

AT Carácas in Venezuela on August 1 there was a heavy shock of earthquake at 7 p.m.

THE United States Government proposes to hold an International Sanitary Congress at Washington in January, 1881.

THE Rev. A. E. Eaton has begun a series of Notes on the Entomology of Portugal in the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*.

IN No. 9, vol. xxxviii. of *Globus* an account of Dr. Potagos's travels in the regions of the Nile and Welle is given.

AMONG the articles in No. 2 of the *American Journal of Philology* (Macmillan and Co.) is one of considerable scientific interest—"Recent Investigations of Grimm's Law," by Mr. H. C. G. Brandt of Johns Hopkins University.

WE are requested by Lieut. Temple to publish the following letter addressed to him by Lieut. Col. Fr. Sejersted, Director of the Royal Norwegian Geographical Survey Office:—"Christiania, August 7, 1880.—Sir,—You may possibly have noticed that I have replied in some English newspapers to remarks stated in those papers to have been made by you at a meeting on the 19th of May last of the Society of Arts, with respect to our Norwegian coast charts, and that I have especially alleged that your remarks must have been caused by ignorance of the present stage of our coast charts. I now learn from a copy of the *Journal* of the Society of Arts, containing your paper complete, that the said newspaper statements were misleading extracts, and that your censure was not pointed against our coast charts, but against an English belabouring of those charts in no way connected with the geographical survey of Norway. As a matter of course my reply would not have been published if the said newspaper statements had been correct concerning the main point to us, and I hereby declare with great pleasure that the copy of the *Journal* of the Society of Arts, containing your paper, proves plainly that you are intimately acquainted with our coast charts and coast descriptions, which are mentioned by you in a very satisfactory manner to us. I express my wish that these lines may help to make good the injustice you have suffered from the misconceptions caused by the ambiguous newspaper statements, and I beg to leave it to you to use this letter at pleasure."

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Macaque Monkey (*Macacus cynomolgus*) from India, presented by Mr. Geo. G. Turner; two American Moorhens (*Gallinula galeata*) from America, presented by Mr. G. H. Hawtayne, C.M.Z.S.; a Turnstone (*Streptilas interpres*), captured at sea, off the Azores, presented by Capt. A. McRitchie, s.s. *Utopia*; two Koodoos (*Strepsicerous kudu*) from Africa, a Harnessed Antelope (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) from Gambia, a Syrian Fennec Fox (*Canis famelicus*) from North Africa, a King Vulture (*Gypagus papa*) from Tropical America, deposited; a Nylghaie (*Boselaphus pictus*) from India, a Michie's Tufted Deer (*Elaphodus michianus*) from China, a Cuvier's Toucan (*Ramphastos cuvieri*) from the Upper Amazons, purchased.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES
PARIS

Academy of Sciences, August 16.—M. Wurtz in the chair.—The following papers were read:—Summary report of the cruise of *Le Travailleur* (continued), by M. Alph. Milne-Edwards. He describes the various animal species obtained.—On the establishment of hospital stations in Equatorial Africa, by M. de Lesseps. This reports the progress of Capt. Bloyet in the East (who reached Usagara on July 2) and M. de Brazza in the West (who is seeking a suitable position on one of the affluents of the Ogowé).—On the embryos accompanying cysticerci in pork, by M. Poincaré. Pork may contain microscopic germs of *Tænia* which may quite escape ordinary inspection. Raw meat of any kind should be avoided.—On some formulæ relative to hypergeometric functions of two variables, by M.

Appell.—On various attempts at demonstration of the theorem of Fermat, by M. Pépin.—Observation on a group of lines in the solar spectrum, by M. Thollon. With the centre of the solar image, on his apparatus (on a mountain near Nice) he notes four lines, *a, b, c, d*, of which *a* and *b* are close to each other, and similarly *c* and *d*; *b* and *c* are of iron, *a* and *d* are telluric. On directing the apparatus to the two ends of the equatorial diameter, the iron lines are displaced relatively to the others, conformably to theory.—On the cause of variations of fixed points in thermometers, by M. Crafts. He describes experiments which reduce to *nil*, or a very small amount, the rôle of pressure in permanent elevation of the zero point. Glass blown at the lamp and long exposed to heat diminishes in volume through interior work.—On rapid alcoholic fermentation, by M. Boussingault. This relates to fermentation in a liquid that is boiling under a pressure so weak that the heat does not alter the organism of the ferment, while yet it is sufficient to expel the alcohol and the carbonic acid. Glycerine appears during this rapid fermentation.—Spectral examination of thulium, by M. Thalén.—On the absorption-spectra of metals forming part of the groups of yttria and of cerite, by M. Soret.—On erbine, by M. Clève. The atomic weight of the metal he finds to be 166 (ytterbium 173).—Measurement of the intensity of some dark lines of the solar spectrum, by M. Gouy. His method shows clearly the telluric nature of the group B (between 6866 and 6880), by reason of their greater intensity.—On polar electricity in hemihedric crystals with inclined faces, by MM. Jacques and Curie. They show that in all the non-conducting substances studied the direction of the electric poles is connected with the position of the hemihedric facetes. M. Thenard recalled experiments bearing on the subject made by his son fifteen years ago.—New results of utilisation of solar heat obtained at Paris, by M. Pifre. He succeeds in utilising 80 per cent. of the solar heat as against 50 (Mouchot). The reflector is made of three truncated cones, so that the generating line is a broken one. The focus is thus concentrated in much less length, and the height of the boiler may be diminished one half (without increasing its diameter). When the sky is clear the boiling of fifty litres is obtained in less than forty minutes, and the pressure rises 1 atm. every seven or eight minutes. The steam-engine is specially adapted for solar receivers.—Production of crystals of sesquichloride of chromium of persistent green colour, by M. Mengeot.—On the inconveniences presented, with regard to physiological reactions, in cases of poisoning with morphine, by the substitution of amylic alcohol for ether in the process of Stas, by MM. Bergeron and L'Hôte.—On the experiment of the great cervical sympathetic, by MM. Dastre and Morat. They demonstrate the existence of vaso-dilator as well as vaso-constrictor nerves in the cervical sympathetic.—Morphological signification of the appendices serving for suspension of chrysalides, by M. Künnkel. They are (in Lepidoptera) hooks of membranous anal legs modified and adapted to special biological conditions.—On a new station of the age of stone at Hanaweh, near Tyre (Syria), by M. Lortet. Myriads of flints (of very primitive form), along with numerous fragments of bone and teeth, were found in a kind of conglomerate or breccia.—On the falling stars of August 9, 10, and 11, 1880, by M. Chapelas. The mean horary number is only 53.7, making a difference of 69.3 with that last year. This seems to limit the return of the maximum of August between 1848 and 1879, giving a period of thirty-two or thirty-three years, quite like that of the phenomenon of November 12 and 13.

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