Cogia Whale, Dr. W. B. Benham, 142; the Anatomy of the Cat, Jacob Reighard and H. S. Jennings, 155; the Okapi, 188, 309; Prof. E. R. Lankester, F.R.S., 188, 247; the Hair of the Patagonian Ground-Sloth, Dr. W. G. Ridewood, 190; Instances of Commensalism, Major Alcock, 190; Anatomy of Slugs from North-West Borneo, W. E. Collinge, 199; the Rhinoceros, Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S., 223; Antlers of Central Borneo Deer, Oldfield Thomas, 247; Novitates Zoologicæ, a Journal of Zoology in connection with the Tring Museum, 249; an instance of Adaptation among the Deer, R. Lydekker, F.R.S., 257; Hair in Equidæ, F. H. A. Marshall, 271; Death of Baron H. de Lacaze Duthiers, 308; Marshall, 271; Death of Baron H. de Lacaze Duthiers, 308; Obituary Notice of, 380; Ovis fannini, W. T. Hornaday, 310; the Origin and Habits of the Bactrian Camel, 355; Pearl and Pearl-shell Fisheries, Prof. W. C. McIntosh, F.R.S., 376; the Food of the Senegal Galago, M. O. Hill, F.R.S., 376; the Food of the Senegal Galago, M. O. Hill, 376; Fauna of North-East Rhodesia, C. P. Chesnaye, 383; Studies on the Hexactinellida, Isao Iijima, Prof. E. A. Minchin, 393; the Cambridge Natural History, vol. viii. Amphibia and Reptiles, Hans Gadow, G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., 401; the International Zoological Congress, 405; Tierleben der Tiefsee, Oswald Seeliger, 423: Three New Species of Peripatus, R. Evans, 490; the "Crystalline Style" of the Bivalve Molluscs, S. B. Mitra, 490; Animal Life: a First Book of Zoology, President D. Starr Jordan and Prof. V. L. Kellogg, 525; Zoology of the Twentieth and Prof. V. L. Kellogg, 525; Zoology of the Twentieth Century, Address at American Association for Advancement of Science, at Denver, Prof. C. B. Davenport, 566; Death and Obituary 'Notice of Martin F. Woodward, 578; the Origin and Birthplace of the Proboscidea, Dr. C.W. Andrews,



## A WEEKLY ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF SCIENCE.

"To the solid ground
Of Nature trusts the mind which builds for aye."—WORDSWORTH.

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1901.

#### THE PHYSICIAN AS PHYSIOLOGIST.

A Contribution to the Study of the Blood and Bloodpressure. By George Oliver, M.D. London, F.R.C.P. Pp. xii+276. (London: H. K. Lewis, 1901.) Price 7s. 6d.

T is to be feared that most medical men who are engaged in the active practice of their profession have little idea of making a practical application of the knowledge of physiology which they were at so great pains to acquire during the student period of their career. There are, however, many exceptions, and prominent amongst them the author of the little work which it is our present purpose to notice. Dr. George Oliver is fortunate in that his sphere of practice has given him leisure during several months in each year to study at length such physiological problems as have appeared to him to bear more directly upon the affections which he has been mainly called upon to treat, and the result of his studies has been a not immaterial addition to our knowledge of the physiology of the circulation and of the blood. Such addition has been obtained largely by the devising of methods which have more immediate applicability to the human subject than those which are in common use in the physiological laboratory. Not that Dr. Oliver has neglected the more strictly scientific study of physiological questions; as is evidenced by his well-known investigations into the functions of the ductless glands. But in the book before us the methods which are described are solely those which, whilst maintaining a high standard of scientific value, have a direct clinical application, and the observations which are given are the results of such application in the normal and occasionally in the abnormal subject, extending over a period of some ten years.

The first method which is described is that for determining the amount of colouring matter (hæmoglobin) in a sample of blood. For this purpose two chief procedures have come into use clinically. The principle of the one is that of taking a standard solution of hæmoglobin of

known dilution and diluting the sample of blood to be tested until its tint is similar to that of the standard (method of Hoppe-Seyler, modified by Gowers by the use of a picrocarmin gelatin, standardised to a known strength of hæmoglobin solution). The other proceeds on the principle of diluting the sample of blood to a constant extent and comparing it with glass tinted to resemble solutions of hæmoglobin of known degrees of dilution (method of Fleischl). In practice this method is the more simple and accurate, and has been adopted by Dr. Oliver, who has, however, for adequate reasons discarded the use of a coloured glass wedge which is the characteristic of Fleischl's hæmometer, and has adopted, instead, a series of coloured glass discs which represent gradations (percentages) in the amount of hæmoglobin of blood as compared with the normal. One of the most important reasons for this modification of the method is of great scientific interest; for it was found by Dr. Oliver, when making observations with Lovibond's tintometer on the mixture of colours required to reproduce exactly the tint of solutions of hæmoglobin of different strengths, that it is not possible to take a glass of a tint the same as that of a fairly strong solution of hæmoglobin and, merely by decreasing its thickness, to imitate the colour of a very weak solution, but that it is necessary, also, to alter the tone of colour with the change in strength of the solution, e.g. for comparison with weaker solutions of hæmoglobin it is necessary to add more yellow to the tint of the glass standards which are used for comparison with stronger solutions. The second method described is one for rapidly computing the number of coloured corpuscles in a given sample of blood. The older method depends upon the actual counting of the number in a measured quantity of blood diluted to a known amount with an isotonic solution of salts; indeed, all methods of computation must be standardised by this one. But such computation is laborious and takes some 15 minutes at the very least, whereas by the procedure devised by Dr. Oliver a satisfactory result can be obtained in less than 5 minutes. The method takes advantage of the fact that the coloured corpuscles of the blood impart opacity to any fluid in which they are suspended in sufficient number, and with normal blood taken as the standard a less or greater

percentage of corpuscles than the normal can be at once arrived at with considerable accuracy by determining at what dilution the flame of a candle can be seen through the mixture. By the employment of this method Dr. Oliver has made many determinations of the percentage (as compared with normal) of corpuscles in blood taken under different conditions both in health and disease, the chief of these varying conditions being those relating to time of day, rest and exercise, digestion, temperature and altitude. It is known that the number of red corpuscles per cubic millimetre may rise from 4,500,000 at sea-level to 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 at elevations of from 6000 to 14,000 feet above sea-level. This has been determined by Viault on the Cordilleras and by Egger and others on the Alps, and is confirmed by the author, who finds that the increase is apparent within 24 hours and attains its maximum within the first week. It is, however, not as great as had been supposed; part of the former results depending upon an inaccuracy (at low barometric pressures) in the instrument usually employed for enumeration, an inaccuracy not shared by the cytometer employed in these investigations. The description of these two methods and their results occupies nearly one half of the book, the other half being taken up by a description of methods for investigating the condition of the blood-vessels.

Of these the first is one for determining the average blood-pressure in the arteries. It is based upon the ascertained fact that any instrument which is used to observe the arterial pulse by external application gives the largest indications of pressure variations when the force with which it is itself pressing upon the artery is equivalent to the average blood-pressure within the vessel. This principle has already been employed for gauging the blood-pressure in man by Mosso and others, but the instrument which has been contrived by Dr. Oliver for the purpose, and which he called a "hæmodynamometer," is both more sensitive and more easy of application than most others which have been devised, the pressure being applied to a spring through an indiarubber bag or pad filled with fluid, and the indications being directly read off upon a dial (as in Hill and Barnard's original sphygmoscope). An even more ingenious instrument is the "arteriometer," which directly and with great accuracy measures the calibre of an artery, such as the radial, through all the tissues which cover it. Dr. Oliver has, with the aid of these instruments, recorded a very large number of observations upon the effects upon blood-pressure and upon the arteries of varying physiological conditions such as posture, exercise, emotions, rest and sleep, fatigue, food and digestion, temperature and climate; for the details of these and for many other observations on the effects upon the circulatory system of baths, massage and various other forms of treatment the interested reader is referred to the account which the author has himself given. The book furnishes an excellent illustration of what can be done by the scientific physician for the advancement of physiological knowledge, and its perusal will repay, not only the clinician for whom it is primarily intended, but also the physiologist who desires to compare the results which he obtains by experiments upon animals with those which can be obtained by experiments upon man.

A GERMAN NATURALIST IN THE WEST INDIES AND AMERICA.

Von den Antillen zum Fernen Westen; Reiseskizzen eines Naturforschers. By F. Doflein. Pp. iv + 180. Illustrated. (Jena: G. Fischer, 1900.) Price M. 6.50.

7 HILE containing little or nothing in the way or absolute novelty, this narrative of the travels of a German naturalist in the West Indies, Mexico, California, and the far North-West of America is a pleasantly written and charmingly illustrated volume which can scarcely fail to interest and attract a large number of his fellow-countrymen. According to the author, German travellers but seldom visit the countries through which he passed, so that the greater part of what he has to tell will be new to the majority of his readers. With the exception of two, the originals of the photographic illustrations, which add so much to the attractiveness of the volume, were taken by the author himself; and the exquisite manner in which these photographs have been reproduced reflects the highest credit on the firm to whom the task was entrusted.

The first part of the book, which is divided into seven chapters, is devoted to the West Indies, where Martinique was the first island visited. Here the author was much interested in the botanical gardens, where he was struck by the richness of the vegetation, and especially by the luxuriance of the lianas. Several charming views in the island are given.

The author's next point was Barbadoes, where he left the great ocean steamer to take passage in a smaller vessel for a cruise among the lovely isles of the Lesser Antilles group. After devoting several chapters to his experiences among these, the narrator discusses in the sixth the racial problems presented by the West Indies, illustrating a few characteristic types. In Chapter vii. he treats of the fauna of the Lesser Antilles, dwelling on the close connection existing between the animals of that group and those of Venezuela, Colombia and Central America, and giving good pictures of a few of the more remarkable forms, among them the dreaded fer-de-lance snake. A section of this chapter describes in some detail the coast fauna of Martinique, a striking feature of this part being the photograph of a tropic-bird in flight.

The remaining nine chapters, forming the second half of the volume, describe the continental portion of the author's tour, and are at least as full of interest as their predecessors. In the first of these chapters (viii.) we have an instructive sketch of the ancient buildings and weapons of Mexico, which the author calls the Pompeii of America. In addition to a view of the celebrated temple of the sun and photographs of stone weapons, the author gives a plate of human and animal clay masks collected by himself at Teotihuacan. In Chapter ix. we have a description of a traverse of the great desert tract of Mexico, illustrated by an excellent photograph of giant cactuses; while, in striking contrast to this, the reader, in Chapter x., is introduced to the glories of a summer's day in California. Following the latter is a description of a Chinese settlement in the same country, where the photograph of "Chinatown" will not fail to impress the reader with the importance assumed by the Mongolian

element in this part of America. Nor is zoology by any means neglected, Chapter xii. being devoted to an account of the Californian marine fauna, illustrated with a photograph of one of the remarkable Pacific hag-fishes of the genus Bdellostoma, and a second of the Californian medusa-starfish. Lovers of forest scenery will be enchanted with the beautiful photograph of a Sequoia-forest in California, which forms the most striking feature in the thirteeenth chapter; this chapter dealing, not only with the primeval forests of the district, but likewise with the timber-felling industry.

In his concluding chapter, Dr. Doflein presents his readers with a capital account of the Yellowstone Park and its animal wonders, illustrating his description with an excellent photograph of a family party of black bears in their native wilds. The photograph of bisons is, however, by no means so successful as it might be, being, for one thing, on much too small a scale. Still more unsatisfactory is the one on page 175 lettered "Die Amerikanische Gemse (Weibchen)," which is intended to portray the female of the prongbuck. If we are not mistaken, the animal in the foreground is a wapiti hind, while the one in the middle distance might be anything.

To any English reader desirous of keeping up his German by the perusal of a pleasantly written narrative of travel, Dr. Doflein's work may be commended; to his own countrymen it will commend itself.

R. L.

### A BIBLICAL ENCYCLOPÆDIA.

Encyclopaedia Biblica, Critical Dictionary of the Literary, Political and Religious History, the Archaeology, Geography and Natural History of the Bible. Edited by Prof. T. K. Cheyne and Dr. J. Sutherland Black. Vol. ii. E—K. (A. and C. Black, 1901.) Price 20s. net.

WORK like this demands a critic whose forte is omniscience, for the articles are written by men who can speak as authorities, and necessarily enter into questions of theology, a province of human thought with which science is only indirectly concerned. This alone makes it difficult to give any notice of the book in a publication strictly scientific. To read through a volume of 1544 closely printed columns of small type would be a herculean task which we do not pretend to have attempted. We have not perused more than a few of the salient articles in the present volume, which, as it contains the letters from E to K, happens to include a large number of exceptional interest. If we remember that even the letter J covers names such as James, Jasher, Jeremiah, Jerusalem, Jesus, Job, John, Jordan, Joshua, Joseph, Judah and Judges we realise the significance of many articles. These seem to be summaries of everything important that has been written on the subject. Indeed, sometimes the variety is a little bewildering to the ordinary reader, who, however, cannot complain of a stinted choice, though the writers generally favour views distinctly progressive. One or two slips, notwithstanding the care with which, obviously, the work has been done, have caught our eye, such as the statement that the vicinity of Jerusalem consists of strata of the Eocene and Chalk formations-where Cretaceous should have been written, as the limestone is not the variety designated chalk; or the obvious clerical error that Esdraelon lies 250 feet below the sea-level, which would make it difficult for the river Kishon to reach the Mediterranean. But the topographical articles, which of course have to be largely dealt with from the historical point of view, are generally excellent. For instance, the article "Geography" gives a most interesting account of what was known about that subject by the Old Testament Formerly, no doubt, when the relations of theology and science were ill-understood, questions of Hebrew cosmogony and ethnology were more important than they now are; still there is an antiquarian interest, when the date of a document can be approximately determined, to see how much or how little the Hebrews had ascertained about the rest of the world. Evidently the knowledge of the Old Testament writers hardly extended eastward beyond Persia, or northward so far as the Caucasus, or southward beyond Ethiopia on the African continent, or westward of Greece, excepting Tartessus in Spain or possibly either Sicily or Carthage. If they had any notions of regions lying beyond those limits, such as India or China, these must have been of the vaguest, unless we locate Ophir in Mashonaland, to which identification, however, as we infer from the article on gold, the editor does not incline. The books of the Old Testament cover a long time, and knowledge grew; but we may safely assume that the writer of the ethnographical notices in Genesis x., whatever be their date, either did not know of, or deliberately excluded, the Black and the Yellow races. Probably, indeed, until about the tenth century before our era, the Hebrews had only a very limited knowledge of geography. The article on Egypt is full of information and has been brought down as nearly as possible to date. It is accompanied by three very useful little maps; one, a physical map of the Nile valley, north of Khartoum, another, on a smaller scale, of the Nile and the Euphrates, and a third showing the broader features of the geology. This brings out very clearly the close connection between the Sinaitic peninsula and the mountain region between the river and the Red Sea, and contains much information in a very small space.

A comparison of the historical part of this article with that in Smith's "Dictionary of the Bible," published in 1860, indicates, better than anything, how enormously our knowledge has been increased during recent years. The same is true in regard to the articles on the topography of Jerusalem. No doubt the one in the older work was below the general level, for the editor, owing to some strange infatuation, had accepted as established facts the absurd fancies of the late Mr. James These are properly ignored in the work before us, which treats this difficult and thorny subject in a fair and scholarly fashion. The author may sometimes incline to one view, the reader to another, but evidence is not perverted as it was in the older work. Personally, for instance, we do not believe the Ophel Hill to have been the site of the City of David. The passages supposed to be favourable to this identification are not, in our opinion, of much weight, and the distance of Jebus from any known spring is a difficulty which attaches to many hill forts. Some in our own country could not have endured a close siege for a few days without storage of water, and cisterns were familiar things at Jerusalem.

The western hill, like another Gergovia, is a natural site for a hill fort, while the descending ridge of Ophel, so far as we can infer from our studies of such structures, is exactly the position which their builders would have avoided. Such articles as "Gospels" and "Jesus" introduce us to questions of a character and a theological import which we must not discuss in these columns. Suffice it to say that, while indicating a certain amount of reaction from the extreme vagaries of representatives of the so-called "higher criticism," they express, as a rule, eminently "progressive" views. Some, indeed, are so very advanced that they could not, so far as we can see, be covered by the most liberal interpretation of the Nicene creed. Persons, however, who view with anxiety these removals of ancient landmarks may comfort themselves by observing how many idols of the cave have been set up by one confident discoverer only to be trampled under foot by the next comer. Indeed, on reading some of these efforts of the higher criticism we cannot help being reminded of the famous Historic Doubts, and think that by using similar methods we could prove William the Conqueror to be a person almost mythical and the Battle of Hastings mainly a legend. T. G. B.

#### OUR BOOK SHELF.

Plato's Staat, F. Schleiermacher. Zweite Auflage. C. Th. Siegert. (1901.) Mk. 3. John Locke's Versuch über den Menschlichen Verstand. Zweiter Band. Zweite Auflage. C. Th. Siegert.

(1901.) Mk, 3. Berkeley's Abhandlung über die Prinzipien der Mensch-lichen Erkenntnis. Dr. F. Ueberweg. Dritte Auflage.

(1900.) Mk. 2. Berkeley's Drei Dialoge zwischen Hylas und Philonous. Dr. R. Richter. (Leipzig: Dürr'schen Buchhandlung,

1901.) Mk. 2. THERE is in Germany a widespread appetite for meta-Earlier there than elsewhere scholars and philosophers of an order not far removed from the highest came to recognise that work bestowed on the translation and elucidation of foreign masterpieces in philosophy was the best of trainings in exact thinking and expression. The zeal of von Kirchmann for his educational ideal was untiring, and his industry was appalling. In the result, the Philosophische Bibliothek has succeeded in combining low cost and high achievement. It is the more to be regretted that its volumes

so often come to pieces in the hand.

Schleiermacher's translation of "Plato's Republic," with von Kirchmann's sporadic notes, "needs no bush." It will not, of course, be much used in England after the labours of Davies and Vaughan and Dr. Bosanquet. It has undergone some revision, but still scorns Greek accents, while its use of breathings is haphazard. Similarly, von Kirchmann's translation of "Locke's Essay" has undergone revision before reissue. Something of the effect of Locke's style vanishes in the trans-lation, but the substance is there. It is only the separate volume of notes which is likely to interest the English Ueberweg's excellent public, and that not greatly. version of the masterwork of Berkeley's earlier idealism has passed into a third edition, advisedly without revision. Its incisive notes possess some value even for those who have studied their Berkeley with the aids supplied by Prof. Campbell Fraser. It has a worthy successor in Dr. Raoul Richter's translation of "Berkeley's Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous." If we have not been singularly unfortunate-or fortunate-in

our sampling, Dr. Richter has succeeded as well as the translator of Berkeley could hope to succeed. He adds a straightforward introduction and some luminous notes chiefly on the usage of technical terms. The new series is, to our thinking, superior in form, printing and, above all, in stitching, to the old. The student, for whom the reading of Kant or Hegel in the original is only a hope of the distant future, might be worse advised than to take Dr. Richter's version of the dialogues and ground himself in German philosophical terminology by reading it along with the brilliant original. An English translation of a German "minor masterpiece" at once as excellent as this and as cheap is still to seek.

The Fishes of North and Middle America; a Descriptive Catalogue of the Species of Fish-like Vertebrates, found in the Waters of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama. By David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Evermann. Part iv. Pp. ci + 3137-3313; plates I-CCCXCII. (Washington: U. S. National Museum, 1900.)

THE present part concludes this important work, of which we have given a full notice in vol. lxi of NATURE, p. 362. It commences with a systematic arrangement of the fishes described, which serves not only as a table of contents for all the four parts, but also as an exhibition of the views of the authors as to the genetic relations of American fishes. From it it will be seen that the fishfauna of North and Middle America, as now understood and as stated by the authors, embraces 3 classes, 30 orders, 225 families, 1113 genera, 325 subgenera, 3263 species and 133 subspecies. "Additional Addenda" follow and occupy some 60 pages; they comprise a number of new genera and species described since the publication of part iii., the majority being the result of investigations made by Dr. Jordan in Mexico, and by Dr. Evermann in Porto Rico. Other additions or corrections regarding nomenclature, relations and distribution of previously known species, are duly attended to.

The bulk of the volume is devoted to the illustrations. In this series are represented about 958 types of fishes, thus, so far as numbers are concerned, surpassing even Cuvier and Valenciennes' "Histoire naturelle des Poissons," in which only about 700 species are figured. With few exceptions, the figures are original, and were drawn for the present work from specimens preserved in American collections, and by means of photography reproduced to a uniform size, the width of an octavo page. As the work has been published by the Smithsonian Institution with the view of bringing it within the reach of the people, no highly artistic and, therefore, expensive finish of the illustrations has been attempted; but they have not lost in accuracy thereby, and will fully answer the purpose of assisting the student of ichthyology in his initial studies, or the layman who seeks for occasional information. They show well the general appearance of the fish, the structure of fins and the arrangement of scales; but scarcely any additional details are given to illustrate the characters on which the numerous genera and species distinguished or adopted by the authors are based.

The illustrations are preceded by an explanatory list, in which the names of the artists, the numbers of the original specimens in the United States National Museum, or other sources whence the drawings were derived, are carefully noted. In fact, no pains have been spared by the authors to render their work instructive

and handy for reference and ready use.

Already in our first notice we have testified to the high merits of the work; it renders the rich American fishfauna more accessible than ever before to scientific ichthyologists throughout the world, and cannot fail to give a powerful impetus to the study of fishes in the authors' own country.

A. G. Die wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt. Von W. Ostwald. Dritte Auflage. Pp. xi+221. (Leipzig: Engelmann, 1901.) Price M. 7.

THE services that Prof. Ostwald has rendered to physical science during the last quarter of a century are so numerous and so valuable that his writings cannot fail to exert considerable influence. In working out and extending the theories of van 't Hoff and Arrhenius he played a leading part in laying the foundations of physical chemistry; and in applying these principles to the consideration of the problems of analytical chemistry, he has effected a complete revolution in the methods of approaching that subject. In 1894 he published the first edition of the "Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen," and thus furnished us with scientific explanations of much that up till that time had been little more than mere empiricism; analytical processes were interpreted by him in the light of the theory of solutions and the ionic hypothesis, and thus new life was infused into a branch of science that had become almost moribund.

It is gratifying to think that Prof. Ostwald's efforts have been appreciated; and the fact that a third edition of this striking work has been called for is sufficient evidence of its success. The new ideas are beginning to take a firm root, and are already finding their way into the latest text-books on the subject.

It is to be hoped that teachers of practical chemistry will study the pages of this last edition of the "Grundlagen der analytischen Chemie," and arrange their methods of instruction on the new lines it suggests. With this end in view Prof. Ostwald has added a chapter containing descriptions of a number of experiments illustrating some of the more important principles on which analytical chemistry is based.

In conclusion, we would draw attention to the closing words in which the author advocates the use of as simple apparatus as possible, that the attention of the student may be concentrated on the chief features of the experiment. Coming from so brilliant an experimenter and so popular a teacher, the advice is worthy of special emphasis.

An Introduction to Modern Scientific Chemistry. By Dr. Lassar-Cohn. Translated by M. M. Pattison Muir, M. A. Pp. viii + 348. (London: H. Grevel and Co.)

THE German original of this book has already been noticed in these columns (vol. lxi. p. 51, 1899). It has been translated into smooth English by Mr. Pattison Muir, and it may be cordially recommended as a clear exposition of the leading facts and principles of chemistry, well adapted to the class of readers for whom it was written, namely, University extension students and general readers. It must be borne in mind that the book is not intended for those who are able to study chemistry with their own hands. The fifty-eight illustrations in the book are its worst feature, but they are by the author, and no doubt the translator had no choice but to reproduce them.

A. S.

First Aid to the Injured. By H. Drinkwater. Pp. 104. (London: J. M. Dent and Co.; no date.) Price, 1s. net.

THE number and excellency of the illustrations are special features of this little book, and increase its interest and clearness, doing away also with the need of lengthy explanations. The proportion between the theoretical and practical parts is well maintained. The anatomical details are not by any means unduly prominent, but are only introduced in so far as they are necessary to enable the practical directions to be intelligently followed. The book can be strongly recommended as a clear and trustworthy instruction in "first aid."

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

#### Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations.

The historical note in your last number by Sig. Vacca regarding the graphical solution of a cubic, given by Mr. T. Hayashi, reminds me that I had intended, when Mr. G. B. Matthews published his suggestion for the graphical solution of a biquadratic by means of two parabolas (NATURE, Nov. 16, 1899), to point out that he too had been anticipated, as will be seen by referring to a paper by Mr. R. E. Allardice in the *Proceedings* of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society (April 7, 1890), where it is shown that, with the exception of the case where the roots of the biquadratic are equal in pairs, the real roots of the general biquadratic can be found graphically by means of two equal parabolas having their axes at right angles, the one fixed and the other movable; and also that every cubic can be reduced to the form  $y^3 \pm y + r = 0$ ; and then solved graphically by means of the fixed curve  $y = x^3$  and the movable straight line  $x \pm y = \hat{r}$ .

I may take this opportunity of calling the attention of elementary teachers to the fact, also dwelt upon in Mr. Allardice's paper, that the most convenient method of discussing the algebraic solution of the general biquadratic, and of testing whether any particular biquadratic is soluble by means of quadratics or not, depends on the familiar theorem that  $ax^2 + 2hxy + by^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c$  is decomposable into linear factors if  $abc + 2fgh - af^2 - bg^2 - ch^2 = 0$ , and not unless. Along with the biquadratic  $x^4 + px^3 + qx^2 + rx + s = 0$  (1) consider the equation  $x^2 - y = 0$  (2). By interequational transformation it is obvious that the system (1), (2) is equivalent to the system composed of (2) and  $qx^2 + pxy + y^2 + rx + s = 0$  (3). Again, the system (2), (3) is equivalent to the system composed of (2) and  $(q - \lambda)x^2 + pxy + y^2 + rx + \lambda y + s = 0$  (4), where  $\lambda$  is a constant at our disposal. If  $\lambda$  be so chosen that the left hand side of (4) breaks up into linear factors; that is, if  $\lambda$  be a root of the cubic

 $\lambda^{3} - q\lambda^{2} + (pr - 4s)\lambda + 4qs - r^{2} - p^{2}s = 0$  (5)

then the system (2), (4) will be equivalent to two systems  $y + \mu x + \nu = 0$ ,  $y = x^2$ , and  $y + \rho x + \sigma = 0$ ,  $y = x^2$ . In other words, the four roots of (1) are the roots of the two quadratics  $x^2 + \mu x + \nu = 0$ ,  $x^2 + \rho x + \sigma = 0$ .

The cubic (5) is not in general soluble by means of quadra-

The cubic (5) is not in general soluble by means of quadratics without the adjunction of a cube root: hence the solution of a biquadratic in general depends on the solution of a cubic and two quadratics.

The necessary and sufficient condition that the cubic be soluble by means of quadratics is that it have a commensurable root, which, if it exist, can be readily found by finding an integral root of another cubic of the form  $x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$ , where a, b, c are all integral. The determination of  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\rho$ ,  $\sigma$  then requires, in addition to rational operations with  $\rho$ , q, r, s,  $\lambda$ , merely the extraction of a square root.

To the tyro who is familiar with the elements of the coordinate geometry of the conic sections the rationale of the above process can be made evident by the consideration of the two line-pairs which contain the four points of intersection of two conics. It may be noted that, instead of the parabola  $y=x^2$ , we may use the rectangular hyperbola xy=1, the only difference being that we are led to a different cubic resolvent.

Considering the space usually given in English text-books of algebra to the discussion of equations which are soluble by means of quadratics, it is strange that few, if any, of their authors emphasise the fundamental fact that the reduction of a biquadratic which is soluble by means of quadratics can be effected by finding the rational root of a cubic equation. I fear that I too must plead guilty to this omission, which among other things I propose to make good in the next edition of vol. i. of my "Algebra."

G. Chrystal.

Edinburgh, April 26.

#### Electro-Chemistry.

ALLOW me to point out an omission unnoticed by your reviewer of Mr. Bertram Blount's book on practical electrochemistry (p. 582). Mr. Blount refers to the electrolysis of gold ore as a failure (Haycraft's method).

The omission is probably due to the fact that the process in question (Riecken's) has not been worked on a large scale except during the last three or four months, though the patent is three years old. Its efficacy depends essentially on securing a clean mercury kathode in the form of a thin stream of mercury

flowing over a nearly vertical copper plate.

The liquid containing the pulverised ore is a continually agitated solution of cyanide and the anode is of iron, as the electro-motive force, one and a half volts, liberates nothing more corrosive than cyanogen. The particles of gold are doubtless cleansed of the obstructing sulphide and tellurous films by the convection currents of ionised cyanogen and also, in a more direct way, by the current as it passes through each particle, making in effect one side of it a kathode and the other an anode, just as is seen if we suspend a piece of metal in an electrolyte between the electrodes and unconnected with either.

This simple invention may revolutionise the treatment of refractory ores, yet apparently the inventor could get no hearing for three years till, at his own cost, he erected apparatus on a working scale in West Australia. The facts are valuable as showing how great an interval separates German intelligence

from British engineering practice.

Intelligence of any kind, foreign or native, must indeed have been wanting when huge works, regardless of cost, were erected in presence of the published electrolytic method which could have been effectually tested in a single vat.

JOHN HILL TWIGG.

IF, as your correspondent, Mr. Twigg, says, Riecken's electrolytic process has only been worked on a large scale during the last three or four months, it is not unnatural that Mr. Blount has omitted to describe it. In most cases Mr. Blount has endeavoured to describe processes which are of proved utility, and therefore it was hardly necessary to draw attention to the Further, the number of patents on the subject of electrolytic gold refining is very large, so that it would be manifestly impossible to describe them all. Riecken's process is a very neat one, and should any of the readers of NATURE be interested in the subject, an excellent description is to be found in the "Jahrbuch der Electrochemie" (vol. v. p. 380).

F. MOLLWO PERKIN.

#### Unusual Agitation of the Sea.

On Wednesday, April 24, on going to the edge of the cliff above Alum Chine, Bournemouth, at 7.50 a.m., I was struck by the appearance of a succession of waves, resembling a slight ground swell, reaching the shore from an otherwise calm sea, there being no wind. The character of the waves was rather peculiar, and I then saw that every now and then, at intervals of about two or three minutes, much larger waves came in, and instead of breaking abruptly, extended quietly up the sandy beach to a greater height than was expected from their apparent elevation. I mentioned the phenomenon on reaching the house, and on the suggestion that the waves were the result of a distant storm, could not see that they might be so accounted for. Between 12 and 1 p.m. I again watched the undulations, and roughly measured the length on the beach by which the larger waves extended further than those of ordinary size. This was about 22 feet. The larger waves were less frequent than in the morning. Later in the afternoon, soon after 3 o'clock, some of my family were caught by the exceptionally large undulations, which rose surprisingly high upon the slightly sloping

I have not heard whether any remarkable disturbance has been recorded by the seismometer, but I see in the Daily Mail and Daily Express of April 25 and 26 telegraphic reports of earthquakes in Italy, Portugal and Guernsey on April 24.

ROLLO RUSSELL.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ELECTRIC SIGNALLING.

I T is thirteen years since Hertz carried out the brilliant series of experiments which, apart from their great theoretical value, had the important effect of laying the foundation of modern systems of wireless telegraphy. Three years later we find the *Electrician* making the suggestion that the discoveries of Hertz might be utilised for signalling to lightships, and five years later still, in 1896, Signor Marconi brought over to England the first practical wireless telegraphic apparatus and awakened public interest by the remarkably successful experiments which he carried out on Salisbury Plain and across the Bristol Channel. For a time the technical and lay Press was full of wireless telegraphy; great prospects were predicted for it; communication with lightships and lighthouses was the least of the feats it would accomplish; telegraphy at sea was to become as common as on land; some even went so far as to say that wires and cables of all sorts for telegraphic purposes were to become a thing of the past. But these revolutionary changes, if they are ever to be made, did not come with the rapidity which many apparently expected. It was soon recognised that we needed to know a great deal more about the subject before Hertz waves were to be even a trustworthy servant to the telegraphist, and even now we can scarcely call wireless telegraphy much more than experiment. But we have now more definite grounds for feeling sure of its ultimate success, and we can predict for it a useful future with much more surety and reason than was done in the first outburst of enthusiasm that followed Mr. Marconi's experiments.

The patient and persevering experimenting of the past five years has led to the gradual surmounting of many of the difficulties which at first beset wireless telegraphy, and Mr. Marconi, Prof. Slaby and the other pioneers who have thrown themselves with vigour into its development have met with a success which, if not complete, is yet very promising. It is not the greatly increased distance over which it has become possible to signal, an increase from a few miles in 1896 to more than 200 in 1901, that marks the most important development that has occurred. The greatest achievement is the successful solution of the problem of tuning. It was early seen that before wireless telegraphy could have at all an extended utility it would be necessary to find some means of confining each message to its correct destination and of preventing each receiving apparatus from responding to Hertz waves sent out from any transmitter in its neighbourhood. It seems that now almost all experimenters have overcome this difficulty, at any rate to a certain

extent.

The improvement in distance over which it is possible to signal has been very marked. The empirical law put forward by Mr. Marconi that, other things being equal, the distance over which signalling would be possible was proportional to the product of the heights of the masts at the two ends seems to be fairly well established as a working rule. But the improvements in transmitting and receiving apparatus have been so great that it is now possible to signal over much greater distances with the same heights of masts than was the case in 1898. For example, in 1898 Mr. Marconi was only able to cover 15 miles with vertical wires 120 ft. high, whereas to-day, according to the recent announcement made by Prof. Fleming, a distance of 200 miles from the Lizard to St. Catherine's, Isle of Wight, has been signalled over with masts only 160 ft. high. Mr. Marconi certainly holds the record for long distance work. The example just quoted refers to signalling across sea; across land such great distances have not been attained, but here again we think the credit of having signalled over the greatest distance must be given to Mr. Marconi, who established in 1899 communication between Dovercourt and Chelmsford, a distance of more than 40 miles.

These long distances have been attained by Mr. Marconi partly by the use of a specially constructed transformer in the receiving circuit. Instead of connecting the vertical receiving wire in series with the coherer it is connected in series with the primary of this transformer, the secondary of which is in series with a con-By this means the voltage of denser and the coherer.

the received oscillations is increased, and the resistance of the coherer more easily broken down. A somewhat analogous arrangement is used by Prof. Braun, to whose work allusion has already been made in NATURE, in the transmitting circuit, the oscillations in the vertical wire being set up by induction and not by directly including the spark gap between the vertical wire and earth. The results that have been obtained by Prof. Braun are not, however, nearly so good as Mr. Marconi's latest work.

So far as tuning is concerned, Mr. Marconi appears to have successfully got over this difficulty. Prof. Fleming, in the lecture above referred to, stated that the communication between the Lizard and St. Catherine's was multiplex, it being possible to receive two or more messages at once at each place. Mr. Marconi himself, in an interview with an American contemporary, said that with his improved apparatus he could send or receive 2, 10 or 50 messages at the same time, without any interference whatever. Particulars as to the method have not, however, been published as yet, but it is to be hoped that the details of the system will be explained by Mr. Marconi at his forthcoming lecture at the Society of Arts.

In Germany the subject of wireless telegraphy has been tackled principally by Prof. Slaby and Count Arco, who took up the subject in order to find a system for the German Navy, to replace that of Mr. Marconi, the Marconi Company charging, it was said, prices prohibitive to any but the English Navy. Although the results, so far as distance is concerned, which Prof. Slaby has obtained are not very great, the system that he has developed is one of great interest and seems to be founded on sound scientific principles. Prof. Slaby has aimed throughout at getting rid of interference by producing only oscillations of a definite wave-length and tuning the receiver only to respond to these particular waves. In order to produce the oscillations, the transmitting circuit is arranged as shown in Fig. 1. An earthed loop of wire, ACDE, is used, instead of the single insulated vertical wire usually employed, in one arm of the loop there being a spark gap, AB, and a condenser, K. The ends C and D of the vertical wires are joined by a coil of wire as shown. In charging the condenser the whole loop is used, but in discharging it is only the arm ABC which is utilised, the coil of wire CD preventing the oscillations passing into the remainder of the circuit. Upon the length of the wire KC and the capacity of the condenser K the wave-length of the oscillations depends, and from their known values it can be calculated.

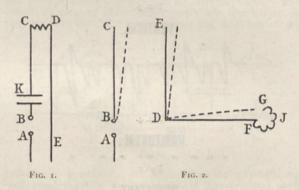
Theoretical considerations showed Prof. Slaby that the free ends of both the transmitting and receiving wires, i.e. the ends C and E (Fig. 2), are potential loops, and that the earthed ends B and D are potential nodes. If, now, to the receiving wire DE a second wire, DF, equal in length to CD, is connected, there will be a potential loop at F. At E and F, therefore, the potential will vary over a much greater range than at D. If at F a further length of wire, J, is attached, such that its length is half a wave-length, then there will be established between F and the free end, G, of the coil J a difference of phase of 180°. At both points there will be potential loops, but when the potential F has a maximum value in one direction that at G will have a maximum value in the opposite direction, and the potential difference between F and G will be double that between F and earth. connecting the coherer between F and G it can thus be made to respond to received oscillations much feebler than those which would be required to work it if it were connected, as is usual, between D and earth. As an additional advantage, the earth connection at D can be removed, and the whole receiving apparatus thus rendered earth free.

Experiments have been made from time to time to 

1 NATURE, 1901, vol. lxiii. pp. 403 and 474.

devise a suitable repeater for use with wireless telegraphy, and the results of some work which has been done by M. Guarini on this subject were recently published in the *Electrician*. M. Guarini established stations at Brussels, Malines and Antwerp; messages were successfully transmitted between Brussels and Malines and also between Malines and Antwerp, and a repeater was then set up at Malines with the object of automatically transmitting the messages received from Antwerp to Brussels. The experiments were not, however, very successful, as the repeater did not always transmit the signals, and it was found, consequently, impossible to send any actual messages. A trustworthy repeater for wireless telegraphy would be very useful, but it is scarcely necessary to point out that it must be absolutely trustworthy, as if a man has to be on the spot to keep it up to its work he may as well be employed in retransmitting the messages.

In the meantime the wire-using telegraphists have been by no means panic stricken by the achievements of their wireless competitors, and some very notable developments have taken place during the past few years. We can only describe here a few of these; those who are more deeply interested in the subject may be referred to Mr. Gavey's paper on telegraphs and telephones at the Paris Exhibition, read recently before the Institution of Electrical Engineers,<sup>2</sup> in which will be



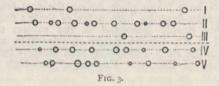
found descriptions of all the more important improvements effected in the last few years. One of the most remarkable is the Pollak-Virag high-speed telegraphic system. This system attracted considerable attention both in the technical and lay Press when it was first brought forward, towards the end of 1899, on account of the extremely high speed of signalling which it was said to be possible to attain by its use. It was reported that in trials in America a speed of 60,000 words an hour had been maintained over a line which was over 1000 miles in length, and that a speed as high as 100,000 words an hour had been attained. This is a very great improvement on the 400 or 500 words a minute possible with the Wheatstone automatic or Delaney multiplex systems, which are those commonly in use in this country. These remarkable results had been achieved by the use of a telephone diaphragm as the receiving instrument, the diaphragm being deflected by the currents received through the telegraph line and a deflection in one direction corresponding to a dash and in the opposite direction The movements of the diaphragm were reto a dot. corded photographically, a small mirror being attached to the diaphragm and a ray of light being reflected from this on to a revolving drum covered with a roll of sensitised paper. The record had, of course, to be subsequently developed in the ordinary manner.

Since its first introduction the system has undergone considerable development, a very ingenious modification

1 The Electrician, March 22, 1901, vol. xlvi. p. 819.
2 Journal of the Institution of Electrical Eng neers, 1901, vol. xxx. p. 73.

having been introduced by means of which the recorded message is written in ordinary Latin characters and can consequently be read by any one. In order to do this it is necessary to give the mirror on the receiving instrument a horizontal as well as a vertical motion, and for this purpose two circuits are needed and two telephone diaphragms, one giving the mirror vertical movements and the other horizontal. A single metallic loop is employed, one telephone being put in the loop and the other between the loop and earth. Horizontal movements of the mirror, to right and to left, are produced by currents passing round the loop in one direction or the other respectively, and vertical movements by currents passing from the loop to earth; in this second case an upward movement is produced by a current in one direction and a downward movement by a current in the opposite direction, and also a downward movement of double the distance by a current at double the normal voltage.

#### PERFORATIONS.



## VERTICAL.

-propry

FIG. 4.

# HORIZONTAL.

FIG. 5.

#### RESULTANT

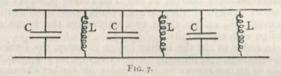
telegrot

The line currents are sent by means of perforated strips of paper much in the same way as in the Wheatstone transmitter, but five strips are used, three to give the vertical components and two for the horizontal. strips are shown in Fig. 3; the rows marked i, ii and iii give the vertical components, the first row giving the tall letters and the third the deflections of double amplitude for the letters with tails; rows iv and v give the horizontal components. Deflections of a fraction of the normal amplitude are given by contacts lasting a shorter time by means of the small perforations as seen in rows ii, iv and v. The perforations are so arranged that the combina-tion of the vertical and horizontal movements of the mirror (as seen in Figs. 4 and 5 respectively) gives the Latin characters (Fig. 6), and all the perforations for one letter are punched at the same time by means of a special machine of the typewriting kind. To obviate the difficulty of having to use a rapidly moving narrow strip of sensitised paper to receive the photographic record, as in a tape machine, a very neat device is employed. The source of light is the filament of an incandescent lamp, which is surrounded by an opaque cylinder in which a helical slit is cut. This cylinder is revolved, and as it turns the part of the filament acting as a source of light moves from left to right as the slit uncovers in succession the various portions of the filament; at the same time, the spot of light reflected on to the recording paper, which is a broad band of sensitised paper, will also move from left to right, thus writing a complete line on the paper; at the end of a complete revolution the spot will return again to the left-hand side of the paper band and will proceed to write a new line, this new line being brought under the other by a movement imparted to the band of paper. The message is thus directly obtained as an ordinary written message in lines one below the other, and the system has thus the great advantage over all Morse methods that the message has not got to be deciphered and transcribed by the receiving telegraphist. With this apparatus it is said that a speed of 1000 words a minute can be obtained.

The Pollak-Virag system, although in its most recent form it gives a record in ordinary handwriting characters, must not be confused with those systems designed to transmit the actual handwriting or drawing of the signaller. Several instruments, under the name telautographs, have from time to time been devised for this purpose, and the late Prof. Elisha Gray was, we believe, engaged on the perfecting of an invention of a telautograph at the time of his death. The attempts at solving the problem, which is, it must be confessed, a very fascinating one even though the very extensive utility of such an instrument may be questioned, have not, so far, proved very successful. Last year, however, there appeared in the technical Press descriptions of a telautograph which is the invention of Mr. Foster Ritchie, and which seems to have got over the difficulties in a very practical manner. In the Ritchie telautograph the message is written with an ordinary pencil; by means of levers attached to this pencil its movements are made to regulate the currents sent through the transmitting lines, and these currents in their turn regulate the motion of a pen at the receiving By an ingenious arrangement the receiving pen only makes marks on the paper when the transmitting pencil is pressed down on the writing table. receiving pen exactly reproduces the characters written at the transmitting end, which can be written at the ordinary speed of handwriting. We hope on a later occasion to give a more detailed description of the apparatus.

We may finally describe an invention which has aroused considerable interest amongst our American cousins, namely, Dr. Pupin's system of long distance and oceanic telephony. Dr. Pupin has, we understand, disposed of his American patent rights to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for a very large sum of money, which shows that this company have great confidence in the invention. The difficulty of carrying out successful telephony over a great length of line arises out of the fact that the line possesses both resistance and capacity; this is especially the case with submarine cables in which the capacity is large. These properties produce both attenuation and distortion of the transmitted signals, the arrival current being both very much weaker and different in character to the current sent into the cable at the transmitting end. The alteration in character is due to the fact that the more rapidly varying currents are more easily attenuated; if a varying current be sent into the cable by speaking into a telephone at the transmitting end this may be analysed, just as the sound to which it corresponds may be analysed, into a fundamental vibra-tion and a number of higher harmonics; the higher harmonics will, after travelling along the cable to a certain distance, become so attenuated that they will be incapable of producing any effect on a receiving telephone, so that such an instrument, if placed at this point, will only be actuated by the fundamental lower harmonics, and the sound it gives out will, in consequence, be different in character from the sound originally made at the transmitting end. The effect will show itself, therefore, in defective articulation, or distortion of the sounds arising out of the distortion of the telephone currents.

It has been shown by Mr. Oliver Heaviside that there are ways in which this distortion may be prevented and a "distortionless circuit" constructed. Without entering too deeply into the subject we may point out briefly the methods by which this may be effected. Since the cable possesses capacity, the first effect of sending current into it is to charge it, and no signal can be received at the far end until the cable is partly charged, and no further signal until the charge has had time to get out. Now if the insulation resistance of the cable be diminished, the charges will more readily leak out and thus it would be possible to expedite signalling; but at the same time the attenuation is increased, for more of the current will leak out of the cable; the remedy is, therefore, only a partial one, for though the speed of signalling may be increased, so much current will leak out on the way that the amount arriving at the far end may be too small to work the receiving instruments. Instead of simply diminishing the insulation resistance or of distributing artificial non-inductive leaks along the cable, inductive leaks may be placed at definite points along the cable; this method was proposed by Prof. S. P. Thompson in a paper read at the International Congress at Chicago in 1893.1 A diagram of the cable construction suggested by Prof. Thompson is shown in Fig. 7; the capacity is represented as though it were not evenly distributed but

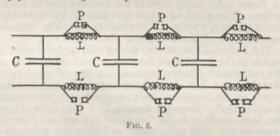


consisted of a number of condensers, C,C, connected as shunts to the cable; the inductive leaks are represented by the coils L.L. The capacity and self-induction are therefore combined in parallel, and it is well known that they can be combined in this way so as to behave, for a definite frequency, exactly as an ohmic resistance. The capacity of a submarine cable may be partially neutralised in this way, but the remedy is only a partial one for three reasons. Firstly, the inductive leaks, to correctly neutralise the capacity, should, like the capacity itself, be evenly distributed along the cable and not distributed in jerks; secondly, the correction will only be exact for a particular frequency; lastly, the leakage is increased and the same defect consequently occurs as in the case considered above in which the distortion was corrected by diminishing the insulation resistance. Theoretically, therefore, the system proposed by Prof. Thompson does not offer a perfect solution or give a truly distortionless circuit; but it would greatly diminish the distortion, though at the same time increasing the attenuation, and might therefore give a practical means of increasing the speed of signalling or even obtaining telephonic communication over the cable.

As Mr. Heaviside has shown, the only true way of obtaining a distortionless circuit—of obtaining the distortionless circuit, as he calls it—is to balance the effect of capacity by self-induction distributed along the cable in series with it and not as a leak to it. The four quantities which control the propagation of disturbances or signals along the line are its resistance, R, its external conductance, or conductivity of the insulation, K, its self-induction, L, and its capacity or "permittance," S, and the signals will be propagated without distortion if

L/R=S/K. The equality of these two ratios may be obtained by altering any of the four variables, but practically we may consider R and S as fixed. In ordinary cables the value of the ratio L/R is very small, and that of  $\mathrm{S/K}$  comparatively large. In order to make the two equal we may increase  $\mathrm{K}$ , that is to say diminish the insulation resistance, but this, as we have seen, leads to excessive leakage and is not, therefore, desirable. The method suggested by Prof. Thompson amounts practically to converting the capacity, s, partly or wholly into insulation conductivity, k, and thus diminishing s/k until it is as small as L/R. The self-induction coils added in this system must not be confounded with the self-induction of the cable L, for they are added as shunts to the cable. The ratio L/R may also be made equal to S/K by adding self-induction coils in series with the cable, thus increasing the value of L; this is the solution adopted by Dr. Pupin. Here again the ideal solution is only obtained when the self-induction is evenly distributed, but a practical solution can be obtained by placing coils at intervals along the cable.

Dr. Pupin, besides repeating a good deal of Mr. Heaviside's theoretical investigations, worked out the necessary values of the self-induction of the coils and the maximum distance apart at which they can be placed in order to imitate sufficiently well an evenly distributed self-induction. He then proceeded to build some coils and to experiment with them on an artificial cable. The results of some of these experiments are interesting, as they point to the great improvement the addition of the



inductance produced. An artificial cable was built up with condensers in the usual way in 250 sections, each section representing a mile of cable; between each section were placed induction coils which could be short-circuited by plugs. A diagram of this cable is given in Fig. 8; as before, the capacity is represented as if it consisted of condensers, C,C; the induction coils are shown at L,L; these coils are short-circuited by inserting the plugs at the contacts P,P. When all the coils were in circuit telephonic communication could be carried on with perfect ease over the whole length, 250 miles, of the cable; when, however, the coils were short-circuited conversation was good up to 50 miles only, fair up to 75, impracticable at 100 and impossible beyond 112. It must be remembered in considering these results that the cable was an artificial one and that possibilities of error are consequently great, so that the results must not be transferred with too much confidence to the case of an actual cable.

Apart from this, however, the results are extremely good, and Dr. Pupin is to be congratulated on having obtained experimentally a practically distortionless circuit. It is perfectly true, no doubt, that Mr. Heaviside had obtained the solution already theoretically; but the engineers generally require to have their attention attracted by actual experiment and are not too prone to make changes on a theoretical basis only, however sound. Whether a cable can be commercially constructed on the lines of Dr. Pupin's artificial cable is a question for the practicians; we have no doubt that, now its advantages have been demonstrated, they will be able to find a way. The enormous advantage of Transatlantic telephony can never

for a moment be questioned; it means much more than that we shall be able to telephone to America; it means that we shall be able to telegraph at the speed of the automatic transmitter. The present speed of Transatlantic telegraphy is something like 20 words a minute, and there are 12 duplexed cables having, therefore, a carrying capacity of about 500 words a minute. A single distortionless cable, built on Dr. Pupin's plan and working with an automatic transmitter, would have, therefore, a carrying capacity equal to that of all the existing cables.

#### INDIGO AND SUGAR.

THE Behar Sugar Commission, which was appointed in October of last year to see whether improvements might not be made in the cultivation and manufacture of cane sugar, has completed its task. The report has been issued with commendable promptitude—scarcely five months having elapsed from the appointment of the Commission to the presentation of its report. The Commission was primarily appointed because of the perilous position of the indigo industry, to see whether it might not be possible to grow the sugar cane and indigo crops in rotation.

The *Times* of April 15 contains an article upon this report. One thing the Commission seems to have made clear is that the methods employed in the sugar industry have been on the same happy-go-lucky slip-shod fashion as those until lately used in the manufacture of natural indigo. The yield of sugar per acre in India averages about one ton, whereas in Barbadoes it is three tons, and

four tons are obtained in Java.

The Indian Government, taking alarm at the great increase in the imports of beet sugar and wishing to aid the indigenous planter, imposed countervailing duties in March 1899. The duties have apparently failed in their object, as the imports of beet sugar for 1900 were greater than for 1898. It would appear that very little attempt has been made in India "to treat the soil or plant the canes on scientific principles," and that the methods of refining the sugar are rough, crude and wasteful, so that under such conditions the yield of the finished article is not what it should be, and the quality is poor; Indian sugar is, therefore, unable to compete with sugar refined by modern scientific methods and appliances.

It is further stated that there is an increasing tendency in India to prefer sugar which has been refined to unrefined sugar. The Commission recommend the employment of modern and up-to-date apparatus. We are glad to note that they do not recommend indiscriminate help to the individual planter or refiner, but suggest that such assistance as is desirable should be given in helping

systematic experiments at a central station.

Turning now to the indigo industry, which was the primary cause of the appointment of the Commission, we find that the indigo planter, now thoroughly alive to the danger which threatens him, is exerting himself to improve the yield of indigo. In the first place, by the employment of artificial manures, principally superphosphates, an increased plant production of from 50 to 100 per cent. has been obtained. In manufacturing indigo, it will be remembered (NATURE, November 1) that it is usual, when the plant has reached maturity, to cut it near to the ground and to steep the whole plant. After a few months the fresh shoots which have sprung up are again cut, but the yield of indigo from this second crop is inferior to that obtained from the first. It has been suggested, seeing that almost the whole of the colouring matter is contained in the leaves, that the plant should not be cut down, but that the leaves only should be stripped off and steeped. It is calculated that four or five strippings could be obtained during the manufacturing

season, and thus a very much larger quantity of indigo would be produced than by the methods at present in

vogue.

The old beating process for oxidising the liquors obtained after the plant has been steeped is gradually being replaced by the use of the "blower." In this method air is blown through a number of perforated pipes which are placed at the bottom of the vats, with the result that oxidation is more rapid and complete, and about 25 to 30 per cent. more colouring matter is produced than by the old process. Mr. Rawson, in addressing a meeting of those interested in the indigo industry at Calcutta on February 20, said that the output of indigo in North Behar last year amounted to about 60,000 maunds, and that at least 12,000 maunds more would have been produced had the new "blowing" process

been employed.

A manufacturing industry, such as that of indigo, which is to a large extent dependent upon atmospheric conditions, has naturally seen many dark days. But when the supply has been short there has generally been an enhancement in prices. The Commission is of opinion that a rise of price owing to bad seasons or short sup-plies can no longer be looked for, and say in their report: "It is reasonable to anticipate that the competition of synthetic indigo will prevent any future increase in the price of vegetable indigo, that it will soonest and most injuriously affect the finest and most expensive indigo, which is that of Behar, and cause a further reduction in price, which would hardly clear the planter in a good season, while a bad season would be ruinous to him." They go on to say, "it is obviously expedient that indigo planters should possess in sugar and other products resources which, if they are carefully and intelligently utilised, will enable them to contemplate the future of indigo with equanimity.'

In order to aid the Indian indigo industry, the Bengal Government has formally agreed to grant an annual subsidy of 50,000 rupees for three years for further chemical and scientific researches with regard to indigo culti-

vation

Indigo planters claim that at present the natural dye can be placed on the market at prices which can undersell the synthetic product. This is good news, but it is difficult to see how it is in the long run to hold its own against the artificial product, which is of uniform quality, requires no grinding, and is unaffected by vicissitudes of weather.

Prof. Armstrong, in a long letter to the *Times*, says that "The truly serious side of the matter, however, is not the prospective loss of the entire indigo industry so much as the fact that an achievement such as that of the Badische Company seems to be past praying for here."

Whether or not the natural indigo industry is to become a thing of the past remains to be seen, but if the replacement of natural indigo by a synthetic article produced in Germany leads British manufacturers to realise more fully the importance of trained scientific assistance, the decline, although in itself a great calamity, might not be entirely without its compensations.

Since writing the above, I have received a copy of an address upon "The Synthesis of Indigo," delivered by Prof. Meldola before the Society of Arts on April 17. In introducing the subject Prof. Meldola says that it is now often considered unpatriotic to "call public attention to any branch of industry in which we are being beaten by foreign competitors." He, however, considers that "The real enemies of British industry are those who, by virtue of their positions as politicians, economists, or as men of science, try to blind the public and to allure the manufacturer and merchant into a fool's paradise of false security."

<sup>1</sup> The Bengal factory maund is 74'66 lbs.

Then follows a very lucid and interesting historical survey of the chemistry of synthetic indigo. Attention is called to the fact that the first patent bears the date of March 19, 1880, and that although we knew that artificial indigo prepared by this, the cinnamic acid synthesis, could not compete with the natural product, yet its appearance caused much consternation among indigo planters. But because the threatened storm did not break, the planters evidently quickly forgot their fright and returned complacently to their old rule-of-thumb methods. Not so the chemists; they steadily and perseveringly plodded on, and in 1882 von Baeyer and Drewson brought out another synthesis, viz. the condensation of acetone and orthonitrobenzaldehyde in presence of caustic alkali. This process, or a modification of it, is employed at the present by the firm of Messrs. Meister, Lucius and Brunning; but as the supply of the raw material—toluene—is limited, Prof. Meldola, speaking as an individual, says: "Were I a planter, I should have no anxiety whatever with respect to a competing product which starts from toluene." Every 1000 gallons of coal tar yields about  $6\frac{3}{4}$  gallons of benzene and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  gallons of toluene, therefore any process which started with benzene as the out-going product should be better able to compete than one in which toluene is the starting material. However, although there are several syntheses which start from aniline (produced from benzene), the methods employed are so costly that at present the planter has very little to fear in this direction.

Naturally the chief portion of the paper is devoted to Heumann's synthesis, as at present worked by the Badische Company. This process, which starts from naphthalene, the supplies of which are practically unlimited, was described in NATURE, November 29.

In his references to the Badische Company Prof. Meldola quoted the following facts from the official report

prepared for the Paris Exhibition :-

"The factory at Ludwigshafen employs 148 scientific chemists, 75 engineers and technical experts, and 305 members of the mercantile staff. In 1865 they commenced with 30 workmen, and they now employ over 6000. The consumption of coal is about 243,000 tons per annum; water is supplied to the factory to the extent of some 20,000,000 cubic metres annually; they make 12,000,000 kilogrammes of ice, and over 12,000,000 cubic metres of coal gas in the course of the year. The electric installation consists of eight dynamos, the currents from which serve for illumination, motive power and electrolytic processes. Steam is supplied from 102 boilers, which serves for heating purposes and for driving 253 steam engines."

Let the British manufacturer and the Indian indigo planter try to digest these hard facts and figures. I wonder whether there are 148 scientific chemists employed by manufacturers in the whole of the United Kingdom. Let them also remember that these figures only refer to

one firm.

Finally, Prof. Meldola refers to the natural product versus synthetical indigo. He is unable to hold out the hope that the natural article will in the long run be able to compete with the product of the German factory. "The planters have allowed twenty years of activity on the part of the chemists to pass by with apathy and indifference, and at the last moment only have they called

in expert assistance."

It is truly marvellous that only the British planter should have been so lethargic. In Java the Dutch planters "have had the wisdom to avail themselves of the resources of the botanical gardens for experimental purposes, and their chemists and bacteriologists working in Holland in co-operation with the planters have, as is well known, for many years past been contributing to chemical literature the results of their investigations."

Reference is made to the contradictory opinions as to

what goes on in the steeping vats, as to whether the resolution of the glucoside indican into indigotin is due to bacterial fermentation, or whether it is one of ordinary zymolysis. Attention is also directed to the drying process, which often extends over several weeks, and during which time it is stated that a fungus grows on the cakes and ammonia is evolved. Prof. Meldola asks whether this may not be due to the destruction of indigo by a micro-organism. I have myself often wondered that in all the suggestions for improving the yield and quality of indigo no one appears to have drawn attention to this apparent decomposition. It seems possible that more thorough washing and rapid drying in a current of hot air would perhaps prevent this. In his closing remarks Prof. Meldola refers to the antiquity of the industry, and questions whether the methods at present employed in India are very different to those used in the time of the Pharaohs.

F. MOLLWO PERKIN.

### THE OLDER CIVILISATION OF GREECE.1

THE sixth volume of the Annual of the British School at Athens contains matter of extraordinary interest to students of the history, not only of Greece, of Egypt and Western Asia, but also of mankind in general. The culture which now dominates the world is the child of the civilisation of Ancient Greece, and any archæological discovery which tends to increase our knowledge of the beginnings of Greek civilisation possesses an importance and an interest far greater than that of any other possible discovery whatever in the archæological field.

For the last twenty years, since Schliemann first unveiled the treasures of the citadel of Mycenæ, it has been recognised that the culture of classical Greece as we know it is but the second epoch of Greek civilisation. Classical Greece had a past the true history of which had been half forgotten, had been preserved in confused and contradictory legends. The culture of the past had bloomed from end to end of the Greek world, in cities, some like Athens or Knôssos, of renown in classical as well as præ-classical days, others like Mycenæ and Tiryns, cities whose fame ceased to be when the Dorians entered Greece. This culture was bronze-using, and was, in fact, the Greek phase of the European culture of the Bronze Age, a phase earlier in date than the phases of Central and Northern Europe, and in all probability not only their forerunner, but to a great extent their forbear. This culture itself developed out of a stage of transition from Neolithic barbarism, which we call "præ-Mycenæan," during which stone, copper, and occasionally bronze, were used side by side, pottery was rude and un-painted, and the dead were buried in cist-graves. This stage shades off on the one side (as in the first city of Troy) into the Neolithic culture, on the other (as in Cyprus) into Mycenæan civilisation, which marks the first stage of real "civilisation," properly so-called, in Europe. The earliest stages of the Mycenæan culture are known to us from discoveries of settlements with pottery, &c., in Thêra, at Phylákopê in Melos, at Kamárais in Crete, and other isolated spots, chiefly in the Southern Ægean islands. The civilisation which we find at Mycenæ, at Vaphio, at Ialysos and elsewhere, is the same as that of Phylákopê and Kamárais, but is more highly developed in many ways. This can only be the culture of the heroic Achaians, which was overthrown by the Dorians; its date must, then, be placed certainly before 900 B.C., even if, as is very possible, it continued to exist in Western Asia Minor and Cyprus till the eighth century. We can be more certain about its date than this; Mycenæan culture was by no means confined to

1 The Annual of the British School at Athens; No. VI. Session 1899-1900. Pp. viii + 156. With illustrations and two maps. Printed for the subscribers and sold on their behalf by Macmillan and Co., Ltd. Price ros. 6d.

Greece, and there were ships and sailors in those days as bold and venturesome as any of the time of Elizabeth. We know from the Egyptian State archives of the reign of King Akhunaten (B.C. 1430; date determined by synchronism with Burraburiyash of Babylonia, B.C. 1430) that in the XVth century B.C. the Phœnician cities already traded with many lands across the seas, with Egyptian Thebes, with Alashiya or Cyprus (?), and with Keftiu. The people of Keftiu came to the court of King Thothmes III. of Egypt (B.C. 1550) with gifts.

Where was Keftiu? Mr. A. J. Evans tells us this in

this sixth volume of the Annual of the British School at

Athens.

Mr. Evans's excavations at Kephala, the site of Knôssos, in Crete, are the culmination of many attempts, pursued during several years past under difficulties of all kinds, to elucidate the early history of Greek civilisation in Crete. The traditions of the island point to its having occupied a position of especial prominence in the Mycenæan world, and Mr. Evans's hopes of great results from Cretan exploration have not been disappointed. He has not only discovered at Knôssos a Mycenæan palace of the first "Kamárais-period," continued to be occupied down to the period of its sudden sack and destruction by fire towards the end of the Mycenæan age, at which time only vessels of the later type were in use, while in the town we have two strata of settlement, the one containing the vases of the earlier period, the other those of the later generations of inhabitants. There need be no question of a change of race here, though Mr. Hogarth seems to suggest it. Alteration of style in art is no proof of racial change. Such changes are simply due to an alteration of fashion, suddenly started by some artist. We have an example of a sudden alteration of the kind in Egypt in the early years of the XVIIIth Dynasty. But we do not therefore in this case assume the violent substitution of one race of inhabitants by another. Even alteration of burial customs is no clear proof of change of race.

Important as the relics of the "Kamárais-period" from

MAY 2, 1901

the Knossian town are, however, they pale before the importance of the discoveries made in the palace itself. The excavation of this, probably the most important Mycenæan building yet discovered, is only begun, and we know not how Mr. Evans may increase our knowledge



Fig. 1.—Protomycenæan Vases from Knôssos: probable date before 1600 B.C.

rank, which is very probably identical with the legendary "Labyrinth" of Minôs, but has also discovered that the Mycenæans of Crete were in all probability the same people as the "Men of Keftiu and of the Isles in the midst of the Very Green" (i.e. the Mediterranean), who make their appearance in Egyptian history c. 1550 B.C., thus giving the earliest trustworthy date for the Mycenæan civilisation.

Not only the palace, but also the Mycenæan town of Knôssos was discovered in the course of these excavations. The exploration of the town ruins was carried on by Mr. D. G. Hogarth, late Director of the British School at Athens, Mr. Evans busying himself more especially with the exploration of the palace. It is note-worthy that vases and fragments of vases found in the town ruins were of the early Mycenæan or "Kamárais" type, while those found in the palace mostly belonged to the fully-developed Mycenæan types so well known to students of early Greek art from the great work of Messrs. Furtwängler and Löschcke. This does not necessarily mean that the town-ruins are all older than the palace; all that is implied is that the palace, which from various indications was evidently already in existence in the

of the older civilisation of Greece in the course of his diggings this year. What he found last year, however, gives us material enough to think about! The plan of the palace shows a vast labyrinth of chambers, halls, corridors and passages; a true labyrinth indeed, for it is the only genuine and original Labyrinth itself, as the the only genuine and original Labyrinth itself, as the constantly-recurring symbol of the double-axe, the emblem of the later Zeus of  $\Lambda a\beta\rho a\nu \cdot \nu \delta a$ , which is etymologically the same word as  $\Lambda a\beta\nu \rho \nu \cdot \nu \delta a$ , "The Place of the  $\Lambda a\beta\nu \cdot \nu \cdot \delta a$  or Double-Axe" (for the earliest Mycenæans of Knôssos and elsewhere were not Aryan Hellenes, but "Palassians" allied to the early Aryan peoples of Asia "Pelasgians" allied to the non-Aryan peoples of Asia Minor), the emblem of the Knôssian Zeus, Zeūs ἄναξ, Πελασγικὸς, shows. This is the labyrinth of Minôs: is the bull-headed Minotaur, child of Zeus, of whom legends passed to the succeeding Hellenic inhabitants of the land, the recollection of some Mycenæan deity to whom human sacrifice was offered at Knôssos? We know the love of the Mycenæans for bulls, we see the protomae of bulls at Mycenæ and among the gifts of the Keftiu, we find pictures of τουροκαθάψια, bull-catching, at Tiryns and elsewhere, we have the splendid life-sized relief of a bull's head in painted gesso duro from Knôssos itself (Fig. 10

of the work under review); there are hundreds of other instances. The bull was the beast of Zeus: the idea of a Phœnician origin of the Minotaur is just so much rubbish; he is a purely Mycenæan conception. And his master, Minôs? What would Mr. Grote have said had he been told that in 1901 the name of Minôs would pass

fast gaining ground, that Egypt exercised no little influence upon the development of Mycenæan culture. On the other hand, the use of clay for the tablets is a sure sign of the influence of the rival civilisation of Babylonia. Many of the tablets evidently contain simply lists of ships, chariots, horses, swine, &c.; so much we

can guess from the pictures. The numerical system is evident; further than this we cannot go. It had long seemed curious that the highly developed civilisation of Mycenæan days should have been ignorant of the art of writing; but we had no conclusive proof of Mycenæan writing before Mr. Evans's epoch-making discovery. Now here are the records of the Myce-næans before our eyes; σήματα λυγρά, indeed! They will not want for energetic "Bearbeitung," and the Clarendon Press is already preparing a fount of Mycenæan type! But the omens are bad.

We have remarked that Mr. Evans has shown that the Keftiu who brought gifts to the court of Thothmes III. of Egypt, c. 1550 B.C., were Mycenæan Cretans. This conclusion is a legitimate one. Some of the finest known examples of Mycenæan fresco-painting have been found in

the Knôssian palace, and among them are representations of processions of men bearing vases, &c., who in dress are absolutely identical, on the one hand, with the bull-catchers of the Vaphio cups, on the other with the Keftiu who are depicted on the walls of Rekhmarä's tomb at Thebes, in Egypt. No doubt of the identity is possible; the further presumption that the pictures of Rekhmarä's tomb are roughly contemporaneous with the frescoes of Knôssos is backed up by the cumulative force of all the rest of the chronological evidence, besides being inherently probable from the almost exact similarity of costume, &c. The date of c. 1550 B.C. for the later portions of the Mycenæan palace at Knôssos is thus clearly indicated.

These frescoes give us an inkling of the racial type of the Mycenæans. They are not fair-haired Aryans



Fig. 2.—The Fifth Magazine, showing Great Pithoi and Receptacles in the Floor.

from the realms of pure myth into those of historical probability? Yet we have what look very much like the remains of a great Cretan power dating long before the Return of the Herakleids, in fact the power and kingdom of Minôs. The evidence of Greek legend can no longer be scoffed at, and the tradition of the Minoan thalassocracy may yet be shown to contain a substratum of historical fact. Those Keftiu went far afield: they reached Egypt. Sicily and Kamikos are no farther.

The records of Knossos have much to tell us, but as yet they are dumb. There they lie before us, those queer characters incised on tablets of sun-baked clay, but we cannot read them yet. How long we shall continue in this state of tantalising ignorance it is impossible to tell. The lamentable failure to read the so-called "Hittite" script of Eastern Asia Minor is no good augury. This discovery of in-

This discovery of inscribed tablets is the most important in the field of early Greek antiquities since the excavation of the graves at Mycenæ. The tablets, good illustrations of which are given by Mr. Evans, were found in a number of deposits or "hoards" in the palace, mostly

packed away in sealed boxes placed in large  $\pi i\theta \omega$  or handleless vases (a specimen of the kind, brought from Rhodes, is in the First Vase Room of the British Museum), which were stored in special chambers. The writing is of two kinds, hieroglyphic ("pictographic") and linear: in both remarkable resemblances to Egyptian characters are noticeable, and give further proof of the idea, now

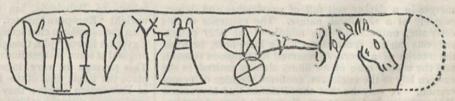


Fig. 3.-Linear Tablet referring to Chariot and Horses and, perhaps, Cuirass. (Size of original.)

at all. They are brunett, black-haired, un-Aryan people like the modern Italians, Greeks and Anatolians; they belong, in effect, to the "Stirpe Mediterranea" of Sergi, the race which we may, if we like, call Pelasgian, which preceded the Aryans in Greece as well as in Asia Minor, and of whose peculiar language-type Karian and Lycian give us a good idea. The Aryan

conquerors gave Aryan languages to Italy, Greece and Phrygia, but the modern speakers of Italian, of Greek, and of Armenian much more closely resemble their non-

Aryan ancestors than their Aryan conquerors.

The palace of Knôssos was built of great gypsum and limestone blocks, and when complete must have been a most imposing building. One of the most curious facts with regard to it is that it is really built round a small open space, which Mr. Evans speaks of as "The Central Clay Area." "This enclosure," says Mr. Evans (p. 17) "turned out to be entirely devoid of foundations, and its floor was composed of the pale clay already noticed as being of artificial accumulation and as probably due to the disintegration of the clay platforms and wattle-and-daub huts of a very primitive settlement. It was found to be full of Neolithic relics, and a shaft sunk near the N.W. corner showed that the deposit was at this point 7.50 m. in thickness. On the south side this clay deposit

middle of the north wall was an interval between two of these stone benches, the central post of which was occupied by a gypsum throne. The throne rested on a square base and displayed a high back of undulating leaf-shaped outline. . . Its total height is 1'06 m, and the level of the seat 0'56, or 21 cm. above that of the stone benches. . . . The lower face of the throne presented a curious architectural relief, consisting of a double moulded arch springing from flat, fluted pilasters, expanding upwards in the Mycenæan fashion. The upper part of this arch was traversed by a moulded band forming a counter-curve. But the most interesting feature remains to be described. The lower part of the mouldings of the arch on either side were, by a strange anticipation of later Gothic, adorned with bud-like crockets. The architectural features, indeed, revealed by these reliefs are in almost every respect unique in ancient art."

Room. Base of Central Post. Benches. Fig. 4.—Throne-Room as seen from Antechamber.

Throne

Wall-projection

Door-jamb.

Stone Bench

and Fallen Fresco.

merges in a darker soil full of wood-ashes and bones, possibly of a sacrificial nature. The existence of this early site, untouched in the middle of the later palace, suggests curious speculations. We have here, perhaps, the interior of a temenos preserved for religious reasons, and the square base of an altar, already noticed, in the eastern bay of the enclosure, confirms the idea of consecration. It may be that the 'Palatine' of Mycenæan Knôssos also had its 'Casa Romuli'—a sacral survival of a prehistoric dwelling."

Doorway

Inner

A chamber of great importance in the palace was the Throne-room, of which Mr. Evans gives a description (p. 35 ff.): "The chamber . . . was in many ways as perfect as the room of a Pompeian house, though some fourteen centuries earlier in date. On the south side opened an impluvium and steps leading down to a fine stone tank. . . . Breasting this, and along two other sides of the room, ran gypsum benches with pilasters. . . . At the

A splendid idea of this room and of the now famous "Throne of Minôs," can be obtained from the photographs published in the Annual, one of which is shown in Fig. 4. In general it may be said that the illustrations are extremely good -the plans also. But for finality in these latter we must wait till Messrs. Evans and Hogarth have brought their excavations to an end. Enough has now been said to give the reader an idea of the immense importance of the discoveries at Knôssos, and it is a matter of congratulation that their discovery has fallen to the lot of an Englishman. Our knowledge of early Greek civilisation in Crete now rests on a much surer foundation than it did when Mr. Evans strove to draw a connected story from the evidence of the "Sealstones" alone.

To one small point only in Mr. Evans's discussion of his discoveries must we take exception. When speaking of the inscribed tablets he says (p. 57): "Some distant analogy may be recognised with the

tablets of Babylonia, but the letters here are of free upright 'European' aspect, far more advanced in type than the cuneiform characters. They are equally ahead of Egyptian hieroglyphs, though here and there the pictorial original of some of these linear forms can still be detected." This passage is very incomprehensible. In the first place the whole idea of the Knôssian tablets is obviously of Babylonian origin: they are not merely "distantly analogous" with the tablets of Babylonia. In the second place, what does Mr. Evans mean by the Mycenæan letters being "of free upright 'European' aspect"? What characters can be called free or unfree? Why is the erect position specially "free" or "European"? The Egyptian hieroglyphs and their hieratic developments stood bolt upright unless a crocodile or a snake were pictured; cuneiform was upright and spiky enough, in all conscience. They are not European. With what European script is he comparing the Mycenæan writing? Surely

End of Stone

Bench in Front of

Tank.

not with the Greek alphabet, which was of Phœnician, and ultimately of Egyptian, origin. And how are the Knôssian characters more advanced in type than the cuneiform characters? Obviously they are nothing of the kind; they are in the same stage of development as the Egyptian hieratic writing, to which they bear a strong resemblance; so far, then, it may be said that they are "ahead" of the Egyptian hieroglyphs; but cuneiform was far more conventionalised, far "ahead" of either Egyptian hieroglyphic and hieratic or Mycenæan linear. The people who used the Knôssian script may turn out to have had not one drop of Aryan "European" blood in them, and European-Greek culture may be as thoroughly of non-Aryan (and equally non-Semitic) origin as Semitic culture was in its origin absolutely non-Semitic.

The work of Messrs. Evans and Hogarth at Knôssos has been supplemented by the latter with the very interesting results of his excavation of the famous cave of Zeus on Mount Diktê, an account of which appears on p. 94, ff. Mr. Hogarth's story of his operations, of the blasting of the rocks, the unveiling of the most ancient sanctuary of Zeus, the recovery of small bronze double-axes and other votive objects, belonging to the same period as the Knôssian palace, from the crevices of the stalagmitic deposit in which they had remained undisturbed for nearly four thousand years, the finding of a little Egyptian bronze statuette of Amen-Rā, which shows that somewhere about 1000 B.C. King Zeus was already identified with Amonrasuntiru, Amen-Rā, king of the gods—all this is of the highest archæological interest, and may be recommended to the notice of students of Greek

religion.

It remains to speak of the articles of less importance which also find a place in this number of the Annual. That by Mr. F. B. Welch on "The Influence of the Ægean Civilisation on South Palestine" is important as chronicling the occurrence of Mycenæan pottery at a Palestinian site, Tell es-Safi. "This," says Mr. Welch, "was certainly a Philistine stronghold, a fact which is suggestive in view of the probable north-western origin of the Philistines" (p. 119). This is quite true, and it may be remarked that the old tradition of the Cretan origin of the Philistines has lately, in view of the Egyptian records of attacks by the Peoples of the Sea, among whom figure the Pulesatha or Philistines, and a great deal of other evidence, both archæological and legendary, come once more to the front, and probably represents a historical fact. But Mr. Welch should note that Semitic authorities such as Delitzsch, Jensen, Mayer and Tiele uncompromisingly claim the Philistines as Semites, and specifically Aramæans. The Egyptian Semites, and specifically Aramæans. The Egyptian evidence, however, as Mr. Welch rightly implies, goes absolutely against the Semitic claim, which will probably have to be given up. Still, the Greek archæologists have no right to ignore the opinion of the Semitists on such a question as this. Mr. Welch seems, by the way, to attach rather too much importance to purely "typological" arguments derived solely from the study of pottery, which can never be an absolutely infallible guide.

Mr. J. C. Lawson's note on "A Beast-Dance in Scyros" (p. 125) will be of great interest to anthropologists. In carnival time the young men of Scyros array themselves in goat-skin capes—"each does his best according to his lights and his means to look like a goat"—hang goat-bells round their persons and solemnly dance through the town, often stopping "at some friendly door to imbibe spirituous encouragement to further efforts." This is undoubtedly a very ancient survival, and possibly goes back to Mycenæan times, a surmise with which anybody who knows what a great part goat-headed and other theriomorphic figures play in Mycenæan art will probably agree. But alas, "thanks to the steadily increasing

influx of Western culture during the last few years," the goat-mask is often replaced nowadays by "an Ally Sloper mask"! The modern Japanese wears a billycock or a deerstalker on the top of his national historical costume. So the free and upright civilisation of modern Europe dominates the world!

It may be finally noted that the knowledge which the contributors to this number of the *Annual* possess of the German language appears to be defective. If German terms are used at all, their proper plural forms should be given to them. "Bügelkannes" may be Dutch, but is neither German nor English; Mr. Welch gets over the difficulty, which might have been solved by reference to a German grammar, by giving his German words no plural form at all. He speaks of "Bügelkanne" and "Schnabelkanne" when he means *Bügelkannen* and *Schnabelkannen*.

Despite these little imperfections, the sixth number of the Annual of the British School at Athens is undoubtedly the most important contribution to our knowledge of the early history of mankind that has appeared for many years.

# MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS DURING TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

THE effect produced by a solar eclipse on the meteorological conditions of the atmosphere has on many occasions in the past been the subject of observation, but in the number of Terrestrial Magnetism just received we find an account 1 of a systematic examination of the influence of such an eclipse on magnetic conditions also. It had appeared to Dr. Bauer, chief of the U.S. Magnetic Survey, that magnetic observations might on such an occasion be usefully undertaken; and the occurrence of the solar eclipse of May 28 of last year, the total phase of which was visible in the United States, afforded an excellent opportunity of carrying such design into execution. For the needs of the magnetic survey simultaneous magnetic observations are made on certain days throughout the year at the different magnetic stations, and it was arranged that such observations should be made, on the day of eclipse, at stations as near as possible to the path of totality. Six stations were selected; three of them-Union Springs, Rocky Mount and Cape Charles -were situated within the path of totality, the remaining three-Salem, Bayard and Gaithersburg-being outside. The observers received instructions to occupy such stations as their special work permitted for the due accomplishment of the object in view, accompanied by a detailed scheme of the observations to be made. The prescribed course was carried out by all the observers excepting the one at Gaithersburg, who for some reason failed to receive his instructions in time; but he made observations according to directions sent him previously, relating to other work. The detailed scheme of observa-tions is given with the view of aiding observers making preparations for similar work on future occasions. The observations made are discussed at considerable length, being accompanied by numerous graphical illustrations, and it is stated that there can be no question that some kind of magnetic disturbance made itself felt on May 28 at every one of the stations.

Finally, the conclusions arrived at are given under eleven separate heads, the principal points of which are contained in the following summary:—A small magnetic oscillation made itself felt at various stations situated in the eastern part of the United States during the time of the eclipse. It was detected by various persons, at various stations, with different instruments, under different conditions, and was also automatically recorded.

1 Résumé of magnetic observations made chiefly by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey on the day of the total solar eclipse May 28, 1000.

The various phases of the oscillation did not take place at the different stations at the same absolute time, or local time, but in every instance were associated with the time of maximum obscuration of the sun. The duration of the oscillation was apparently about the same as that of the eclipse, about two and a half hours. The range of the oscillation was about one minute in arc for declination, and about eight units in the fifth decimal C.G.S. for horizontal intensity, that is, to about 1/2800th part of the absolute horizontal intensity. The general effect was to deflect the declination needle to the west, and decrease the horizontal intensity, before the time of maximum obscuration, the movement afterwards being in both cases in the opposite direction. The analysis indicates that the cause producing the magnetic oscillation was situated outside of the earth's crust, the presumption being very strong that the oscillation is to be referred to some change produced in the upper atmospheric regions by the abstraction of the sun's rays, due to interposition

Dr. Bauer expresses himself as having been in doubt before making the observations as to whether any magnetic effect referable to the eclipse would reveal itself, and adds that he was afterwards slow to conclude that the magnetic oscillation observed was not accidentally connected with the eclipse, until he had made such exhaustive examination of every point involved as justified him in formulating a definite conclusion. The result is interesting, and makes it desirable, as he says, that every opportunity should in future be taken to obtain, during eclipses, simultaneous magnetic, atmospheric-electric and meteorological observations at as many

stations as possible.

It is to be remarked that, although Dr. Bauer eventually speaks with some confidence as to the magnetic movement observed having relation with the eclipse, the movement in question was small, and, abstractedly speaking, much too small on which to found any certain conclusion, considering the abundance of magnetic movements of similar and even greater magnitude. The circumstance that seems really to give weight to the conclusion drawn is the statement that the various phases of the magnetic oscillation were associated with the time of maximum obscuration of the sun. Confirmation of this circumstance is therefore what is now to be desired.

Following the paper there is printed an appeal for international co-operation in magnetic and allied observations during the total solar eclipse of May 17 next.

WILLIAM ELLIS.

#### PROF. H. A. ROWLAND.

HENRY AUGUSTUS ROWLAND was born in 1848. He was educated as an engineer, and graduated at the Rensselaer Polytechnic at Troy, New York, in 1870. After one year's experience as a railway engineer on the Western New York line, and a second spent as instructor in natural science at Wooster, Ohio, he returned to his college to share in its teaching, becoming an assistant professor in 1874. Two years later, in 1876, after spending a year under Helmholtz in Berlin he took office as the first professor of physics at the newly founded Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore remained his home until his death, on April 16, at the early age of fifty-three years.

His work at Berlin on the magnetic efforts due to a moving body when carrying an electric charge brought him at once into fame. The result was published by von Helmholtz in 1876, and is thus described by Maxwell in a metrical letter to Tait, written in June, 1877. Tait had inquired, also in verse, as to the electric effects to be expected if a disc of ebonite carrying a charge were made

to rotate in its own plane, and Maxwell writes:

The mounted disk of ebonite

Has whirled before nor whirled in vain,
Rowland of Troy, that doughty knight,
Convection currents did obtain,
In such a disk, of power to wheedle
From its loved north the subtle needle.

Rowland showed by the direct effects produced on a magnetic needle that a charged body in motion gave rise to a magnetic field just as though it were a current whose strength depended on the product of the charge and the

velocity.

This result is of fundamental importance to electrical theory; it was confirmed by Rowland and Hutchinson in 1889, and has been generally accepted as an established fact. Within the last few months, however, Cremieu has published an account of a repetition of Rowland's experiments which has led him to a negative result; the question just at the present moment appears to need

further investigation.

Rowland's appointment at Baltimore was rapidly followed by a series of brilliant researches, each of the first importance. His determination of the unit of resistance came first. This was published in 1878. The original B.A. units were constructed by the Electrical Standards Committee in 1863-4 to represent 10° C.G.S. units of resistance; according to Kohlrausch's results in 1870 they were 2 per cent. too high, while according to Lorenz (1873) they were 2 per cent. too low. Rowland's paper contains an able criticism of the old experiments and a detailed account of his own which led him to the number '9912×10° C.G.S. units as the value of the B.A. units. Further experiments in 1887 reduced this to '9864×10°. The value now generally accepted is '98653×10°. Rowland himself employed a modification of Kirchhoff's original method, in which the induction current in a secondary circuit produced by reversing a measured primary current in a neighbouring circuit is observed.

In 1879 Rowland presented to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences his paper on the mechanical equivalent of heat, with subsidiary experiments on the variation of the mercurial from the air thermometer, and on the variation of the specific heat of water. To attempt to give any account of the contents of this classic work would occupy too much space. To appreciate its value and to realise the skill and the ingenuity of its author it must be studied itself. More is known now about exact thermometry and the precautions necessary in using a mercury thermometer, and so it has come about that some corrections are necessary in Rowland's work, specially in that part of it which deals with the relation between the scales of the mercury and the air thermometer. These corrections were made at the Johns Hopkins University by Messrs. Day and Wardner and Mallory; but this fact detracts nothing from the importance of his investigation, and among the many determinations of the value of Joule's equivalent, Rowland's will always remain in the first rank.

Passing over, for the present, much work of great value, among which we may note his investigations into the magnetic permeability of various substances, published in the *Philosophical Magazine* for 1873 and 1874, and his theory of Hall's effect, we come next to the year 1882, when Rowland gave to the Physical Society of London an account of his concave grating. This is published in the *Philo-*

sophical Magazine for September, 1883.

The results of this discovery are well known. A new weapon was placed in the hands of spectroscopists; it became possible to photograph spectra directly without the use of prisms or lenses, and with a greatly increased dispersion and resolving power; the beautiful maps issued at a later date by Rowland himself, and by Higgs of Liverpool, are striking evidences of the value of the grating; the additions to our knowledge arising from this one discovery are already enormous; much has been achieved which, without it, would have been impossible.

Rowland's own researches with his grating are summed up in his map of the solar spectrum and his table of the wave-lengths of the elements, published in 1893 (Phil. Mag., July, 1893, reprinted from Astronomy- and Astro-

Of late years he gave much time and attention to a system of multiple telegraphy; this was shown work-

ing at the Paris Exhibition last year.

Enough has been written, perhaps, to indicate the debt physical science owes to Rowland; it is said he never received any regular instruction in physics; he was an engineer, and to this, in great measure, his success is due. The accuracy of his work on the ohm depends on the care he took to construct his induction coils so that their dimensions could be accurately measured; he dealt with the determination of the mechanical equivalent as an engineering problem; he employed a large mass of water and used steam power to rotate his paddle at a speed sufficient to make the resulting rise in temperature one that could be measured with accuracy.

The theory of the concave grating was his, but its success was due to the fact that Rowland had made an almost perfect screw; the method he employed in this in given in his article, "Screw," in the "Encyclopædia

Britannica."

He lived for his work, but in his earlier days he was passionately fond of riding. Some years after the publication of the paper on the mechanical equivalent he was awarded a prize for it by one of the Italian Academies; about the same time he won a steeple chase, riding his own horse; he hardly knew which event gave him the greater pleasure. Another time, passing through England on his way home from the Continent, he had three days to spare. One of these was passed at Cambridge discussing electrical measurements, the other two were spent in a hurried visit to Exmoor to get a run with the staghounds. Twenty years ago he was a frequent visitor to England, and attended several of the meetings of the British Association; recently his visits were much less frequent. His friends here were aware that he was not well; some few weeks ago it was known that he had had a serious illness, but the news then was that he was better and on the road to recovery; however, an operation proved necessary, and he never recovered from its

Thus within the last few months physical science is the poorer by the deaths of two of the most brilliant of the followers of Maxwell-Fitzgerald and Rowland; two who were foremost among those who have given to the theory of Faraday and Maxwell the right to claim the position of the theory of the electro-magnetic field.

R. T. G.

#### PROF. FRANÇOIS MARIE RAOULT.

FRANÇOIS RAOULT, professor of chemistry at Grenoble, died there on April I after a short In him France has lost one of her most distinguished men of science, whose discoveries have supplied material for theoretical considerations which, within the past fifteen years, have had a most profound influence on chemistry and physics.

Raoult was born on May 10, 1830, at Fournes (Nord). His father, an officer in the local customs' service of Villers Cotterêts (Aisne), sent the boy to school at Laon, with the intention of his afterwards entering Government service. But Raoult's tastes lay in a different direction; and with the full consent of his father he finished his school career at Paris, and entered the scholastic profession. He began his teaching career at the age of 23 in the Lycée at Reims, and was shortly afterwards transferred to the Collège of Saint Dié; while there he graduated as B. ès Lettres, and B. ès Sciences, passed his "Licencié" examination, and was appointed "Agrégé" of special secondary instruction. On presenting a thesis on "The Electromotive Forces of Voltaic Cells" he gained the title of "Docteur ès Sciences Physiques," and four years later, in 1870, he obtained the chair of chemistry at Grenoble, where he passed the rest of his life in constant labour in teaching and research during a period of 31 years. In 1889 he was elected "doyen," or dean of the faculty, and was re-elected to this important office four times. He occupied himself largely during the last dozen years in the reorganisation of the Faculty of Science, leading to the creation of a local

university at Grenoble in 1896.

The author of this notice was once informed by Raoult that he independently discovered Faraday's and Ohm's laws; he had begun to experiment on the passage of electricity through solutions before he had acquired any real knowledge of what had already been achieved. On mentioning the fact to his scientific friends at Paris he learned, to his great disappointment, that his discoveries had been anticipated; but he took comfort in the thought that if he were able to make such discoveries, of which the importance is universally recognised, he must also be able to advance science in other directions. His first scientific work, published as his thesis for the doctorate, has already been mentioned; it was published in 1863, and until 1870 he devoted himself to a study of the chemical effects of the electric current, trying to distinguish between the heat evolved by chemical reactions and that due to the electric current in the voltaic cell. From 1870 to 1886 his attention was given to subjects of a more purely chemical nature, such as the extent of inversion of cane sugar under the influence of solar radiation; the absorption of ammonia by saline solutions; the presence of copper and zinc in the animal organism; the carbonates of calcium, strontium and barium; and the influence of carbonic anhydride on respiration. His work on the absorption of ammonia led him to consider the freezing-points of the saline solutions of that gas (1878); and from that date onwards he busied himself with the freezing- and boiling-points of solutions in water and in other solvents of salts and organic compounds, publishing his results in no less than 57 memoirs in various scientific journals. His last publication, "La cryoscopie," was published in the present year (Collection Scientia, Carré

Most of Raoult's apparatus was constructed with his own hands; he was rather given to accurate experimentation than to the evolution of theories. The vast mass of evidence which he accumulated relative to the lowering of the freezing-points and of the vapour-pressures of solvents by the presence of dissolved substances made it possible for van 't Hoff to draw the important deductions relative to the connection of these phenomena with osmotic pressure and with the ionic theory of Arrhenius, which will ever shed lustre on his name. And to the practical chemist Raoult's work furnished a means of determining the molecular weights of non-volatile substancesmethods familiar to every student of chemistry.

His labours met with ample, though tardy, recognition. In 1889 he was awarded the *Prix Lecaze*, of 10,000 francs; and in the same year he was made *correspondant de l'Institut de France*. In 1895 he received the biennial prize of the Institute; in 1892 he was the Davy medallist of the Royal Society, and in 1898 he was elected a Foreign Fellow of the Chemical Society of London. He was chosen Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in 1890, raised to Officier in 1895, and last year obtained the muchcoveted title of Commandeur. He was a member of many foreign academies and scientific societies.

Though modest and retiring, Raoult's devotion to his work, dignity of character and sweetness of temper gained him many friends. He was not an ambitious

man, but was content to work on, happy if his discoveries contributed to the advancement of science. It is to the labours of such men that the progress of the world, both scientific and industrial, is due; for the methods which he introduced have led, not merely to a knowledge of the structure of many compounds which would otherwise have remained unknown, but have also had a profound influence on chemical theory, and have led to many discoveries of the utmost practical utility. He lived a happy and contented life, and even in his death his desire was satisfied; for in his discourse at the grave of his predecessor in the office of dean of the Faculty of Science at Grenoble, Lory, he gave utterance to the words :-"Puisque la mort est inévitable, ne vaut il pas mieux tomber ainsi tout entier, que de sentir la diminution lente et progressive de ses forces et de son intelligence?" Raoult died, after a few days' illness, without pain.

#### DR. A. HIRSCH.

NFORMATION has reached us from the president of the Council of State for the Republic and Canton of Neuchâtel of the death, at Neuchâtel on April 18, of Dr. Adolph Hirsch, aged 71, the director of the observatory at Neuchâtel since its foundation in 1859. Hirsch was also secretary to the International Committee of Weights and Measures, established at Paris under the

Metric Convention of 1875.

Dr. Hirsch contributed largely to our knowledge astronomy and meteorology, his earlier papers on the former subject having appeared in Berlin and Vienna, and his later papers, particularly with reference to the establishment and position of the new observatory in the Neuchâtel Bulletin. ("Établissement de l'Observatoire à Neuchâtel," Bul. v. 1859-1861; "Recherchés sur des Pendules Astronomiques," Bul. v. 1859-1861; "Découverte de deux nouvelles petites planètes," Bul. v. 1859-1861; "Rélation des phénomènes météorologique avec la marche, des instruments magnétiques," Bul. vi.; "Influence des taches du Soleil sur la temperature de la Terre," 1877; Sur le passage de Venus,"-1883, etc.). more recent years Dr. Hirsch has been closely identified with the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures as an international system. He was a member of the original Commission International du Metre of 1872, of which the present eminent director of the Imperial Observatory, Dr. W. Foerster, and Dr. Von Lang, of the University of Vienna, were also members. On the establishment of the new International Committee of Weights and Measures in 1875, Dr. Hirsch became its secretary, a position which he filled until his death. A master in metrological science and a prince of secretaries, his loss will be deeply deplored by all whose opportunity it was to seek his valuable advice and to be guided by his profound experience.

#### NOTES.

THE gentlemen's soirce of the Royal Society will be held next Wednesday, May 8. The ladies' conversazione will not be held this year, in consequence of the death of Queen Victoria.

THE position of affairs at Coopers Hill College is most unsatisfactory. We understand that the Members of Parliament who are interested in the higher education of the country had obtained permission to move the adjournment of the House in order to discuss the latest report on the management of this institution laid before Parliament by Lord George Hamilton, but that some M.P., presumably at the instigation of the India Office, which shuns inquiry, has "blocked" this permission. This proceeding, which, unfortunately, the rules of the House allows,

is but another instance of the diminishing power of the private member and the increasing domination of the Government. Lord George Hamilton stated last week that he had asked the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London to nominate representatives on the Board of Visitors. When reconstituted the Board is to appoint a committee to hold an inquiry into the whole working of the College. This committee can do nothing to lessen the gravity of the recent action of the Board of Visitors in the matter of the dismissed teachers. They may, however, be able to secure some sort of recognition of the professoriate in the management and policy of the College, and some diminution of the absolute power of one individual, which has recently wrought such harm both at Coopers Hill in England and at the Leland Stanford University in America.

THE reality of the connection between rats and plague is prominently brought into notice by the issue of a circular by the Local Government Board, instructing the sanitary authorities of seaports to take precautions against the entrance of plagueinfected rats into this country. On the arrival in port of a vessel upon which, during the voyage, plague or sickness suspected to be plague has occurred, measures are to be taken to secure the destruction of the rats on board the vessel, and to prevent them from reaching the shore. In the case of vessels that have come from places infected with plague, strict inquiry is to be made on their arrival in port as to mortality or sickness among rats during the voyage. In the event of rats on board any ship being found to be infected with plague, all parts of the vessel frequented by those animals are, so far as possible, to be disinfected. The authorities of seaport towns invaded by plague are advised to endeavour to secure the destruction of the rats in the town, not least those inhabiting the docks and quayside warehouses. In connection with these instructions, it is worth while to bear in mind that plague is not usually transmitted by the bite of a diseased rat, but by fleas living on such rats. Experiments have shown that a healthy rat will quickly contract plague if caged with a diseased rat infested with fleas, but will not do so if the diseased rat is free from fleas. Perfectly healthy rats harbour very few fleas and are very expert in removing them, but these insects are abundant on sick rats. After death, as the body becomes cold, the fleas leave the rat, and if they reach another rat or human being they may inoculate their new host with the bacilli of plague.

PROF. BROUARDEL, Dean of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, has announced that at the end of his present term of officenamely, in February 1902 -he will not accept re-appointment.

THE Rev. James Chalmers, who is reported to have been murdered in New Guinea, with the Rev. O. F. Tomkins and twelve students, was known to many anthropologists, and made some noteworthy contributions to our knowledge of the natives of New Guinea, where he passed twenty-three years of his life. His death has often been reported before now, and there is always a possibility that rumours from New Guinea will prove to be untrue; but we fear that in this case the news will be confirmed.

THE founders' medal of the Royal Geographical Society has been awarded to the Duke of the Abruzzi for his expedition to Mount St. Elias and for Arctic exploration. Dr. A. Donaldson Smith has been awarded the patrons' medal for his African expeditions and the important scientific observations made in connection with them. Awards have also been made to Mr. Louis Bernacchi and Captain Colbech for their aid in the Southern Cross Antarctic expedition, and to Captain Cagni for his journey to 86° 33' N., on the Duke of the Abruzzi's expedition.

WE are reminded by the *British Medical Journal* that on October 13 Prof. Rudolf Virchow will complete his 80th year, and preparations are already being made by his numerous friends and pupils to celebrate that interesting anniversary with appropriate pomp and circumstance. A committee has been formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions, to be applied to the development of the Rudolf Virchow Stiftung, which was established for the furtherance of science in 1881. The president of the committee is Prof. Waldeyer, the distinguished anatomist of Berlin; the secretary is Prof. Posner.

The committee appointed by the International Congress of Geologists in August last has, says Science, announced as the subject proposed for the Spendiaroff prize for 1903 "A Critical Review of the Methods of Classification of Rocks" (Revue critique des méthodes de classification des roches). The value of the prize is 456 roubles, or about 641. Manuscripts should be addressed to M. Charles Barrois, secrétaire général du Congrès Géologique International, 62, Boulevard Saint Michel, Paris. At least two copies of papers submitted in competition are required, and they should be sent, at the latest, a year before the next session of the Congress in 1903.

THE erection of a memorial to the late Prof. Huxley in Ealing, where he was born and received his early education, is contemplated. On the initiative of the council of the Ealing Natural Science Society, a committee of those persons connected with the district who are interested in the project has been formed. The first meeting of this committee was held on March 29, when an executive committee was appointed with the Rev. Prof. G. Henslow as chairman. A bronze medallion portrait has been advocated for the central feature of the design, which may take the form of a simple mural tablet or of a more worthy monument, as funds are obtainable, while should that support be forthcoming for which its projectors hope, an annual grant or medal might also be founded. Subscription to the fund is not confined to residents in Ealing, and persons who may be desirous of assisting in the endeavour to show honour to the memory of Huxley in the place of his birth should communicate with the treasurer of the fund (Mr. T. Simpson, Fennymere, Castle Bar, Ealing), or with the secretary (Mr. B. B. Woodward, 120 The Grove, Ealing).

The investigation of the Louisiana Gulf Coast, made by Prof. Beyer for the American Ornithological Association for the purpose of stationing wardens to protect the sea birds, shows that action was not taken a moment too soon. Prof. Beyer found that nearly all the breeding places of the birds had been destroyed by killing the birds themselves and taking their eggs. Not a trace of birds was found on either Brush or Caillou Islands, at one time the home of millions of sea fowl. The same was true of Calumet and Castelle Islands, on which every living thing had been killed. A few gulls and hens were found left on Timbalier Island, and there are said to be a few on Last Island, which, however, could not be visited on account of the severe weather. Wardens were appointed wherever birds were found, and the fishermen of the neighbourhood promised to co-operate with the wardens in preventing the killing of the birds in the breeding season and the stealing of eggs.

The annual general meeting of the Zoological Society was held on Monday. In the report of the council, reference was made to the publication of the fifteenth volume of the Society's *Transactions*, consisting of a monograph of the genus Casuarius, by the Hon. Walter Rothschild. A new pheasantry was built during the past year, and is now tenanted by a full series of members of the pheasant family. The number of visitors to the Gardens in 1900 was 697,178, showing a slight increase over the corresponding number in the previous year. The number

of animals living in the Society's Gardens at the end of December last was 2865, of which 758 were mammals, 1495 birds, and 612 reptiles and batrachians. Amongst the additions made during the past year thirty-one were specially commented upon as being of remarkable interest, and in most cases new to the Society's collection. The Duke of Bedford was re-elected president of the Society.

WE learn from the *Electrician* that, in response to the complaints of a number of leading shipping companies, including the White Star, Cunard and American Lines, the Board of Trade has instructed the Marconi Company to erect a signalling station on the mainland close to the Fastnet Rock, at the western extremity of Ireland. All vessels fitted with wireless transmitting apparatus will henceforth be able to report to the shore when many miles outside the Fastnet, and this will, of course, abolish the waste of time and labour caused by the necessity for incoming steamers to pass inside the Fastnet in order to report to Lloyd's station on the mainland.

The deposits of salt at Salton, California, U.S.A., forms one of the sights of America. They occur in a depressed portion of the Colorado Desert, parts of which are as much as three hundred feet below sea-level. The deposits cover as much as a thousand acres, and the company in possession of the area has shipped from it annually about two thousand tons of salt. The salt is cut by means of a plough and is piled into heaps such as those shown in the accompanying illustration, repro-



duced from the Scientific American. Each plough harvests about seven hundred tons of salt per day. A singular characteristic of the bed is that the salt is being deposited daily by springs which run into the basin, and as the water evaporates it leaves behind a crust of almost pure sodium chloride, which ranges from ten to twenty inches in thickness over the area. Geographers will remember that the deposits occupy part of the area of the desert of California flooded to the extent of hundreds of square miles in 1892, when the Colorado River broke it barriers.

The origin of coal and the extent to which the coalfields of Great Britain have been worked were the scientific questions dealt with by Mr. E. B. Wethered in his presidential address to the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club on April 23. It was pointed out that the extent of our present exportation of coal was not contemplated by the Royal Coal Commission in 1871. In 1867 the amount of coal exported was 10,233,135 tons, and it was thought that no considerable increase would take place, whereas nearly fifty-six million tons were exported in the year 1899, including about twelve million tons consumed by steamers engaged in foreign trade. In the matter of home consumption the Commissioners were remarkably correct, their estimate for 1899 being 162,400,000 tons, the actual figures being 164,284,757

tons. Mr. Wethered suggests that another Commission should be appointed to consider the probable duration of the coalfields. Another point on which information is required is as to what natural stores of coal are under the Secondary rocks, and at what depths. It is of national importance that this information should be obtained.

Symons's Meteorological Magazine for April contains what purports to be the first tables of the climate of Pemba ever published. They were taken by Mr. T. Burtt at Banani, during the years 1899 and 1900. The small island of Pemba forms, with Zanzibar, that portion of the British East Africa Protectorate nominally under the rule of the Sultan of Zanzibar, the position of Banani being approximately 5° 15′ S., 39° 43′ E. The temperature is of course very uniform, the mean of the monthly maxima being 83° 4 and of the minima 70° 8, the absolute maximum being 95° and the minimum 65°. The rainfall is copious, averaging about 98 inches. The two rainy seasons are well marked, the greater being March to May, and the less November to January.

MR. G. W. KIRKALDY has favoured us with a copy of his paper on the stridulating organs of water-bugs, recently published in the *Journal* of the Quekett Microscopical Club. The males of these insects, which alone produce the sounds, can mostly be referred to their proper species from the stridulating organs alone. Generally it seems that the sound is produced by drawing the comb-like structure situated on the tarsus of one leg across the femur of the other, and *vice versâ*. But it is believed that there is also a second musical area, one of the constituents, at least, of which is situated on the abdomen. Observations are needed as to the precise *modus operandi* of both types of stridulating organs in these insects.

THE Biologisches Centralblatt of April I contains the two concluding sections of Dr. C. Rengel's account of the lifehistory of the great black water-beetle commonly known as Hydrophilus piceus. It is shown that, unlike those of the brown water-beetles (Dytiscus), which devour free-swimming creatures like tadpoles and the larvæ of other insects, the larvæ of the black water-beetle subsists on slow-moving organisms, especially pondsnails. In the earlier stages of their existence the larvæ devote their attention to Physa and the smaller kinds of Lymnæa, but when full grown they do not hesitate to attack the comparatively large Planorbis corneus. The idea that these larvæ always seek a hole in the ground in which to pupate is shown to be incorrect, the transformation having been observed to take place among a mass of weeds. It seems also that when a hole is selected, this is not excavated by the larvæ themselves. By an inadvertence the title of this paper occurs in the table of contents of the Centralblatt of April 15.

THE issue of the Revue Scientifique of April 20 contains the first instalment of an interesting article by M. Henri Coupin on the song of birds. The author commences by referring to the large proportion of tuneful species met with among the birds of Europe, which he sets at ten per cent., whereas in the tropics it falls as low as one per thousand. The gorgeous birds of the tropics he compares to actresses without talent, who depend for success on the richness of their toilets. Stress is then laid on the fact that, in spite of its simplicity, bird-song cannot be imitated by any known musical instruments. It is possible, indeed, to reproduce the pitch and intensity of the notes, but not the timbre, which includes such a multitude of sounds as to defy imitation. Indeed, the observations of M. F. Lescuyer have shown that although the notes of birds correspond to those of our musical scale, yet they also include a number of vibrations occupying the intervals between our notes, and it is this which renders imitation impossible. In most birds

the duration of the song is very brief; in the thrush and the chaffinch it lasts only two or three seconds, in the blackcap from four to five seconds, and from two to five minutes in the lark. The author then proceeds to analyse the sounds constituting the songs of birds, and to distinguish between their songs and their alarm-cries.

WE have just received Part vii. of the bibliography of the more important contributions to American economic entomology, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Division of Entomology), extending from December 31, 1896, to January 1, 1900. This part, prepared under the direction of Prof. L. O. Howard, the entomologist, by his assistant, Mr. Nathan Banks, contains an alphabetical index, under authors' names, of 1383 papers in different American periodicals, and a subject-index extending to thirteen pages (double columns) in small type. The book is a good illustration of the energy with which economic entomology is pursued in the United States, where, however, it must be remembered that insects are much more numerous and destructive than in Europe, or at least in England.

THE issue of *Die Umschau* for April 20 contains a short illustrated article on the ship *Gauss*, which has been built for the German Antarctic Expedition. A photograph from a model and some views of the vessel in various stages of construction are reproduced.

DR. E. FRIEDRICH contributes a paper on the india-rubber production of Africa to the *Deutsche geographische Blätter*. The export statistics of twenty-five African colonies are dealt with, and the results exhibited graphically on a sketch-map, from which some interesting geographical conclusions are drawn.

THE Verhandlungen of the Berlin Gesellschaft für Erdkunde contain a brief abstract of a lecture, by Dr. K. Kretschmer, on the physical development of the North Sea coasts during historic times. The author refers specially to the regions near the mouths of the rivers Ems and Jade, and describes changes recorded by various authorities since Roman times.

WITH reference to Mr. T. W. Kingsmill's letter in last week's issue (p. 608), Prof. Haddon writes to say that he appreciates its value, but at the same time he wishes to disclaim any first-hand knowledge of Chinese authorities, and to remark that in his article he merely gave an account of M. Ujfalvy's views.

A VOLUME on the history of physiology during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, by Sir Michael Foster, will shortly be published in the Cambridge University Press Biological Series, edited by Mr. A. E. Shipley. The book will consist of lectures delivered by the author last autumn before the Cooper Medical College in San Francisco. Without claiming to be a complete history of the subject the book will contain a full account of the chief advances made in physiology from the time of Vesalius until the beginning of the nineteenth century. In the same series Prof. Marshall Ward is issuing a work on grasses on a somewhat novel plan. It is essentially a practical book, to be used in the field and in the laboratory, and should be of use; not only to the botanist, but also to the farmer and the gardener.

WE have received from Messrs. A. E. Staley and Co. a catalogue of microscopes manufactured by the well-known Bausch and Lomb Optical Co. of Rochester, New York, U.S.A. From the description of their works contained in the catalogue it is evident that the method of production is essentially American. Machine tools of the most modern description and specialisation of the manufacture of component parts should result in every article being of the highest class. The instruments listed of the so-called "Continental" type do not call for

special notice. Of the cheap stands, the American type microscope (F.) is undoubtedly of good design. The horse-shoe foot is replaced by one of a much more stable tripod form, and the arm carrying the tubes and adjustments is particularly well made, giving freedom all round the stage while securing a firm support for the body-tube. All the usual microscope accessories are listed, but there is nothing of such special design as to call for particular notice.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Wild Swine (Sus scrofa, & Q), European, presented by H.M. the King; a Leopard (Felis pardus) from West Africa, presented by Captain Guy Burrows; an Eland (Orias canna, &) from South Africa, presented by the Duke of Bedford; two Grey-breasted Parrakeets (Myopsittacus monachus) from Monte Video, presented by Mrs. Brownrigg; two Ground Snakes (Typhlops exocoeti) from Christmas Island, presented by Sir John Murray, K.C.B., F.R.S.; a Grey-cheeked Mangabey (Cercocebus albigena) from West Africa, a Brazilian Tree Porcupine (Sphingurus prehensilis) from South America, two Black Tortoises (Testudo nigra) from the Galapagos Islands, three Dark Green Snakes (Zamenis gemonensis), two Smooth Snakes (Coronella austriaca), European, deposited; a Sambur Deer (Cervus aristotelis, &) from India, two Javan Peafowls (Pavo spicifer, & Q) from Java, two Peacock Pheasants (Polyplectron chinquis, & 9) from British Burmah, two Australian Sacred Ibises (Ibis strictipennis) from Australia, two Summer Ducks (Æx sponsa & ♀) from North America, two Blood-breasted Pigeons (Phlogaenas luzonica) from the Philippine Islands, four Ruffs (Machetes pugnax, & &, 99), twelve Green Lizards (Lacerta viridis), European, purchased.

#### OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

COMET a (1901). - The Sydney correspondent of the Times reports that a brilliant comet was seen early on Tuesday morning (April 23) at various stations throughout the Australian continent. It was stated to have been near the star

Aldebaran (a Tauri).

On Friday, the 26th ult., a telegram received from Dr. Gill announced that the new comet had been observed from the Cape Observatory. It was very brilliant, having a compound triple tail about 10° long. The comet was observed on the eastern horizon some two hours before sunrise and was rapidly approaching the sun, so that it may be expected to become more brilliant as perihelion is passed. It was seen by the observers at the Yerkes Observatory at Wisconsin early on Saturday morning last, about 15° north of the sun. This indicated that it had made a very rapid north-westerly movement in relation to its position when seen at the Cape. It was visible for fully twenty minutes before sunrise and about fifteen minutes after, and is considered the brightest comet seen for the last nineteen years. No account has yet been received of the comet having been seen in this country.

#### THE APRIL METEORS OF 1901.

A SERIES of very clear nights enabled these objects to be looked for in favourable circumstances this year. Moreover, the moon was absent, so that the smaller class of meteors could be well seen projected on the dark blue of the cloudless sky. Meteors are usually very rare in April, and it is only the shower of Lyrids, occurring in past years on about the 20th, that has made the month interesting to meteoric observers. The display apparently returns annually, but it is often inconspicuous

and rarely proves as rich as the August Perseids.

On April 13, 17, 18 and 19 I maintained a watch of the northeast region of sky, but found meteors scarce and there were very few Lyrids. The minor showers of the epoch gave little sign of their presence. their presence; in fact, meteoric apparitions were so few and far between that observers found their patience sorely tested. Prof. Herschel watched perseveringly at Slough on the nights of April 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, and, in the aggregate, only recorded twenty meteors in 81 hours.

On April 20 at Bristol the sky was brilliantly clear, and I kept a look-out during about five hours of the period from 9h. 50m. to 15h. 30m, but observed only twenty-nine meteors. Not a single Lyrid was included amongst them, though several bright, swift-moving meteors fell from a bordering radiant at 261° + 36° in Hercules.

On April 21 the firmament was less favourable, but soon after commencing to watch at 9h. 45m. I found meteors extremely numerous. Several of the minor showers were very active, and the Lyrids formed a pretty rich display. During 3½ hours' watching, up to 14h. (allowing for occasional interruptions by clouds), I counted fifty-two meteors, and of these there were twenty-five Lyrids from a radiant about 5 degrees in diameter with 270° + 33° as a centre. But while registering the observed paths of the meteors seen, many others must have eluded detection. The horary rate of meteoric apparitions for a continuous watch of the firmament by one observer would have been about 25 and the proportion of Lyrids 12. The figures represent rather an unusual display, though falling far short of the strength of the Perseids and some other periodical showers. It must be remembered, however, that at the epoch of the Lyrids meteors are generally very rare, and that the principal shower is itself sometimes very feeble, if not quite invisible.

The fact of the maximum being so definitely marked on April 21, while there was a comparative absence of Lyrids on April 19 and 20, shows that for some time in future we must expect these meteors on the former date. This is, no doubt, owing to 1900 not having been a leap year. And the shower appears to be a very fugitive, short-lived one, or it must have exhibited more decided traces on April 19 and 20. Though I saw no Lyrids whatever at Bristol on April 20, Prof. Herschel

informs me that he observed 5 during the night.

Nearly all the Lyrids seen this year were accompanied with streaks; this feature was, indeed, as well shown as it usually is in the case of the Perseids, Orionids and Leonids. When the radiant was rather low on April 21, the apparent motions were estimated as slow and slowish; but in the later hours of the night, with increasing altitude of the radiant, the velocity appeared much swifter.

Some of the meteors from Lyra and other constellations were very interesting, and in the following list I have made a few selections in the hope that the objects may have been observed elsewhere, and that the requisite data may be obtained for com-

puting their real paths in the air.

April 21 ... 10 9 Mag. 1 ... 278½ + 52 ... 304 + 70 Lyrid  $3 \dots 202 + 40 \dots 213\frac{1}{2} + 7$  $2 \dots 210 + 50 \dots 171 + 40$ a-B Perseid 10 41 10 50 Lyrid 2 ... 218 +52 ... 255 +75 1 ... 70 +57 ... 88 +50 2 ... 269 +46 ... 305 +49 Virginid 10 59 11 23 Cassiopeid 12 47 Virginid 4 ... 242 +74 ... 130 +74 Lyrid

On April 20, at 10h. 35m., I noticed a brilliant double flash, caused probably by a large meteor at a low altitude, and hidden

Two meteors appearing on April 18 were mutually observed at Slough and Bristol. The first was seen at 13h. 19m., and it fell from an altitude of 83 to 55 miles over Oxfordshire. The radiant was at 266°+33°, so the meteor was an early Lyrid, and it having been well seen at both stations, the direction of its flight was recorded with considerable accuracy. The position of its radiant at 266° + 33°, as compared with the general Lyrid centre at 270° + 33° three nights later, on April 21, proves that this shower, like that of the August Perseids, exhibits a radiant moving eastwards at the rate of about one degree per day. The second meteor doubly observed was registered at 14h. 47m., and it descended from 58 to 44 miles over the borders of Gloucester-shire and Oxfordshire. The radiant was at  $247^{\circ}\pm$  0°, so the meteor belonged to one of the minor showers of the epoch.

Since writing the above I have learnt that two bright meteors, the 1st and 5th in the above list, were observed by Mr. C. I. Brook at Meltham, near Huddersfield, as well as at Bristol. The first was a Lyrid with radiant at 268° + 30°, and it fell from 79 to 54 miles in height over the Midlands. Its length of path was 60 miles and velocity 40 miles per second. The other meteor was a Cassiopeid belonging to a radiant at 21° + 59°, and falling from 66 to 44 miles over Merioneth and Cardigan, Wales. Its observed length of path was 55 miles and velocity 14 miles per second. It is remarkable that though few, if any, of the smaller class of shooting stars diverge from this radiant near δ Cassiopeiæ in the spring months it yet furnishes many fireballs. In the General Catalogue of Radiants, No. xv. p. 228, the radiants of five fireballs appearing in April and May give a mean centre at 20°+57°, which is almost identical with that of the bolide of April 21 last. W. F. Denning.

#### CHEMISTRY IN ITS RELATIONS TO ENGINEERING.

THE engineer of fifty years ago can hardly be said to have received any special educational training; he forced himself to the front in virtue of his qualities and industry alone. But the youth who to-day intends to become an engineer feels it wise, if not necessary, to decide where he shall receive, not only his general, but also his engineering education. While he was at school he will have learnt much about the simpler and more general laws and facts of mechanics and natural science, both by description and by practical work in the laboratory and in the workshop; he will also have attained to some proficiency in mathematics, in one or more of the modern languages, in drawing and in other usual school subjects. When he passes on to his college career his knowledge of these subjects will undergo expansion in the class-room and especially in the laboratory and workshop. It is satisfactory to find that many of our leading schools for training engineers exist in connection with institutions in which pure and applied mathematics, natural science and modern languages are efficiently taught even in their higher stages. The engineering student is thus afforded the opportunity of following up the higher study of any one of these subjects, if his taste and energy lead him to wish him to do so. But even his ordinary course of instruction always includes the opportunity of obtaining lecture and laboratory instruction in chemistry.

#### Chemistry in Engineering Education.

It appears to be the general feeling of those who have had experience in teaching chemistry to engineering students that it is useless to attempt very much in the small amount of time which can be allotted to the subject in the regular curriculum; it is evidently felt, however, that a student who wishes to attain to any considerable proficiency in the subject should be encouraged to join certain additional courses which are included in the ordinary chemical curriculum.

Probably all that can be expected of the average engineering student is that he shall become generally conversant, during his college course, with chemical language, with chemical principles and laws, and with the chemical nature of the materials with which he has to deal; and that he should obtain such an insight into chemical analysis as to be able to confer with the trained chemist, and to understand the meaning of a general statement of the results of chemical analyses bearing on metals, alloys, fuel, lubricants, cements and other materials which are frequently used by the engineer.

It is beyond question that the engineer has too many calls upon his time and energy, both in his training and in his subsequent career, to allow of his becoming a chemist or a chemical analyst; but he should at least be sufficiently conversant with the science to enable him to appreciate the important bearings of chemistry on his varied requirements, and to enable him to avail himself intelligently of the results of chemical investigation and analysis. He should be able to watch and to appreciate any chemical inquiry and investigation, even if he is not qualified to suggest its methods of procedure or to carry it out himself.

It has been stated to me by a German manager of large English works, who has frequently occasion to call in the professional advice and assistance of both engineers and chemists, and who is himself well educated in both departments, that he has to lament in this country the "absence of useful engineering knowledge among chemists, and of useful chemical knowledge among engineers." Another informant states that Germany employs many more trained chemists working in conjunction with her engineers than England does.

#### Applications of Chemistry to Engineering.

In order to illustrate some of the advantages which engineers have derived from chemical coadjutors, one or two instances may

Abstract of the 'James Forrest" lecture delivered at the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 25 by Prof. Frank Clowes.

be selected from different fields of engineering activity and enterprise.

In the matter of supplying the engineer with suitable constructive materials, the most striking case is that of the introduction of cheap steel of varying qualities in substitution for costly steel and other less suitable forms of iron.

The Bessemer process owed its original suggestion, as well as its salvation from failure, to the chemical knowledge which was supplied to those who were interested in the procedure. It further owed the extension of its application to all the commonest, cheapest and most abundant kinds of impure English cast iron to the further utilisation of chemical knowledge and suggestion.

At the present time the metallurgical chemist and the chemical metallurgist are engaged in furnishing metals and alloys, new to commerce, which can rank in importance with cheap steel, only in a somewhat minor degree; and the engineer in every department of his activity is now continually having placed at his disposal alloys which are more suitable for his various designs than any which he has hitherto employed.

It is scarcely necessary to point out the absolute necessity of chemical knowledge and chemical advice to the gas engineer. In the matter of water supply, also, both the engineer and the chemist find their respective but closely connected spheres of

There is another direction in which the constant relation of chemistry to engineering, and in which the association of the chemist with the engineer must be maintained, if success is to

be secured and expensive failures are to be avoided.

In no application of chemical and engineering principles is the co-operation of chemist and engineer more necessary for the attainment of success than in securing the suitable purification of our town sewage. Such co-operation has enabled London, Manchester and other large centres of population in recent years to carry out on an experimental scale most important trials of the natural or bacterial treatment of sewage, and has led to reports on this method being published which will probably become classical. This experimental work has led to considerable and valuable development and improvement of the bacterial method. There is now no doubt that this process can inexpensively dispose of a large proportion of the putrescible sediment or sewage-sludge, and can render the effluent, not only non-putrescible and suitable for maintaining the life of fish, but even pure if necessary. The process is therefore destined to effect great reforms in our sewage-disposal problem and considerable improvements in the condition of our watercourses.

# UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—The Rede Lecturer for the present year is Dr. F. W. Maitland, Downing professor of law. Dr. Haddon, F.R.S., gives this term a course of lectures on studies in Papuan ethnology and the races of Oceania, on Mondays and Fridays at 2.30 p.m.

at 2.30 p.m.

The Medical School Buildings Syndicate recommend the acceptance of tenders for the erection of the Downing Street wing and the Humphry Museum, amounting to more than 26,000/.

The Frank Smart studentship in botany at Caius College, of the annual value of 100%, will be vacant at Michaelmas. Candidates must have taken honours in Part i. of the Natural Sciences Tripos. Further information may be had from the senior tutor of the College.

A meeting was held in St. John's College on April 27 for the purpose of procuring a portrait of Prof. Liveing, F.R.S., as a memorial of his lifelong services to the University. The meeting was largely attended by members of the Senate, and a warm tribute was paid to the professor, who began his teaching of chemistry fifty years ago, and who during that time has in many ways, public and private, benefited the University, town, and county of Cambridge. A strong committee was formed to carry out the purpose of the meeting.

Prof. Newton announces that there are vacancies for workers at the University tables in the Plymouth and the Naples zoological stations. Applications are to be sent to him by

Twenty-one candidates have passed the half-yearly examination in sanitary science for the diploma in Public Health, held in April. Dr. J. N. Langley, F.R.S., is re-appointed deputy-professor of physiology until Michaelmas 1903, in the place of Sir M. Foster, M.P.

Mr. R. T. Smith has been appointed principal of the Northern Polytechnic Institute. He organised and equipped the South African College, Capetown, and acted as professor of mathematics and physics in the College for several years; and, more recently, was lecturer in mathematics and physics in the Goldsmiths' Institute, New Cross.

The Secretary of State for War has appointed a committee to consider the education of candidates for commissions in the Army and the system of training at Woolwich and Sandhurst, and to report whether any changes are desirable in the present methods of entrance into the Army. The following will form the committee:—The Right Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, M.P. (chairman); the Rev. Dr. Warre, headmaster of Eton; Mr. F. W. Walker, high master of St. Paul's School, Hammersmith; Colonel Jelf, C.M.G., Royal Engineers; Lieutenant-Colonel Hammersley, Lancashire Fusiliers; Captain Lee, M.P., late professor of strategy and tactics, Royal Military College, Canada; and Captain W. E. Cairnes, Royal Irish Fusiliers (secretary).

ADVOCATES of improvements in geometrical teaching will be glad to know that the Civil Service Commission has lately introduced a change of importance to all who are concerned with Civil Service examinations. Before this year an instruction at the head of examination papers in geometry stated that "Proofs other than Euclid's must not violate Euclid's sequence of propositions." Upon recent papers, however, this has been superseded by the note that "Correct demonstrations, whether those of Euclid or not, will be accepted." It thus becomes possible for teachers preparing pupils for the Civil Service to be independent of Euclid's sequence or proofs. Recent questions also encourage teaching of a less abstract character than that usually associated with Euclid's geometry. We understand that the Board of Education will accept alternative proofs of propositions in future examinations in geometry.

# SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

Physical Society, April 26.—Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, foreign secretary, in the chair.—A paper on the thermodynamical correction of the gas thermometer was read by Prof. H. L. Callendar. This paper commences by giving a short historical sketch of the thermodynamic correction of the gas thermometer, describing some of the solutions to Thomson's fundamental equation for the Joule-Thomson plug experiment. The assumptions made in the solutions have sometimes been erroneous and wrong corrections have been obtained. From 1885 to 1888 Chappuis made a series of careful comparisons between various gas thermometers and a very delicate mercury thermometer, and drew up a table of differences between the hydrogen and the nitrogen thermometer. The author has taken the observations of Chappuis and calculated a new table of differences. index "n" in the modified Joule-Thomson equation is not constant. For steam it is about 3.5 and for carbonic acid about 2. The thermodynamic correction is very small, especially in the case of hydrogen and helium, and is very much less than the correction for the expansion of the thermometer bulb. Prof. Herschell asked whether the co-volume came into the correction. Dr. Harker looked forward to the experiments which Prof. Callendar proposes to make with a constant pressure thermometer. The chairman expressed his interest in the extreme delicacy of the observations of Chappuis.-A paper on the production of a bright-line spectrum by anomalous dispersion and its application, the "flash-spectrum," by R. W. Wood, was read and experimentally illustrated by Mr. Watson. It has been suggested by W. H. Julius that the "flash-spectrum seen immediately at totality may be due to photosphere light abnormally refracted in the atmosphere of metallic vapours surrounding the sun. The light which will be thus abnormally refracted will be of wave-lengths almost identical with the wavelengths which the metallic vapours are themselves capable of radiating. The sun is supposed to be surrounded by an atmoradiating. The sun is supposed to be surrounded by an auno-sphere of metallic vapours, the refractive index of which decreases with increasing distance from the surface. In this atmosphere the rays of light coming from the photosphere move

in curved paths. The refractive index is, however, very small, except for wave-lengths very near those absorbed by the vapour, consequently the light which resembles that emitted by the vapours, is most strongly refracted, and therefore curves suffi-ciently to reach us after the photosphere has been hidden by The flash-spectrum of sodium was shown by focussing the light of an arc lamp on a horizontal slit in front of a flat metal plate supported so that the plane in which its under-surface lay coincided with the plane of the slit. At a distance of about two metres a direct vision spectroscope was arranged to give a vertical spectrum and placed at such a height that the prism barely caught the rays coming from the slit and grazing the plate. On looking into the spectroscope a bright continuous spectrum is seen. A Bunsen burner was then placed underneath the metal plate and fed with sodium. produced a layer of sodium vapour of varying refractive index. On raising or lowering the spectroscope bright sodium lines are seen due to anomalous dispersion. By arranging screens these lines can be obtained so that, on cutting out the arc lamp, the flash-spectrum vanishes. Prof. Herschel expressed his interest in the experiments and their application to the case of the flash-spectrum seen at totality.

#### PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, April 22 .- M. Fouqué in the chair. -On the residues, and periods of double integrals of rational functions, by M. Emile Picard. -On an apparatus designed to move the photographic plate which received the image furnished by a siderostat, by M. G. Lippman. In an image given by a siderostat only one point is really fixed, the other points appear-ing to move round this with a variable velocity. It is shown that a suitable motion can be given to the photographic plate capable of overcoming this defect by means of a gear driven by the clockwork of the siderostat. - On the existence of nitrides, argonides, arsenides and iodides in crystalline rocks, by M. Armand Gautier. The finely powdered granites and basaks were decomposed by heating at 100° with phosphoric acid. Determinations are given of the amount of nitrogen, arsenic and iodine in various rocks.—Comparison of the work done by a muscle in sustaining and lifting a charge, by M. A. Chauveau. —On the propagation of discontinuities in a viscous fluid; extension of the law of Hugoniot, by M. P. Duhem.—On a question relating to a displacement of a figure of invariable size, by M. R. Bricard. -On entire functions of several variables and their modes of growth, by M. Emile Borel.—Some isotherms of ether between 100° and 206°, by M. Edouard Mack. The pressure of the ether vapour was balanced by a piston floating on a very viscous liquid, and the volume of the ether, which was completely surrounded by a mercury bath, was deduced from the motion of the piston.—Cryoscopic researches, by M. Paul Chroustchoff. An account of some of the precautions necessary in applying the platinum thermometer to the measurement of the lowering of the freezing point of dilute solutions.—On a new system of ammeters and voltmeters. independent of the intensity of their permanent magnets, by M. Pierre Weiss. In an instrument of the d'Arsonval type a decrease in the strength of the permanent magnet causes. a decrease in the sensibility of the instrument; in instru-ments having a movable magnetic needle controlled by a permanent magnet the opposite is the case. If, in an instrument of the moving coil type, the coil carries a small piece of soft iron, these two effects may be made self-compensating. It was found possible to construct a galvanometer of this type in which the sensibility was practically invariable.—On the influence of self-induction upon spark spectra, by Mr. G. A. Hemsalech. Three photographs are given showing the progressive changes produced in the spark spectra of cobalt, lead and magnesium by an alteration in the self-induction of the spark circuit.—Periodic oscillations productions by the superposition of an alternating current on a continuous current in an electric arc, by M. E. Keenig. -On an apparatus which imitates the effect of luminous fountains, by M. G. Trouvé.—On barium hydride, by M. Guntz. Barium hydride, the existence of which was first indicated by Winkler, has been obtained in a pure state and found to have the composition BaH<sub>2</sub>. This compound is of remarkable stability; it can be slowly sublimed in a current of hydrogen at 1400° C. without decomposition. Heated in a current of nitrogen, barium nitride is formed.—The estimation of nitric acid in waters by means of stannous chloride, by M. H. Henriet. The fact discovered by Divers and Haga that nitrates react with stannous

chloride giving hydroxylamine chloride has been applied by the author to the quantitative determination of nitrates in potable waters.—The action of various alcohols upon some acetals of monovalent alcohols, by M. Marcel Delépine. — On three new alkaloids from tobacco, by MM. Amé Pictet and A. Rotschy. Further particulars of the physical and chemical properties of the three alkaloids nicoteine, nicotimine and nicotelline.—The action of phenylhydrazine and of hydrazine upon the two isomeric methyl butyrylacetylacetates, by M. Bongert. On paraoxyhydratropic acid, by M. J. Bougault.— Some new reactions of organometallic derivatives, by M. E. E. Blaise.—On a new base derived from glucose, by MM. L. Maquenne and E. Roux. The base, which is termed glucamine, is obtained by reducing glucosoxime with sodium amalgam.-Action of the alkylcyanacetic esters on the diazochlorides, by M. G. Favrel.—Reduction of the nitro-derivatives of the azoic colouring matters, by M. A. Rosenstiehl.—On two new acetylenic acids. Synthesis of caprylic and pelargonic acids, by MM. Ch. Moureu and R. Delange.—On the indoxylic origin of certain red colouring matters of urine, by M. L. Maillard.—The calculation of the results of milk analyses, by MM. Louise and Riquier.—Segmentation in the genus Trochus, by M. A. Robert.—Action of isotonic solutions of chlorides and of sugar on the eggs of *Rana fusca*, by Mme. Ronfeau-Luzeau.—The stimulation of nerve and muscle by waves of very short duration, by M. G. Weiss.—Action of alcohol upon the gastric secretion, by MM. Albert Frouin and M. Molinier. The increased secretion of the gastric juice caused by alcohol is shown experimentally not to be due, as has been usually supposed, to a direct local action, nor is it due to an effect produced upon the nerves of taste.—On the second fermentation of the wines of Champagne, by M. E. Manceau.—Apparatus for the exact measurement of the skeleton and of other organs giving a clear image in radiography, by M. G. Contremoulins.—On the origin and mode of formation of the Oolitic iron ore of Lorraine, by M. Stanislaus Meunier.

#### DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, MAY 2.

THURSDAY, MAY 2.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4, 20.—On the Variation in Gradation of a Developed Photographic Image when impressed by Monochromatic Light of Different Wave Lengths: Sir W. de W. Abney, F.R.S.—Ellipsoidal Harmonic Analysis: Prof. G. H. Darwin, F.R.S.—On the Small Vertical Movements of a Stone laid on the Surface of the Ground: Horace Darwin,—On the Intimate Structure of Crystals. Part V. Cubic Crystals with Octahedral Cleavage; Prof. W. J. Sollas, F.R.S.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—Studies in Heterogenesis: Prof. H. C. Bastian, F.R.S.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Synthetical Formation of Bridged-Rings. Part I. Some Derivatives of Bicyclopentane: Prof. W. H. Perkin, jun., F.R.S., and Dr. J. F. Thorpe,—Ballot for the Election of Fellows.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—An Instrument for Measuring the Permeability of Iron and Steel: C. G. Lamb and Miles Walker.—A Watt-Hour Meter: Frank Holden.

RÖNTGEN SOCIETY, at 8.—Some X-Ray Improvements: James Cadett.

FRIDAY, MAY 3.

FRIDAY, MAY 3.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Memory: C. Mercier.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Polyphase Electric Working: A. C. Eborall.
ANATOMICAL SOCIETY, at 4.—(a) Additional Notes on the Articulations between the Occipital Bone, Atlas, and Axis in the Mammalia: (b) On the Development of Digits in Cetacea; (c) Observations on the Development of the Human Brain before and after Birth: Prof. Symington.—A Contribution to the Study of the Morphology of Adipose Tissue: Dr. H. Batty Shaw.—A Lantern Demonstration showing the Origin and Nature of the Hydatiform Bodies of the Testicle and Broad Ligament, with Special Reference to the Fate of the Mullerian Duct in the Epididymis: J. H. Watson.—Relation of Structure to Function, as illustrated by the Growth of the Inferior Femoral Epiphysis: Prof. Arthur Thomson.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, at 8.—Geology and the Growth of London: A. Morley Davies.

SATURDAY, May 4.

SATURDAY, MAY 4.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Climate: its Causes and its Effects: J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S.

MONDAY, MAY 6.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.-Alloys: Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen, K.C.B., F.R.S.

TUESDAY, MAY 7.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Cellular Physiology: Dr. A. Macfadyen.
Society of Arts, at 4.30.—The Coal Problem—its Relations to the Empire: Lieut. Carlyon W. Bellairs, R.N.
Zoological Society, at 8.30.—On the Spiders of the Family Attidæ found in Jamaica: Mr. G. W. Peckham and Mrs. E. G. Peckham.—On the Hymenoptera collected during the "Skeat Expedition" to the Malay Peninsula, 1890-1900; P. Cameron.—On the Arachnida collected during the "Skeat Expedition" to the Malay Peninsula, 1899-1900; M. Eug. Simon. M. Eug. Simon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8 .- School Work in Relation to Business : Sir Joshua

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Influence of the Winds upon Climate during the Pleistocene Epoch: a Palæo-Meteorological Explanation of some Geological Problems: F. W. Harmer.

IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, at 10.30.—Annual Meeting.

#### THURSDAY, MAY o

ROVAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—(1) A Case of Algebraic Partitionment;
(2) On the Series whose Terms are the Cubes and Higher Powers of the Binomial Coefficients: Major MacMahon, R.A., F.R.S.—A Property of Recurring Series: G. B. Mathews, F.R.S.—The Product of Two Spherical Surface Harmonic Functions: J. B. Dale.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Storage Batteries in Electric Power Stations, controlled by Reversible Boosters: J. S. Highfield.

IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, at 10.30 .- Annual Meeting.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 10.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—The Response of Inorganic Matter to Mechanical and Electrical Stimulus: Prof. J. C. Bose.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Polyphase Electric Working: Alfred C. Eborall.
ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.
MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8. MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

SATURDAY, MAY 11.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Rise of Civilisation in Egypt : Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie.

plant the know that the Chall Species Calculations (say that)	
CONTENTS. PAGE	
The Physician as Physiologist. By E. A. S	
A German Naturalist in the West Indies and	
America, By R. L	
A Biblical Encyclopædia. By T. G. B 3	
Our Book Shelf:-	
Schleiermacher: "Plato's Staat"; Siegert: "John	
Locke's Versuch über den Menschlichen Verstand";	
Ueberweg: "Berkeley's Abhandlung über die	
Prinzipien der Menschlichen Erkenntnis"; Richter:	
"Berkeley's Drei Dialoge zwischen Hylas und	
Philonous."—H. W. B 4	
Jordan and Evermann; "The Fishes of North and Middle America; a Descriptive Catalogue of the	
Species of Fish-like Vertebrates, found in the Waters	
of North America, North of the Isthmus of Panama."	
—A. G 4	
Ostwald: "Die Wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen der	
analytischen Chemie elementar dargestellt" 5 Lassar-Cohn: "An Introduction to Modern Scientific	
Chemistry."—A. S 5	
Chemistry."—A. S	
Letters to the Editor:-	
Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations.—Prof.	
G. Chrystal 5	
Electro-ChemistryJohn Hill Twigg; Dr. F.	
Mollwo Perkin	
Chastal rightation of the Beat 11011, 110110	
Recent Developments in Electric Signalling. (Illus- trated.)	
Indigo and Sugar. By Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin 10	
The Older Civilisation of Greece. (Illustrated.) II	
Magnetic Observations during Total Solar Eclipse.	
By William Ellis, F.R.S	
Prof. H. A. Rowland. By R. T. G 16	
Prof. François Marie Raoult. By W. R 17	
Dr. A. Hirsch	
Notes. (Illustrated.)	
Our Astronomical Column:-	
Comet a (1901) 21	

The April Meteors of 1901. By W. F. Denning . Chemistry in its Relations to Engineering. By Prof. University and Educational Intelligence . . . .

Societies and Academies . . . . . . . .  23