

munication consists of a number of papers by various authors describing a collection sent to Mr. Steel from Fife Bay, New Guinea, by the Rev. H. P. Schlenker. The only form new to science is a snake described by Mr. J. Douglas Ogilby as *Demarellaphis schlenkeri*. Mr. T. Whitelegge notes the occurrence of a shrimp, *Palaemon affinis*, not previously recorded for New Guinea. Amongst the lizards, *Gehyra oceanica*, *Gymnodactylus pelagicus* and *Lepidodactylus lugubris* are recorded, apparently for the first time from New Guinea, by Mr. A. H. S. Lucas, while several other species, including the interesting form *Homolepida englishi*, described in 1890 by De Vis, are now recorded for the second time.—New genera and species of fishes, by J. Douglas Ogilby. In this paper there are described as new a xiphodontid, two species of silurids, a genus of plotosids, two pleuronectids, and a small fish, the position of which is uncertain.—On the Echinoderm fauna of New Zealand, by H. Farquhar. The Echinoderm fauna of New Zealand, as at present known, comprises two Crinoids, sixteen Ophiuroids, twenty-eight Asteroids, twenty-three Echinoids, and twenty-one Holothurians: total, ninety species. It is not homogeneous, nevertheless it contains a large number of peculiar forms which give it a strongly distinct character of its own. Its affinities are strongest with that of Australia. Omitting doubtful and deep-water forms, fifty-eight per cent. of the known species are endemic, thirty-six per cent. occur in Australia, and only six per cent. have been found elsewhere and not in Australia.—Notes on the subfamily *Brachyscelinae*, with descriptions of new species, Part v., by W. W. Froggatt.—Descriptions of six new species of Mollusca, by John Brazier.—A contribution to a knowledge of the Arachnid fauna of New Guinea, by W. J. Rainbow. In this paper sixty-eight species are enumerated, and of these fourteen are described as new. The most interesting specimen of the collection is a species of the family Aviculariidae, for the reception of which a new genus, *Antrochares*, is proposed. This makes the third known genus of the six-eyed Aviculariidae.—Descriptions of the eggs and nests of four species of Australian birds, by Alfred J. North.

AMSTERDAM.

Royal Academy of Sciences, September 24.—Prof. Van de Sande Bakhuyzen in the chair.—Prof. Bakhuis Roozeboom communicated the results of a theoretical inquiry into (1) the phenomena occurring during the congelation of a mixture of two substances, when during the process "mixed" crystals exclusively are formed, which may either be continuously mixable or not so; and (2) the changes which the solid mixture may undergo, when the two components on further cooling are transformed into other stable modifications.—Prof. Haga communicated that the phenomena of "maxima and minima of brightness as a consequence of an optical delusion," mentioned by himself on behalf of Dr. Wind at the meeting in May, were already known and described by E. Mach in the *Wiener Berichte*, II. Abth. Bd. 52, 54 and 57.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—An Influence Machine: W. R. Pidgeon.—The Repetition of an Experiment on the Magneto-optic Phenomenon discovered by Righi: Prof. S. P. Thompson, F.R.S.—The Magnetic Fluxes in Meters and other Electrical Instruments: Albert Campbell.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Address by W. H. Preece, C.B., F.R.S., President, and Presentation of Medals and Prizes awarded by the Council.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—A Determination of the Equivalent of Cyanogen: George Dean.—Note on the Action of Light on Platinum, Gold, and Silver Chlorides: E. Sonstadt.—Methanetrissulphonic Acid: E. H. Bagnall.—A Composite Sodium Chlorate Crystal in which the Twin Law is not followed: W. J. Pope.—On the Composition of American Petroleum: Dr. Sydney Young, F.R.S.—(1) On the Separation of Normal and Iso-heptane from American Petroleum; (2) On the Action of Fuming Nitric Acid on the Paraffins and other Hydrocarbons: Dr. F. E. Francis and Dr. Sydney Young, F.R.S.—On the Boiling Points and Specific Gravities of Mixtures of Benzene and Normal Hexane: D. H. Jackson and Dr. Sydney Young, F.R.S.

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BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

Books.—Practical Mechanics: S. H. Wells (Methuen).—University College of North Wales, Calendar for the Year 1898-99 (Manchester, Cornish).—Naturae Novitates (Berlin, Friedländer).—Key to Algebraical Factors: D. H. Vachha, 3rd edition (Longmans).—On the Instincts and Habits of the Solitary Wasps: G. W. and E. G. Peckham (Madison, Wis.).—Quantitative Exercises for Beginners in Chemistry: A. H. Mitchell, Part 1, 2nd edition; Ditto, Part 2 (Reading, National Publishing Association).—Aids in Practical Geology: Prof. G. A. J. Cole, 3rd edition (Griffin).—Almanaque Nautico, 1900 (San Fernando, Gay).—British Museum: a Guide to the First and Second Egyptian Rooms (The Trustees).—Handbook of Insects injurious to Orchard and Bush Fruits, with Means of Prevention and Remedy: E. A. Ormerod (Simpkin).—First Stage Inorganic Chemistry (Practical): Dr. F. Beddow (Clive).—Gas and Petroleum Engines: translated and edited by A. G. Elliott (Whittaker).—Through Asia: Sven Hedin, 2 Vols. (Methuen).—An Elementary Text-Book of Botany: Prof. S. H. Vines (Sonnenschein).—Bibliotheca Geographica, Band iv. (Berlin, Köhl).—Gesammelte Botanische Mittheilungen: S. Schwendener, 2 Vols. (Berlin, Gebrüder Borntraeger).—Die Moderne Entwicklung der Elektrischen Principien: Prof. F. Rosenberg (Leipzig, Barth).—Übersicht der Lepidopteren: Fauna des Grossherzogtums Baden: C. Reutti, Zweite Ausgabe herausgegeben von Meess und Spuler (Berlin, Gebrüder Borntraeger).

PAMPHLETS.—On the Forestry Conditions of Northern Wisconsin: F. Roth (Madison, Wis.).—Antarctic Exploration: a Plea for a National Expedition: Sir C. R. Markham (R. G. S.).

SERIALS.—Proceedings of the Liverpool Geological Society, Part 2, Vol. viii. (Liverpool).—U.S. Department of Agriculture: Division of Biological Survey, Bulletin Nos. 9, 10, 11 (Washington).—Scottish Geographical Magazine, October (Edinburgh).—Journal of the Franklin Institute, October (Phil^a).—Quarterly Review, October (Murray).—Zoologist, October (West).—Journal of Anatomy and Physiology, October (Griffin).—Geological Survey of Canada Report, Nos. 627, 628, 651, 657 (Ottawa).—Bulletin de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, 1898, Fasc. 2 (Paris, Masson).—Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, Tome ii (3^e série), 2^e Fasc. (Paris, Masson).—Journal of the Chemical Society, October (Gurney).—Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. xi. Part 1 (N.Y.).—Sitzungsberichte der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften, Math.-Naturw. Classe, Anatomie, &c., 1897, January to July, October to December; Ditto, Mineralogie, &c., 1897, January to July, October to December; 1898, January to May; Ditto, Mathematik, &c., 1897, January to July, October to December; 1898, January and February; Ditto, Chemie, 1897, January to July, October to December; 1898, January to March; Ditto, Register zu dem Banden, 101 to 105 (Wien, Gerold).—An Illustrated Manual of British Birds: H. Saunders, 2nd edition, Parts 9 to 12 (Gurney).—Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, October (117 Victoria Street).—Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, October (N.Y., Macmillan).—Agricultural Gazette of N.S.W., August (Sydney).—Monthly Weather Review, July (Washington).

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