

author, can only arise from a true fermentation, and in accordance with this view alcohol was obtained from such stems.—The guidroa, the caoutchouc tree of Madagascar, by M. Henri Jumelle. An examination of the guidroa showed that it clearly belongs to the genus *Mascarenhasia*; but, as it does not exactly agree with any of the fifteen or sixteen species actually known, the name *M. velutina* is proposed for the plant.—On the parasitism of *Ximenia americana*, by M. Edouard Heckel.—On some rhyolites from Somaliland, by M. A. Lacroix.—On the eruptive rocks of Cape Blanc (Algeria), by MM. L. Duparc and E. Ritter. Microscopic and chemical examination of the volcanic rocks of Cape Blanc show them to be neo-volcanic quartz-porphry of a basic character.—On the existence in the blood of animals of a substance preventing the coagulation of milk, by M. A. Briot. Blood serum from the horse contains a substance capable of neutralising the effects of a certain quantity of rennet. This substance is of a diastatic nature, since it cannot be dialysed, is destroyed by heat, and can be precipitated by ammonium sulphate and by alcohol.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—Meeting for Discussion.—Subject: On Preventive Inoculation: introduced by M. Haffkine.
 MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On Solitary Waves, Equivoluminal and Irrrotational, in an Elastic Solid: Lord Kelvin, G.C.V.O.—On Several Classes of Simple Groups: Dr. G. A. Miller.—The Transmission of Stress across a Plane of Discontinuity in an Isotropic Elastic Solid and the Potential Solutions for a Plane Boundary: Prof. J. H. Michell.—On Theta Differential Equations and Expansions: Rev. M. M. U. Wilkinson.—Finite Current Sheets: J. H. Jeans.—On a Congruence Theorem having reference to an Extensive Class of Coefficients; and on a Set of Coefficients analogous to the Eulerian Numbers: Dr. Glaisher, F.R.S.—(1) The Reduction of a Linear Substitution to its Canonical Form; (2) On the Integration of Systems of Total Differential Equations: Prof. A. C. Dixon.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Further Investigation concerning the Position Error affecting Eye-Estimates of Star Magnitudes: A. W. Roberts.—Equatorial Comparisons of Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune with certain Stars in Newcomb's Standard Catalogue: John Tebbutt.—Note on the Nebula N.G.C. 6535: W. H. Robinson.—Probable Paper: An Ephemeris of Two Situations in the Leonid Stream: G. Johnstone Stoney.
 PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—On the Distribution of Magnetic Induction in a Long Iron Bar: C. G. Lamb.—On the Absolute Value of the Freezing-Point: J. Rose-Innes.
 MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Description of a New Species of *Unio* from the River Pahang: E. A. Smith.—Notes on Holocene Deposit at the Horseshoe Pit, Colley Hill, Reigate: Rev. R. Ashington Bullen.—Anatomical Notes on *Medyla insculpta*, Pfr.: Henry Suter.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.—Excursion to Rickmansworth and Harefield. Directors: W. Whitaker and John Hopkinson.

MONDAY, JUNE 12.

RÖNTGEN SOCIETY, at 8.—Portable Röntgen Apparatus, for Field and Ward Work, to be demonstrated and described by Major Beevor, J. Hall Edwards, and H. W. Cox.—A New Stereoscope to be demonstrated for Mr. Gregory by F. W. Watson Baker.—Dr. Walsh will also show a New Stereoscope.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.30.—Prehistoric Man in the Neighbourhood of the Kent and Surrey Border: Neolithic Age: George Clinch.

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 8.—Acetylene: Prof. Vivian B. Lewes.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.—Prof. A. Michelson will read a Paper.—The Colour Sensations in Terms of Luminosity: Captain Abney, F.R.S.—A Comparison of Platinum and Gas Thermometers at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures at Sévres: Dr. J. A. Harker and Dr. P. Chappuis.—On a Quartz-Thread Gravity Balance: R. Threlfall, F.R.S.—On the Orientation of Greek Temples, being the Results of some Observations taken in Greece and Sicily, in May, 1898: F. C. Penrose, F.R.S.—A Preliminary Note on the Life-History of the Organism found in the Tsetse Fly Disease: Dr. H. G. Plimmer and Dr. T. Rose Bradford, F.R.S.—And other Papers.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—Contributions to the Natural History of Lake Urmi and its Neighbourhood: R. T. Günther.—A Systematic Revision of the Genus *Najas*: Dr. A. B. Rendle.—On the Anatomy and Systematic Position of some Recent Additions to the British Museum Collection of Slugs: Walter E. Collinge.—The Edwardsia Stage of Lebrunia, and the Formation of the Oesophagus and Gastro-cœlomic Cavity: J. E. Duerden.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Ballot for the Election of Fellows.—On the Decomposition of Chlorates, with special reference to the Evolution of Chlorine and Oxygen: W. H. Sodeau.—The Action of Hydrogen Peroxide on Formaldehyde: Dr. A. Harden.—Homocamphoric and Camphonic Acids: A. Lapworth and E. M. Chapman.—Action of Silver Compounds on α -Dibromocamphor: A. Lapworth.—The Colouring Matter of Cotton Flowers: A. G. Perkin.—Experiments on the Synthesis of Camphoric Acid: H. A. Auden, W. H. Perkin, jun., and J. L. Rose.—Methylisamylsuccinic Acid, Part I.: W. T. Lawrence.

NO. 1545, VOL. 60]

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—The Hereford Earthquake of December 17, 1896: Dr. C. Davison (Birmingham, Cornish).—Physikalisches Praktikum: E. Wiedemann u. H. Ebert. Vierte Auflage (Braunschweig, Vieweg).—Tables for Quantitative Metallurgical Analysis: J. J. Morgan (Griffin).—Royal University of Ireland Exam. Papers, 1898 (Dublin).—Year-Book of Photography (9 Cecil Court).—A Country Schoolmaster: James Shaw, edited by Prof. R. Wallace (Edinburgh, Oliver).—I Batteri Patogeni: Dr. N. Ottolenghi (Torino, Rosenberg).—Sieroterapia e Vaccinazioni Preventive contro la Peste Bubbonica: Dr. A. Lustig (Torino, Rosenberg).—The Elements of Practical Astronomy: W. W. Campbell, 2nd edition (Macmillan).—Bergens Museum. Report on Norwegian Marine Investigations, 1895-97: Hjort, Nordgaard, and Grann (Bergen).—List of the Genera and Species of Blastoidea in the British Museum (Natural History) (London).—Chimie Végétale et Agricole: Prof. Berthelot, 4 Vols. (Paris, Masson).—Sewer Design: H. N. Ogden (Chapman).—The Steam Engine and Gas and Oil Engines: Prof. J. Perry (Macmillan).—The Dog: edited by Piepe and Furneaux (Philip).—An Account of the Deep-Sea Ophiuroidea collected by the R.I.M.S. Ship *Investigator*: R. Koehler (Calcutta).—Traité Élémentaire de Mécanique Chimique: Prof. P. Duhem, Tome iv. (Paris, Hermann).—U.S. Geological Survey, 18th Annual Report, Part 2, Part 5 (Washington).

PAMPHLETS.—Die Methode der Variationsstatistik: G. Duncker (Leipzig, Engelmann).—Das Hypsometer als Luftdruckmesser, &c.: H. Mohn (Christiania, Dybwad).—Summary Report of the Geological Survey Department, 1898 (Ottawa).—Mauritius Magnetic Reductions: T. F. Claxton (Mauritius).—Protokoll über die vom 31 März bis 4 April, 1898 zu Strassburg i.E. abgehaltene erste versammlung der Internationalen Aëronautischen Commission (Strassburg).—Picture Taking and Picture Making (Kodak Press).—Natural History of the Musical Bow: H. Balfour, Primitive Types (Oxford, Clarendon Press).—Thatsachen und Auslegungen in Bezug auf Regeneration: A. Weissmann (Jena, Fischer).—La Navigation a Vapeur sur le Haut Yang-Tse: R. P. S. Chevalier (Chang-Hai).

SERIALS.—Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University of Tokyo, Japan, Vol. xi. Part 2 (Tokyo).—Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences, Vol. i. pp. 15-106 (Washington).—Johns Hopkins University, Studies in Historical and Political Science, Series xvii. Nos. 4 and 5 (Baltimore).—Monthly Weather Review, February (Washington).—Boletim do Museu Paraense, December (Pará).—Società Reale di Napoli, Atti della Reale Accademia delle Scienze Fisiche e Matematiche, serie ii. Vol. ix. (Napoli).—Contemporary Review, June (Isbister).—Century Magazine, June (Macmillan).—Humanitarian, June (Duckworth).—Photogram, June (Dawbarn).—Knowledge, June (Witherby).—Journal of the Chemical Society, June (Gurney).—Journal of the Marine Biological Association, June (Dulau).—Middlesex Hospital Journal, May (London).—Zeitschrift für Physikalische Chemie, xxix. Band, 1 Heft (Leipzig).—Journal of Botany, June (West).—Madras Government Museum, Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 3 (Madras).—An Illustrated Manual of British Birds: H. Saunders, 2nd edition, Parts 16 to 20 (Gurney).—Fortnightly Review, June (Chapman).—Scribner's Magazine, June (Low).—Anglo-American Magazine, June (Anglo-American Publishing Company).

CONTENTS.

PAGE

Man, Past and Present. By R. L.	121
Practical Geometry. By G. B. M.	122
Our Book Shelf:—	
Thompson: "Michael Faraday: his Life and Work"	123
Bütschli: "Untersuchungen über Strukturen."—E. A. M.	124
Quinn: "A Manual of Library Cataloguing"	124
Letters to the Editor:—	
Strawberry Cure for Gout.—F. G.	125
Distant Sounds.—W. F. Sinclair	125
The Jubilee of Sir George Gabriel Stokes. (Illustrated.)	125
Centenary of the Royal Institution	129
The Height of the Aurora	130
The Total Eclipse of the Sun, May 1900	133
Notes. (Illustrated.)	133
Our Astronomical Column:—	
Comet 1899 a (Swift)	136
The Royal Observatory, Greenwich	136
Spurious Earthquakes. (With Diagram.) By Dr. Charles Davison	139
Report of the London Technical Education Board	141
University and Educational Intelligence	141
Societies and Academies. (Illustrated.)	142
Diary of Societies	144
Books, Pamphlets, and Serials Received	144