

BRUSSELS

Royal Academy of Sciences, November 6.—Various meteorological reports were presented to the Academy, namely: On the Aurora Borealis of the 6th of October, 1869, by MM. A. Quételet and F. Terby; and on storms observed in various parts of Belgium, by MM. A. Quételet, Brauch, Malaise, Dewalque, and Leclercq, the last giving an account of the storm phenomena of the neighbourhood of Liège for the year 1869.—M. C. Montigny communicated a note on the phenomena of coloration of the edges of the sun's disc when near the horizon, in which he referred especially to the appearance of rose-coloured undulations upon the blue arch of the upper margin of the sun, remarked upon certain facts which seem to indicate that these are not produced by atmospheric dispersion or interference, and suggested that they may be due to the protuberances of the chromosphere.—M. E. Morren presented a paper on the contagion of the variegation of plants by means of grafting, both from the stock to the graft, and from the graft to the stock. His observations relate to *Abutilon Thompsoni*, and other species of the same genus.—A note on the wax of straw, by Dr. B. Radziszewski, was communicated by M. L. Henry. This substance, which is analogous to the wax obtained from the sugarcane, was first observed in a paper-factory at Willebroeck; it is solid, white, insoluble in water, soluble in alcohol and ether, and crystallises from its alcoholic solution in small nacreous scales.—An important memoir, by M. E. Van Beneden, on a new and very large species of *Gregarina* was read; to this we shall revert elsewhere.

BERLIN

German Chemical Society, December 11.—On this date there was a general meeting for the purpose of electing its officers for the year 1870. The following gentlemen were elected:—President: Professor Rammelsberg, with 34 votes against 25 given to Professor Baeyer. Vice-presidents: Professors Baeyer, Hoffmann, Magnus, and Rose. Secretaries and Vice-Secretaries: Dr. Eichermann, Dr. Martius, Dr. Oppenheim, and Dr. Wichelhaus. Treasurer: Mr. Scherinn. Librarian: Dr. Scheibler. Resident Committee: Professor Finkener, Dr. Jacobser, Dr. Kunheim, Dr. Schultzen, and Dr. Vogel. Non-resident Committee: Professors Illasiwetz of Vienna, Hoppe-Scyler of Tuebingen, Kékulé of Bonn, Wislicenus in Zurich, and Wagner in Wurtzburg. Obituary notices of the late honorary member, Professor Graham, and the late member Mr. Beyrick in Berlin, were then read by the President.

December 13.—The following papers were read:—Riebermann and Gräbe on Anturacene-monocarbonic Acid. Baeyer and Emmerling: Synthesis of Indole. Ascher: The Transformation of Angelic into Valerianic Acid. Hofmann and Gentz on Brominated Derivatives of Xylidine and on Dixylyle-guanidine or Meloxylidine. Hofmann on an Isomeric diphenylated Guanidine; and on Sulphocyanate of Xylyle. Hobbreller on the Action of Sulphuret of Carbon on Sulphuretted Urea. Naumann: The Law of Avogadro considered as a consequence of the laws by which the movement of gases are regulated. Bel-Trederi on a Third Monochlorinated Phenolo-sulphurous Acid. Cossa on the Constitution of Native Carbonates. Thomsen on the Inaccuracy caused by the use of Favre and Silbermann's Mercury-calorimeter. Rathke on Molecular Combinations. Ladenburg on the Molecular Weight of certain Protoxides and Protochlorides. Fleury on the Action of Pentachloride of Phosphorus on Phenolic Ethers.

VIENNA

Imperial Academy of Sciences, December 2.—Professor Zepharovich presented a fourth instalment of his mineralogical communications, in which he referred to crystals of ullmanite and pyrite, and to the fine twin-crystals of sphene which were found in 1863 on the Rothenkopf. A telegram was communicated from M. Tempel announcing the discovery of a comet at Marseilles on the 27th November. This comet was, in consequence, observed at Vienna by Professor Weiss on the 29th November, and subsequently by Dr. Theodor Oppolzer, who communicated the elements of its orbit and its ephemeris up to the 6th January, 1870, deduced from the observations at Marseilles, Vienna, Leipzig, and Carlsruhe. A memoir entitled "Development of the tetrasymmetrical division of the hexagonal crystal-system, with remarks upon the occurrence of circular polarisation," by M. Aristides Brezina, was communicated by Professor Lang.—Professor von Hochstetter communicated a third paper on the earthquake-wave in the Pacific Ocean, in August 1868, con-

taining observations made in Australia.—M. Schrauf presented the first part of his investigations of Labradorite, containing a description of the mineral and a microscopical examination of its enclosures, and an account of the phenomenon of avanturinisation as presented by it.

DUBLIN

Royal Dublin Society, December 20.—G. J. Stoney, A.M., F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. John Adair read a paper on the Acclimatisation of Plants as a help to the advance of civilisation. The author treated this interesting subject from a practical point of view, leaning rather to the possibility of plants being acclimatised—at least sufficiently so to bear the ordinary winter climate of this country. Dr. Moore, Professor E. Perceval Wright, and others, took part in the discussion of the paper. Mr. A. G. More exhibited from the museum of the society three fine specimens, probably the only three known, of the Blue Mountain Duck of Jamaica (*Pterodroma Caribbaea* Carte) also a large specimen of the Grey Seal (*Halichærus griseus* Nils), which he had shot during the last summer on the coast of Galway. Dr. Emerson Reynolds exhibited a collection of flint arrowheads found in Ireland, and a photograph of a portion of the Giant's Causeway. He mentioned having obtained for the museum a series of the Causeway basaltic columns, consisting of a central column and six encircling ones.

[This abstract reached us too late to be inserted in its proper place.—Ed.]

DIARY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Confessionals in the Middle Ages: Abbé Cochet.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3—Light: Prof. Tyndall, F.R.S. (Juvenile Lectures.)

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Catechism of the Decimal, Albert, and Metric Systems: A.W. Bonn (published by the author).—Madam How and Lady Why: Rev. C. Kingsley (Bell and Daldy).—Reptiles and Birds: L. Figuier, edited and adapted by Parker Gillmore (Chapman and Hall).—The Sun: Amédée Guillemin, translated from the French by Dr. Phipson (Bentley).—The Snakes of Australia: Gerard Krefft (Sydney: T. Richards).—Meteorological and Magnetical Observations made at Flagstaff Observatory, Melbourne: Geo. Neumayer. (Through Trübner & Co.)

AMERICAN.—The Trapper's Guide: S. Newhouse.—The New West: Charles Loring Brace.—Agricultural, Qualitative, and Quantitative Analysis: G. C. Caldwell.—Sorghum and its Products: F. L. Stewart.—Elements of Astronomy: C. J. White.—Annual of Scientific Discovery: Dr. J. Knueland.—The Mines of the West: Rossiter W. Raymond.—Report on the Machinery and Processes of the Industrial Arts, &c., at the Paris Exposition of 1867: F. A. B. Barnard.—The Myths of the New World: Dr. Daniel G. Brinton. (Through Trübner and Co.)—An Abstract of Measurements and Examinations of the Solar Eclipse of August 7, 1869. Lecture Notes on Physics. The Total Eclipse of August 7, 1869: all by Prof. Alfred M. Mayer, Ph.D. (From the author.)

FOREIGN.—De la Fécondation Artificielle: Jules Gautar (published by the author).—De l'Abus des Boissons Alcooliques: L. F. E. Bergent.—Die Spectralanalyse: Dr. H. Schellen.—Rapport sur le Progrès de la Chimie Organique pure: L. Micé.—Dictionnaire Botanique: E. G. de St. Pierre.—Die Physiologie: Dr. J. W. Czermak.—Stellung des Menschen: Ludwig Büchner. (Through Williams and Norgate.)

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