

MAIDSTONE AND KENT

Natural History and Philosophical Society, Feb. 20.—An aggregate meeting of the members of the Maidstone and Mid Kent Natural History Society was held at the Charles Museum, when Dr. Monckton, one of the vice-presidents, delivered a lecture on "The Metaphysics of Zoology."

EDINBURGH

Royal Society, February 20.—Mr. W. F. Skene, V.P., in the chair. The following papers were communicated:—1. "On the Pentatonic character of Scottish Music," by the Hon. Lord Neaves. 2. "On the Motion of Solids in a Liquid," by Sir W. Thomson. 3. "Laboratory Notes on Thermo-electricity, and on Phyllotaxis," by Prof. Tait.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, January 27.—M. Janssen sent to the French Institute a letter to explain how his expedition failed, owing to the persistency of the clouds. He acknowledges fully the kind proposition of the Organising Committee to take steps to procure a *laissez-passer* from M. Bismarck on his behalf. In five hours M. Janssen proceeded from Paris to the mouth of the Loire, where he landed on the 2nd December at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. The journey was magnificent. M. Janssen travelled at a height of 1,100 metres at the beginning, but after sunrise his balloon elevated itself through the warmth of the sun, and he reached 2,000 metres without throwing out any ballast. M. Janssen has invented an instrument for helping aeronauts in the determination of their way along the earth. This contrivance, which was highly praised by M. Dumas, will be fully described.—M. Bazin presented a projectile gun which explodes in the air, where it is sent by a larger gun remaining on the ground. This projectile gun, when exploding at a certain point of the *trajectoire*, sends an explosive bullet with a new impulse. It is impossible to claim precision for such a projectile, which is called very properly a *double effect*, but the distance to which it reaches is increased, and the final bullet was sent to 7,919 metres, it appears with some effect. The experiment was tried against the Prussians during the last days of the siege.

February 21.—The sitting was very thinly attended by members. The public was more numerous. No scientific paper had yet resumed its publication. M. Faye presided over the sitting. M. Elie Beaumont and M. Dumas sat on the platform, reading over alternately the correspondence. An article on the "Duquesne" Expedition was sent by M. de Fonville. M. Elie de Beaumont, who had predicted that the "Duquesne" would go to Switzerland on account of its directing power, opposed the reading.—M. Stanislaus Meunier read a paper on the nature of meteorites, which, he thought, are evidently of astral nature. He is opposed to the theory of Schiaparelli, who accounted for them by supposing they are in some respects allied to comets.—M. Chevreuil read over a letter from M. Vaillant, who hopes to be soon enabled to resume his seat.—M. Delaunay read the translation of a letter received from Prof. Piazzzi Smyth, the director of the Observatory at Edinburgh. He noticed the admirable working of the International French Telegraphy. That service was transferred to Tours and from Tours to Bordeaux, where it is now working under M. Marié Davy's superintendence.—M. Ch. Saint Claire Deville reported that Dr. Berigny of Versailles had not interrupted for a single day his admirable series of observations kept regularly for 24 years. M. Renan, who is living at Vendôme, did not interrupt his observations, although he was several times arrested as a spy, but he was saved by his thermometer! The maximum of cold had reached -16° at Montpellier, -17° at Bordeaux, and -3° at Perigueux. The winter was a sharp one. It was predicted by M. Renan, as belonging to a series of recurring sharp winters. This law of recurrence was published in *Comptes Rendus* eighteen months before war broke out.—News was circulated of other learned men amongst the members. M. Martillet remains at St. Germain as curator of the Prehistoric Museum. One new hall was opened during the Prussian occupation, the Prussian Emperor, Princes, and generals frequently visiting the galleries. M. de Verneuil has established himself at Duc de Broglie's castle in Normandy. He is a relative of the present French ambassador, who is very much interested in scientific matters. M. Janssen is at Bordeaux, and expected daily by his family.

DIARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 9.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Magnetic Observations made at Stonyhurst College Observatory, from 1863 to 1870: Rev. S. J. Perry.—Preliminary Notice on the Production of the Olefines from Paraffin by Distillation under Pressure: T. E. Thorpe and J. Young.—On the Action of Hydrobromic Acid on Codeia: Dr. C. R. A. Wright.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—On a probable allusion to the Christians in a passage of the Sixth Satire of Juvenal: Earl Stanhope, P.S.A.
LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Remarks on the Mathematical Classification of Physical Quantities: Dr. Clerk Maxwell, F.R.S.—On Skew Cubics: Prof. H. J. S. Smith, F.R.S.—Note on the History of Certain Formulae in Spherical Trigonometry: I. Todhunter, F.R.S.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.30.—On the Colonial Question: Prof. J. E. Thorold Rogers, M.A.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.
QUERRETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, at 8.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—The latest Scientific Researches in the Mediterranean and Straits of Gibraltar: Dr. W. B. Carpenter, F.R.S.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11.

ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, at 8.—Geology: Dr. Cobbold, F.R.S. (Swiney Course.)
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Spirit of the Age: Mr. O'Neil.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 3.30.—On Ferns: Dr. Cobbold, F.R.S.

MONDAY, MARCH 13.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—On Astronomy: R. A. Proctor, F.R.A.S. (Educational Course.)
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 8.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Nutrition of Animals: Dr. Foster.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On the Different Methods of Extracting Sugar from Beet-root and Cane: Ferdinand Kohn.
METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.—Evaporation, Rainfall, and Elastic Force of Vapour: J. R. Mann.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 8.30.
ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Teeth of Mammalia: Prof. Flower.

THURSDAY, MARCH 16.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Davy's Discoveries: Dr. Odling.
LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.
CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

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