

1804. He began his career as a pharmaceutical chemist, but soon embraced pure science with such success that a chair of Chemistry was given to him in the University of Leipzig, in 1830. This chair he occupied until his death; attending to his professional duties with great zeal, although a number of practical occupations (that of director of the Leipzig and Dresden Railway Company, the Leipzig Gas Company, &c.) divided his attention. We owe to him a great number of mineral analyses, a celebrated investigation of indigo, from which he was the first to obtain isatine (in 1840), and several other derivatives, also the analyses of several colouring matters, as *jaune indien*, *euxanthic acid*, *oxypicric acid*, of stearic and of mellitic acid. Together with Marchand he determined a great number of atomic weights with considerable accuracy. With the same chemist, and, after his death, with Professor Werther in Königsburg, he edited the Journal "*für praktische Chemie*"—a journal which will most likely cease to appear, both editors, as well as the publisher, having died during the last few months.

THE Königsburg chair has been offered to Prof. Baryen in Berlin, who declined it, and it still remains open.

PROFESSOR STRECKER of Tübingen has accepted the chair of Chemistry in Würzburg, in place of the late Professor Schirer, who was known chiefly as a physiological chemist.

IN the Annual Report of the Gardens of the Royal Botanic Society, Regent's Park, recently issued, it is stated that during last season free orders of admission to the gardens for the purpose of study have been granted to 200 students and artists, and 10,653 specimens of plants have been given to professors and lecturers at the principal hospitals and schools of art and medicine. The collection of living economic plants now contains specimens of all the spices and condiments in domestic use, most of the tropical esculent fruits, and many of those from which furniture and other woods are obtained, the principal gums and medicinal products, and the poison-trees of Brazil and Madagascar. The lecturers at the schools of medicine attached to the various metropolitan hospitals are greatly indebted to the liberality of the Botanic Gardens in furnishing them with a copious supply of fresh specimens, so difficult to obtain in London, and without which the lectures would lose so much of their instruction. We may suggest, however, whether some improvements might not be introduced into the so-called "herbaceous" department of the Gardens. A needless amount of space appears to be occupied by the arrangement of British plants in two different classifications, the Natural and the Linnæan, the latter being now entirely abandoned by all teachers of botany. Sufficient care also is not taken that the labels should correspond to the plants really growing beside them. It is confusing to the student to find immediately in front of a label a plant growing in full luxuriance belonging to an entirely different family, which has accidentally strayed there, and has not been weeded out. At Kew this department is kept in much better order. The Royal Botanic Society are now soliciting contributions in aid of the extension of their magnificent winter-garden.

SCIENTIFIC readers who want a treat should read M. Leverrier's masterly argument against M. Chasles in his assertion, based on the forged papers, that Pascal had anticipated Newton's discoveries. How any one could pretend to be unconvinced after such an overwhelmingly true and logical exposition of facts surpasses comprehension. Under the title "*Examen de la discussion soulevée au sein de l'Académie des Sciences au sujet de la découverte de l'attraction universelle*" M. Leverrier has republished from the *Comptes Rendus* the whole of his argument in ninety-two quarto pages. We recommend all who can to read it.

THERE was an omission—which we are very glad to supply—in our last week's Note on the results of the dredging expedition of the *Porcupine*. A large, if not the greatest share of the labour, both as regards time and work, fell upon Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, and this fact will make all look forward to the publication of the results with a greater interest.

THE many friends of Professor Morris, who have long admired the zeal displayed by him, not only in giving to the world the sound knowledge which he possesses of geology and palæontology, but in presenting it to his pupils in such a form as to enable them profitably to apply it in after life, now propose to give their recognition and appreciation a substantial form, by presenting him with a suitable testimonial. To carry out this object, a committee has been formed, and Mr. Milnes, F.G.S., of the Coal Exchange, London, has accepted the office of treasurer to the committee, of which Sir Roderick Murchison is president.

THE fruit of the Mango has recently been sold in Covent Garden market, obtained from Madeira. It had previously fruited at Chatsworth, and in the garden of Lord Powis; but, we believe, has not before been offered for sale in this country.

AMONG the books which have reached us this week are two to which we wish especially in the interim to call attention in this column. One of them is the new edition of Sir John Lubbock's "*Prehistoric Times*," considerably enlarged; and the other is "*The World of the Sea*," translated from the French of the regretted Moquin Tandon, illustrations which it does one good to see, forming one of the many points of the latter.

THE editors of the new "*Journal of Ethnology*," published in Berlin, circulate with their first number a hand-bill, in which, after calling attention to the extreme importance of photography for ethnographical purposes, they request photographers of all nations to send to the publishers of the *Journal* their addresses, and a statement of the ethnographical types to be found in their neighbourhoods. It may fairly be questioned, whether scientific knowledge is likely to be much advanced by the indiscriminate collection of photographs of individuals, selected by persons totally unacquainted with ethnography. The editors seem, moreover, to be somewhat premature in issuing such a notice as this, as they appear to have taken no steps to arrange for the photographs being published; neither do they undertake to deposit them in any public library or museum. They merely say that men of business will no doubt be found, who will assist in a matter which assures them, as well as the photographers, the remuneration to which they are entitled. We venture to express a hope, that if any general response is made to this notice, the photographers will be at least cautioned to use great care in ascertaining the tribe and parentage of the subjects they select; also that, in all cases, one photograph may be taken in exact profile and another in exact full face.

ASTRONOMY

Winnecke's Comet

THE following ephemeris of Winnecke's comet has been calculated by M. Oppolzer.

Nov. 11	R.A.			N. Decl.
	h	m	s	
	1	25	40	11 30'0
	13	1	24 25	11 12'8
	15	1	23 20	10 55'1
	17	1	22 24	10 36'9
	19	1	21 37	10 18'4
	21	1	20 59	9 59'5
	23	1	20 29	9 40'4
	25	1	20 7	9 21'0
	27	1	19 53	9 1'4
	29	1	19 47	8 41'5