

"Calcaire grossier." He mentioned indications of the presence in the vicinity of a Miolitic marble, and of a limestone containing Nummulites. Between Antequera and the Torcal, he noticed a small calcareous deposit containing many forms of *Gryphaea*. The paper was illustrated by photographs of two scenes on the Torcal, and of several species of Ammonites. Prof. Ansted remarked that the condition of the Torcal was similar to that prevailing in many other limestone districts, and was probably due to subaerial denudation. Mr. W. W. Smyth mentioned that he had lately had an opportunity of examining, at Cadiz, a collection of fossils formed by Mr. Macpherson in that district, which also contained specimens of Ammonites. It appeared that there were large tracts in which the rocks appeared almost destitute of fossils, which rendered their classification extremely difficult; and great credit was due to the author for his exertions in a country where unfortunately so little interest was taken in geology. He mentioned that some of these unfossiliferous rocks had been classified as Silurian by some French geologists; but for this there was not the slightest evidence. It appeared far more probable that they were of Jurassic age. Some red beds, which had been called Triassic, were also in all probability Tertiary. Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, who had examined several collections in Spain and Portugal, stated that he had been much struck with the absence of newer Tertiary fossils, the latest being of Miocene age. These latter presented a tropical aspect, and differed from the mollusca now inhabiting the neighbouring seas. Mr. Blake was not satisfied with the determination of the Ammonites, which appeared to him rather of Cretaceous than Jurassic forms. Mr. Tate observed that the French geologists had determined the existence in Spain of the whole Jurassic series, from the Lower Lias to the Portlandian beds; and, judging from the photographs, he should consider the Ammonites to be Jurassic. Mr. Boyd Dawkins cited the remains of *Rhinoceros etruscus*, procured by the late Dr. Falconer at Malaga, as affording evidence of the presence of Pliocene age in that district. Prof. Duncan mentioned that he had found corals of the genus *Favellium*, such as were found in the Tejares clays, in recent deep-sea dredgings in the Atlantic, and among specimens brought from Japan.

Linnean Society, January 19.—Mr. G. Bentham, president, in the chair. "Historical Notes on the Radix Galangæ of Pharmacy," by D. Hanbury, F.R.S. The introduction of this drug into Europe appears to have been due to the Arabians; its common use in the West does not date earlier than the 15th century. It is an aromatic stimulant, and may be used to replace ginger; but the high virtues ascribed to it by the ancients cannot be sustained.—"On the Vegetation of the Solomon Islands," by Mr. J. Atkin. The writer had spent some months in these little-known islands, chiefly in Christoval, the southernmost of the group, which lies between 10° and 11° S. lat., and between 162° and 163° E. long. The whole group extends for about 300 miles eastwards to Papua, over 4½° of longitude and 4° of latitude. They are mainly of volcanic origin; the low lands consist of coral, which reaches to an elevation of from 300 to 500 feet. Earthquakes are very frequent, almost every month, but not very severe. The nearest active volcano is Tinkalu, 200 miles to the westward. The wet season is in winter, especially the early part of July, when an enormous quantity of rain falls. The temperature is remarkably uniform; the writer had never seen the thermometer below 75° F. or above 88° in the shade, or 132° in the sun; the air is extremely damp. The highest land in Christoval is from 3,000 to 4,000 feet elevation, and is probably granite. The island is entirely covered with vegetation, except near the sea. Grasses are very few. In the forests are very few trees with trunks five feet in diameter. The bush is very thick, and climbers numerous. One Aroid was noticed, and eight or nine Orchids, all epiphytal. Several Zingibers, including the true ginger, native. Three or four species of Pandanus, which are extremely variable. The cocoa-nut and sago palms are native, the latter growing eighty feet high; also the areca-palm, and the betel-nut; the latter is universally chewed. The yam is grown, as well as five other roots probably belonging to the same order. The bread-fruit is abundant; and a variety of mango grows wild, as well as a bitter orange. The leaf of the sago-palm is used for thatch. There is a *Cycas* thirty or forty feet high, which is sometimes branched. Of ferns the genera most observed were *Asplenium* and *Acrostichum*; but no tree-ferns, although they are so abundant in the neighbouring Banks's group. Two *Convolvuli* were noticed and an *Ipomoea*; two *Hibisci*, two *Casuarinæ*, and two *Acacias*, a tree and a shrub; also a *Begonia*, the

same species as in Banks's group; and a handsome species of nettle. The men are short, with dark curly hair. They use spears, and sometimes bows and arrows; their canoes are very beautifully ornamented. Animals are comparatively few. Dogs and pigs are abundant, both apparently native; also opossums and a small rat. There are many beautiful birds; the white cockatoo is never seen, though so abundant in islands separated by a channel only fifteen miles broad. Insects are plentiful. Snakes, both land and water, abound, but none are poisonous. Scorpions are numerous but small. Alligators were found, but not abundant. Frogs plentiful; lizards innumerable; one iguana was seen four feet long.—"Note on *Byrsanthus*," by Dr. M. T. Masters, F.R.S. The chief interest of this paper lay in the author's exposition of the relation between the glands and the perfect stamens.

DIARY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—On the Mineral Constituents of Meteorites. XII. The Breitenbach Meteorite: Prof. Story-Maskelyne, F.R.S.—On the Organisation of the Calamites of the Coal Measures: Prof. W. C. Williamson, F.R.S.—On Approach caused by Vibration (a Letter to Prof. Guthrie) Sir W. Thomson, F.R.S.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—On Remains on the Site of Keynsham Abbey: Rev. H. M. Scarth, M.A.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Dr. Odling.
QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, at 8.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Laws of Life revealed in History: Rev. W. H. Channing.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 3.30.—The Nature of the Earth's Interior: D. Forbes.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE, at 8.—Archæology: Rev. J. Titcomb.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—On the First Principles of Biology: Prof. Huxley (Educational Course).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Nutrition of Animals: Dr. Foster.
ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On some of the Racial Aspects of Music: Joseph Kaines, F.A.S.L.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On the Preservation of Vegetables: O. Buchanan.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.30.—On the Action, Nature, and Detection of Poisons: F. S. Barff.
LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—Natural History of Deep-Sea Soundings between Galle and Java: Capt. Chimmio, R.N.
CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Development of Fungi in Potable Water: Dr. Frankland.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.

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