

coloured or brown spots began to appear on the face and hands, but *these remained limited to the portions of the surface exposed to light.*"

May it not therefore be claimed that there is much foundation for the suggestion that the black skin of the negro is but the smoked glass through which alone his widespread sentient nerve-endings could be enabled to regard the sun?

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Since the foregoing was written there has appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, July 26, a most valuable paper by Dr. Gresswell on "Some Effects of Variations of Light," which sums up in these words, "We are tempted to conclude that light and heat impose each its own effects upon plants, as they do upon animals," and that "light is a stimulus direct as well as indirect."

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Atti della R. Accademia dei Lincei, May 18.—On the molybdate of didymium, by Alfonso Cossa.—On the geological constitution of the Maritime Alps, by D. Zaccagna.—On some psychological difficulties that may be solved by means of the idea of the infinite, by Francesco Bonatelli.—Remarks on the Oriental manuscripts of the *Marsigli Collection* at Bologna, with a complete list of the Arabic manuscripts in the same collection, by Baron Victor Rosen.—The Ligurians associated with the barrows of the first Iron Age found in the district of Golasecca, Lombardy, by Luigi Pigorini.—Note on Bartolomeo da Parma, an astronomer of the thirteenth century, and on a treatise by him on the sphere preserved in the Victor Emmanuel Library, by Enrico Narducci.—Report on the antiquities discovered in various parts of Italy during the month of April, by S. Fiorelli.—Meteorological observations made at the Observatory of the Campidoglio during the month of April.

June 1.—Obituary notice of A. Wurtz, by S. Camizzaro.—On the expansion of sulphuric ether under various pressures, by G. Pietro Grimaldi.—On the physiology and pathology of the supra-renal capsules, by Guido Tizzoni.—Analysis of a silicated hydrate of baryta, by Alfonso Cossa and Giuseppe La Valle.—On the observations of atmospheric electricity made at the Central Meteorological Office, Rome, by Pietro Tacchini.—Meteorological observations made at the Observatory of the Campidoglio during the month of May.

June 15.—Description of a Buddhist Codex in the Pali language, forwarded to the Academy by L. Nocentini, Italian Vice-Consul at Shanghai.—Obituary notice of Hermann Ulrici, by S. Ferri.—Reports on the influence of heat and magnetism on the electric resistance of bismuth, by Prof. Augusto Righi; on the constants of refraction, by Dr. R. Nasini; on the capillary equivalents of simple bodies, by Prof. R. Schiff.—Note on a problem in electrostatics, by Vito Volterra.—A method of determining the ohm in absolute measure, by Guglielmo Mengarini.—Experimental researches on the variation in the density of water between 0° and 10°, by Filippo Bonetti.—On the spectrum of absorption of the vapour of iodine, by Arnolfo Morghen.—Remarks on Shelford Bidwell's new explanation of Hall's phenomenon, by Augusto Righi.—On the electric conductivity of the combinations of carbon, by Adolfo Bartoli.—On the penetrability of glass by gases under pressure, by Adolfo Bartoli.—On the coexistence of different empirical formulas, and especially on those containing the capillary constant of liquids or the cohesion of solids, by Adolfo Bartoli.—On the atmospheric waves produced by the Krakatoa eruption, and observed at Palermo, by Gaetano Cacciatore.—Remarks on the dynamics of storms, by Ciro Ferrari.—On the intestinal canals and branchial tubes of the Salpidae, by Francesco Todaro.—Report on the antiquities found in various parts of Italy during the month of May, by S. Fiorelli.

Revue d'Anthropologie, tome viii., fasc. 3, Paris, 1884.—The contents are:—An unfinished paper of Paul Broca, on his mode of preparing the cerebral hemispheres, which, with another chapter on the best methods of casting the required moulds, was to have formed part of the treatise on the circonvolutions of the schematic brain, on which he was engaged at the time of his death. The present paper breaks off in the middle of his explanation of the process of mummifying the brain.—An essay on the ethnology of North Africa, by M. Camille Sabatier. This paper is entirely devoted to the consideration and recapitula-

tion of the geographical descriptions given by Herodotus, Salust, and other ancient writers of Lybia, under which designation most of the then known African continent was included. It also treats of the great invasions from Asia, and of the differences between the various African races. As distinct from the Lybians or mountaineers, and the Getulæ or pastoral occupants of the plains, the author believes we may recognise a separate branch, which bore the name of Escs or Osces, and which probably have given origin to the modern Basque Escualdunacs and other kindred western races.—A continuation of M. Deniker's observations on the Kalmuks. This paper is devoted specially to the sociology of the people, the condition of the women, and the practices observed at betrothals, marriages, &c., being fully treated of. The Lamas, who exercise a great influence on the people—intervening in all the great events of life from the cradle to the grave—are employed in several of the steppes by the Russian Government to keep the civil registers of the various hordes.

On various skulls of Arizona and New Mexico, by M. Ten Kate. From a comparative study of these and other crania collected by the author in his extensive travels in the Far West and in the Mexican territories, he is inclined to regard the constructors of the *casas grandes* of Arizona and the "cliff-dwellers" as closely allied to the Indian tribes of the Pueblos, or so-called "towns" of New Mexico. He found the same brachycephalic characteristics and the same evidence of artificial deformity in skulls of the ancient Pueblos of Quarra as in the modern Mexican Indians.—On the circumference of the thorax, and its relation to the dimensions of the rest of the body, by M. Ed. Goldstein. This paper is based on the data supplied by Dr. Snigerev in his great work on the recruiting of the Russian army, more especially in the districts of the Vistula and the north-west of the empire. The great ethnological fact established by these determinations appears to be that, as compared with Poles, Germans, Lithuanians, Russians, and Samogitians, the Jews are distinguished by relative smallness of stature, and by the generally inferior dimensions of the chest, in both of which particulars they would appear to fall considerably below the mean of all the other races brought under the notice of the authorities at the head of the department for recruiting the Russian army.

Rendiconti del Reale Istituto Lombardo, July 17.—Note on the present conditions of the agricultural interests in Europe and America (continued), by Prof. Gaetano Cantoni.—Mémorial on cellulose and parasites in their pathological relations (concluded), by Prof. G. Sangalli.—Mental affection of Torquato Tasso; his detention in the Hospital of Sant' Anna, according to some recently-discovered documents, by Prof. A. Corradi.—On the equilibrium of elastic and rigid surfaces, by Dr. Gian Antonio Maggi.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

EDINBURGH

Royal Society, July 21.—The Right Hon. Lord Moncreiff, President, in the chair.—Mr. John Murray communicated, with remarks, a paper by Dr. Guppy of H.M.S. *Lark*, on the coral reefs and calcareous formations of the Solomon Group-Islands. Dr. Guppy showed that the coral rocks were merely superficial, thus confirming Mr. Murray's theory that coral atolls and barrier reefs were formed without subsidence. A chalk, like the white chalk of England, had been discovered on one of the islands.—Prof. Tait gave an approximate empirical formula representing, for certain ranges, the compressibility of water in terms of the temperature and pressure.—Mr. J. T. Cunningham read a critical note on the latest theory in vertebrate morphology.—Mr. Milne Home submitted the tenth and final report of the Boulder Committee. At some period, geologically recent in the earth's history, an Arctic climate prevailed in the part of Northern Europe considered. As an effect, local glaciers occurred in Scotland, of some of which there were traces still visible. Subsequently Scotland was entirely submerged beneath the sea, and most of the valleys were filled with sand, gravel, and mud. A north-westerly oceanic current prevailed, carrying masses of floating ice with boulders, which were deposited on the hills.—Mr. H. R. Mill gave a paper on the periodic variation of temperature in tidal basins.—Mr. W. Peddie gave a communication on the isothermals and adiabatics of water near the maximum density point.—The meeting, which was the last for the session, was brought to a close by remarks from the Chairman on the work of the past session.