

and we had the seconds of totality properly counted, in the faint hope of a break in the clouds, but nothing came of it, and the brightening sky soon told us that all was over."

COMET GIACOBINI.—The following ephemeris for the ensuing week is a continuation of that previously given, the elements remaining the same. September 5 is taken as the unit of brightness:—

1896.	h.	m.	δ	log Δ	B.
Sept. 23 ...	17	59.3	... -10 58	... 9.7255	... 1.6
25 ...	18	6.4	... 11 22		
27 ...	18	13.9	... 11 47	... 9.7088	... 1.8
29 ...	18	21.9	... 12 11		
Oct. 1 ...	18	30.4	... 12 36	... 9.6919	... 1.9

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

A POST-GRADUATE course of Bacteriology has been established at the University of Sydney, New South Wales.

IT is announced that Prof. F. F. Jerisman has resigned the chair of Hygiene in the University of Moscow.

MR. W. R. BOWER has been appointed Lecturer in Physics and Applied Mechanics at the Huddersfield Technical School.

PRESIDENT G. T. WINSTON, of the University of North Carolina, has been elected President of the University of Texas.

Science states that by the will of the late Martin Brimmer, of Boston, Harvard University, on the death of Mrs. Brimmer, is to receive the sum of £10,000.

THE six buildings of the New York State Veterinary College of Cornell University have, according to Science, been completed, and the fitting-up of the laboratories and museums is taking place.

IN the Owens College Zoological Laboratory, Mr. Gamble will conduct an evening class on British Marine Zoology. Demonstrations of the structure, life-histories, and methods of capture of examples of the chief groups of animals found in the British seas, will be given at each meeting.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS, Director of the City and Guilds of London Institute, Mr. Gilbert Redgrave, of the Science and Art Department, Mr. Smith, of Keighley, and Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., who were colleagues on the Royal Commission on Technical Education which reported in 1883, are at present engaged in an unofficial tour of inspection of exhibitions, schools, and factories in Germany.

THE following appointments abroad have taken place:—Dr. C. Winkler to the chair of Nervous and Mental Diseases, and Dr. Lobry van Froostenburg de Buijn to that of General and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, each at Amsterdam; Dr. E. Lesser as Extraordinary Professor of Dermatology at Berlin, Dr. Chermak to the chair of Comparative Anatomy and Embryology at Jurieff (Dorpat), Dr. L. Niemilovicz to be Ordinary Professor of chemistry, Dr. Wenzel von Sobieranski to be ordinary professor of Pharmacology and Pharmacognosis, Dr. Andreas Obesut to the chair of Anatomy, and Dr. Prus to the chair of General and Experimental Pathology, each at Lemberg.

THE prospectus of day and evening classes in connection with the South-west London Polytechnic Institute during the coming session has just been issued, and contains all necessary information respecting the fourteen sections into which the general scheme of work may be divided. The Institute was opened rather less than a year ago, but already 1400 students have availed themselves of its great educational advantages. Judging from the well-executed illustrations in the prospectus, the various laboratories and workshops are well arranged and fitted with latest appliances. Hitherto the work of the Institution has mainly taken place in the evening, but on September 29 a new departure is to be made, and it will from that time be open to day students in mathematics, mechanics, mechanism, architecture and building construction, drawing-office work, electrical technology, physics, chemistry, and applied art. The objects of the day classes are: (1) To give that preparatory training which will fit students over fifteen years of age for practical work in the factory or engineer's shop, or prepare them for colonial life. (2) The education of pupils from middle-class and other schools, who are preparing for a higher technical and scientific course of instruction, such as is provided at the Central Technical College, Exhibition Road.

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SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, September 14.—M. A. Chatin in the chair.—On an exceptional rainbow, by M. Berthelot.—On the stability of the rods employed as provisional bench-marks in levelling of precision, by M. C. Lallemand. Small errors are introduced into accurate levelling by the slight settling down of the temporary wooden bench-marks. It is shown that these errors can be readily distinguished from errors due exclusively to accidental causes. The error due to settling is practically a linear function of the time elapsing between successive measurements on the same rod.—On the tornado observed at Paris on September 10, 1896, by M. A. Angot. The cloud, seen from a distance of about 1000 metres, was in obvious rotation, the direction being from right to left, in the opposite direction to the hands of a watch; the rotation was also accompanied with an ascending movement, easily traced by watching an isolated piece of cloud. Not the least remarkable point was the absolute sharpness and small size of the destructive zone, at a comparatively small distance from which the wind velocities were quite normal. The slight fall of the barometer, preceding the disturbance, was no greater than would occur during an ordinary rain shower.—On the same, by M. J. Jaubert. The direction of rotation could be determined from the direction of the trees torn down by the passage of the tornado, and was from right to left. The direction of translation was in a straight line from south-west to north-east; with a velocity of at least 40 to 50 metres per second.—On the simultaneous presence of laccase and tyrosinase in the sugar of some mushrooms, by M. G. Bertrand. Both these ferments were found in the extract from *Russula cyanoxantha*, and *setens*.—Stability of blood rendered incoagulable by extract of the leech, by MM. Bosc and Delezenne. Two specimens of blood from the same animal, taken before and after intravenous injection of extract of leech, and placed side by side at a temperature of 20° to 22° C., show a marked difference in their rates of putrefaction, the second specimen decomposing much more slowly than the first. This result cannot be due to any special antiseptic action of the extract, since numerous species of bacteria can be readily cultivated in it. It is shown that active amœboid movements of the white corpuscles continue in the treated blood at the ordinary temperature, and hence it appears probable that putrefaction occurs only in dead blood, in which there are no living leucocytes. It is also possible that the extract from the leech may provoke secretions by the leucocytes which augment the bactericidal action of the blood.—New adaptation of the muscles of the leg after recovery from a club-foot, by M. Joachimstal.—On the sulphide of magnesium, and on some salts of alumina, by M. Bignan.

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