

4. *S. quinquefida*, 5. *S. hypnoides*. A table of their geographical distribution is subjoined. Two or three other short original articles and notes are also included, and the official report for 1869 of the botanical department of the British Museum.

THE *Geological Magazine* for October (No. 76) commences with a long paper, illustrated with two plates, by Mr. D. Mackintosh, on the surface-geology of the Lake district, relating chiefly to the effects of glacial conditions observable among the mountains of Cumberland and Westmoreland.—Mr. T. Davidson contributes a third series of descriptions of Italian tertiary brachiopoda, including numerous species of the genera *Rhynchonella* and *Crania*, which are figured on the accompanying plate.—In a paper on the chalk of Kent, Mr. G. Dowker, following Mr. Whitaker, distinguishes the Margate chalk as constituting the highest section of the chalk observable in that district, and gives a list of the fossils which it contains. The author proposes a division of the Kentish chalk into six sections.—A fourth and last paper is by Mr. H. B. Medlicott, on the mode of occurrence of faults in strata. The remainder of the number is, as usual, occupied by reports, reviews, &c.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

NORWICH

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, Aug. 30.—Mr. Stevenson read a valuable paper communicated by Prof. Newton, of Cambridge, on the method adopted by his brother and himself for registering Natural History phenomena. The Register, a volume of which was on the table, was kept at Elveden, near Thetford, during a period of ten years, and its great value consists in the variety and completeness of the information with regard to each species of bird found in that neighbourhood, and the slight amount of labour required to keep up the daily record. This is effected by the use of signs extremely simple in their construction, but conveying an amount of information never before dreamed of in registers of this description: a life history from day to day of each species is given; all the rare and occasional visitors recorded, and the most striking botanical phenomena are all noted fully and explicitly, but in such a way as to occupy barely five minutes in doing. What a boon this decrease in labour alone is to the conscientious recorder, he who has had to pest up his register after a hard day's work in the field will be in a position fully to appreciate. Some of the results obtained from the study of the register are highly valuable, as, for instance, the migratory habits of the song thrush, and we strongly recommend the paper, which will be published in the Transactions of the Society, to the consideration of naturalists, feeling certain that important results would be obtained by the comparison of registers kept on Prof. Newton's plan in different districts of the county. Mr. Stevenson also read a note with regard to a habit of the rook, which appears to have attracted very little attention, viz., that of throwing up the indigestible portions of its food in the form of large pellets, after the manner of hawks and owls. Several of these pellets, or "quids," picked up on the cliffs at Cromer and Sheringham, consisting mainly of the indigestible husks of barley, with a few pebbles and fragments of small beetles, were exhibited, all having been found near the edge of the cliffs, together with rooks' feathers, showing that the birds had been preening themselves during the process of digestion. A number of interesting plants found in the neighbourhood were exhibited by Mr. Bircham. At the suggestion of Mr. Southwell, a sub-committee was formed to take into consideration the formation of a list of the natural productions of the county; and it is hoped that help for this purpose will be rendered by kindred societies and naturalists resident in the county. The President announced that Mr. J. H. Gurney, jun., who has been travelling in Algeria, would read a paper on the birds of that country at the next meeting of the Society, on September 27th.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, Sept. 5.—M. Cave presented a second note on the generative zone of the appendages in monocotyledonous plants.—M. de Saint-Venant communicated a note by M. Boussinesq, supplementary to his memoir on periodical liquid waves, and showing the general relations between the internal energy of a fluid or solid body and its pressures or elastic forces.—A note was presented by M. W. de Fonvielle on

a theory of Mariotte's on barometric oscillations, relating to the rising of the mercury when the wind is from the north and north-east, and its fall when the wind is from the south and south-west.—M. Delaunay communicated a notice of the discovery of a new comet by M. Coggia, at Marseilles, on the 28th August.—A note on the composition of nadorite by M. Flajolot, was presented by M. Combes. The mineral may be regarded as a combination of oxide of lead and oxychloride of antimony, in accordance with the formula  $Sb^2 O^2 Cl 2Pb O$ .—M. Claude Bernard communicated a memoir on the venom of the scorpion, by M. Jousset. The author has experimented with the poison of *Scorpio occitanus*, by inoculating it upon tree frogs. He found that it acts directly upon the red globules of the blood, depriving them of the power of passing each other freely, and thus causing them to become agglutinated to each other, and obstruct the circulation. The extent of the action of the poison is dependent on its quantity.—M. Zaliwski noticed a battery of zinc and carbon giving a maximum of intensity for twelve hours. The zinc is immersed in a solution of hydrochlorate of ammonia, the carbon in a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acid.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Advanced Text-book of Zoology: H. A. Nicholson (Blackwood and Sons).—Thayer Expedition: Scientific Results of a Journey in Brazil: L. Agassiz (Trübner and Co.).—Physical Geography: J. K. Laughton (Potter).—The Food, Use, and Beauty of British Birds: C. O. Groom-Napier (Groombridge and Sons).—Treatment and Utilisation of Sewage: Prof. Corfield (Macmillan and Co.).—Arithmetic, Parts 2 and 3, Sonnenschein and Nesbit (Muirby).

FOREIGN.—(Through Williams and Norgate)—Helgoland: Nord-seestudien: Ernst Hallier.—Fauna öfver Sverige och Norges Rygggradsdjur: Wilh. Lilljeborg.—Der Laacher See und seine vulkanischen Umgebungen: Dr. Jacob Noggerath.—Die Sculptur und die feineren Structur-verhältnisse der Diatomaceen, Heft 1.: Fritsch und Müller.—Iconographia familiarum naturalium regni vegetabilis, Heft xx.: Dr. Schmitzlein.—Note sur un Foyer de l'Age de la Pierre polie: E. Perrault.—Mollusques tertiaires, Fasc. i.: F. Bayan.—Erster Nachtrag zum Lehrbuche der Aufbereitungskunde, mit Atlas: von Rittinger.—Natur und Gott: H. Baumgärtner.—Ueber Eis und Schnee: G. Studer.—Texture, Structure, und Zell-leben in den Adnexen des menschlichen Eies: Dr. Winkler.—Grundzüge einer Spongien-fauna des atlantischen Meeres: Dr. O. Schmidt.—Les Houillères en 1869: A. Burat.—Geographisches Jahrbuch III. Band, 1870: E. Behm.—Wissenschaftlich-technisches Handbuch des gesammten Eisengiessereibetriebes: E. F. Dürre.—Ueber die wachsende Kenntniss des unsichtbaren Lebens: Dr. Ehrenberg.—Botanische Untersuchungen über die Alkoholgährungspilze: Dr. M. Reess.—Verhandlungen der schweizerischen naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Solthurn, 1869.—Mittheilungen der naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Berne, 1869.

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