

healthy and sick people, observing no ill effect with doses equal to the amount of sugar ordinarily consumed. Prof. Heymans, of Ghent, reported that employing Golgi's method he had observed numerous branching nerves in the muscles of the wall of the cardiac ventricle, and particularly in the apex of the heart. Dr. Lilienfeld had studied the relationship of cell-elements to certain colouring matters, and exhibited a mixture of the latter, which appeared of an equally brownish-violet colour, both in aqueous and alcoholic solution. On shaking up in this crystals of nucleinic acid, the chief constituent of the nucleus they were at once coloured bright green, whereas white of egg assumed an intense red colour.

April 21.—Prof. du Bois Reymond, President, in the chair.—Dr. Goldscheider reported upon experiments on the sense of touch in the blind, as made by Hocheisen on eight individuals, of whom some were born blind, while others became blind in early youth. The results obtained showed that the muscular sense of the blind is far more acute than of those who can see, being more acute in the youthful blind than in those who are older; in the latter the sense is scarcely more acute than that of those who can see. Similarly the power of localising was more acute in the young than in those who are older, and did not differ appreciably from that of those who can see. By practice both the above senses can be so sharpened in those who possess sight that they are ultimately as acute as for the blind. —M. Krüger spoke on the chemical constitution of adenin and hypoxanthin, and described the reactions which led to the establishing of their constitutional formulæ.

Physical Society, April 28.—Prof. Kundt, President, in the chair.—Prof. Neesen spoke on a new mercurial pump he had constructed on the principle of a Sprengel pump. Dr. Fröhlich developed his views on the theory of the electromagnet, which by bringing Hopkinson's theory into accord with conceptions of magnetic resistance and ideas on saturation had led to a considerable advance in generalisation. The discussion which ensued was chiefly taken up by Dr. Du Bois, who urged that the views propounded were rather of technical than scientific interest.

[*Note.*—In the report of the Physical Society (see NATURE, April 27, p. 624), in line five from the top, for "pressure" read "thickness," and in line six from the bottom for "Wren" read "Wien."]]

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

LONDON.

THURSDAY, MAY 11.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On some Formulæ of Codazzi and Weingarten in Relation to the Application of Surfaces to each other: Prof. Cayley, F.R.S.—On the Expansion of Certain Infinite Products: Prof. L. J. Rogers.—A Theorem for Bicircular Quartic Curves and for Cyclides Analogous to Ivory's Theorem for Curves and Surfaces of the Second Degree: A. L. Dixon.—On the Linear Transformations between Two Quadrics: H. Taber.—The Collapse of Boiler-flues: A. E. H. Lowe.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—On the Prevention of Sparking, Compound Dynamos without Series Coils or Magnets; and Self-exciting Dynamos and Motors without Winding upon Field Magnets: W. B. Sayers.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Atmosphere: Prof. Dewar, F.R.S.

FRIDAY, MAY 12.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—The Drawing of Curves from their Curvature: C. V. Boys, F.R.S.—The Foundations of Dynamics: Oliver Lodge, F.R.S.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Isoperimetrical Problems: Lord Kelvin, Pres. R.S.

AMATEUR SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, at 8.—Geological Time (with Special Reference to Mr. Mellard Reade's Paper in the *Geological Magazine* for March): W. H. Davis.

SATURDAY, MAY 13.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, at 3.45.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Johnson and Swift: Dr. Henry Craik, C.B.

TUESDAY, MAY 16.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—On the Atrium and Prostate of the Oligochaetous Worms: F. E. Beddard, F.R.S.—Descriptions of Fifteen New Species of Pleurotomidæ: G. B. Sowerby.—List of Mammals inhabiting the Bornean Group of Islands: A. H. Everett.—On a Second Collection of Mammals sent by Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., from Nyassaland: O. Thomas.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Monthly Ballot for Members.—Reception by the President and Council.—Wreck-raising in the River Thames: C. J. More.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Modern Society in China: Prof. R. K. Douglas.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 1.

ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.—Mean Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperature at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, on the Average of the Fifty Years from 1841 to 1890: William Ellis.—Suggestions, from a Practical Point of View, for a New Classification of Cloud Forms: Frederic Gaster.—Notes on Winter: Alex. B. MacDowall.

ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Exhibition with the Projection Microscope: Sir David L. Salomons.—Notes on Rotifers: C. Rousselet.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Observations on the Production of Ozone during Electric Discharge through Oxygen: W. A. Shenstone and M. Priest.—The Relative Strengths or Avidities of some Weak Acids: Dr. Shields.—The Boiling Points of Homologous Compounds, Part I.: Dr. James Walker.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Geographical Distribution of Birds: Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.

FRIDAY, MAY 19.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Poetry and Pessimism: Alfred Austin.

SATURDAY, MAY 20.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Johnson and Wesley: Dr. Henry Craik, C.B.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

Books.—The Future of British Agriculture: Prof. Sheldon (W. H. Allen).—The Nests and Eggs of British Birds: C. Dixon (Chapman and Hall).—Theorie der Optischen Instrumente: D. S. Czapski (Breslau, Treventd).—Practical Astronomy, 2nd edition: F. S. Michie and F. S. Harlow (K. Paul).—An Analytical Index to the Works of the late John Gould, F.R.S.: Dr. R. B. Sharpe (Sotheran).—The New Technical Educator, vol. 1 (Cassell)

PAMPHLETS.—Determinations of Gravity with Half-second Pendulums on the Pacific Coast, in Alaska, and at Washington, D.C., and Hoboken, N.J.: T. C. Mendenhall (Washington).—The Photoscope (Liverpool, Sanders).

SERIALS.—Medical Magazine, May (Southwood).—Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, vol. xlix. Part 2, No. 194 (Longmans).—Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales, vol. xxvi. (K. Paul).—Verhandelingen der Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen te Amsterdam, Erste Sectie, Deel. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6; Tweede Sectie, Deel. 1, Nos. 1, 4, 10 (Amsterdam, J. Müller).—Journal of the Chemical Society, May (Gurney and Jackson).—Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vol. xix. pp. 193-295 (Edinburgh).—Himmel und Erde, May (Berlin, Paetel).—Jahrbuch der k.k. Geologischen Reichsanstalt, Jahrg. 1892, xlii. Band 3 and 4 Heft (Wien).—Journal of the Scottish Meteorological Society, third series, No. ix. (Blackwood).—Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, new series, vol. xix. (Boston, Wilson).—Report of the Marlborough College Natural History Society, No. 41 (Marlborough).

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