

laws of Ireland. It was simply a rudimentary scoring of numbers, such as had taken place amongst all nations in the earliest stages of civilisation. There was no substantial reason for attributing to the Irish, who, even at the time of Giraldus Cambrensis, had scarcely emerged from barbarism, the formation of an alphabet, and the attempts to decipher the inscriptions by attributing to them an alphabetic character were simply absurd. Dr. Ferguson, Q.C., said he was sure that if Mr. Westropp knew anything of the circumstances in which these inscriptions were found he would not have put forward such a theory. One of the very examples to which he referred in his paper proved the inaccuracy of his statement that these stones had not been found in connection with gravel. It was quite evident that in his illustrations he had worked from very imperfect copies, for his illustrations misrepresented the inscriptions. This was a case of a wild theory started without a fact being adduced in support of it.

Royal Geological and Zoological Societies of Ireland.—A joint meeting of these societies was held on Wednesday, the 13th of December, 1871, William Ogilby, M.A., F.G.S., in the chair. W. H. Baily, F.J.S., read some additional notes on the Fossil Flora of Ireland. The author first described a new fossil plant from shale in the carboniferous limestone of Whitestone Quarry, near Wexford, under the name of *Filicites plumiformis*. He then gave the results of his examination of the collections made from upper Old Red sandstone strata at Kiltorcan, Co. Kilkenny, which collections had excited considerable attention among the Continental and American botanists, and brought forward some strong facts to prove that the Irish palaeontologists had not misled Prof. Heer, as stated by Mr. Carruthers at a recent meeting of the London Geological Society.—Prof. Traquair read some notes on the genus *Phaneropterion*.

## VIENNA

I. R. Geological Institution, November 21.—The Director, Fr. Ritt. v. Hauer, read the anniversary report on the progress made by the Institute. The surveyors were occupied in the course of the last year on two different regions; the military frontier, where the geological maps of the country between Brod in Slavonia, and the shore of the Adriatic were finished, and Tyrol, where parts of the crystalline central mountain region and of the northern limestone ranges were surveyed. At the request of private proprietors, the members of the Institute were occupied besides with particular inquiries as to the nature and extent of coal-seams, strata and veins of ores and other useful minerals in almost all parts of the empire, and a very accurate examination of the rocks which are to be perforated by the Arlberg Tunnel, between Tyrol and Varalberg, was made by M. H. Wolf. In the museum of the Institute the larger collections of minerals from the different mining districts of the empire were completely re-arranged, and a magnificent collection of fossil Mammalia, from the tertiary brown coal of Eibiswald in Styria, was exposed under glass. More than forty different persons have contributed by donations to the increase of the various collections. In the Chemical Laboratory more than 100 analyses and assays have been performed for about fifty parties. A new arrangement of the library was finished in the course of the year; with the end of 1870 it numbered 6,500 different works, with about 16,500 volumes; in the first ten months of 1871 the increase amounted to more than 12,000 volumes. The collection of Maps (besides those which were made by the Institute itself) consisted, at the end of 1870, of 2,850 sheets, and has since increased by nearly 300 sheets. The publications of the Institute were enlarged by a new periodical, the "Mineralogischen Mittheilungen," which is edited by Dr. G. Tschermak, the director of the Imperial Mineralogical Museum; they appear separately as well as in the form of a supplement to the "Jahrbuch." The publication of the memoirs ("Abhandlungen") of the Institute, which had been interrupted, was also recommenced this year by the publication of two memoirs: one by Dr. Neumayer, "On the Cephalopods of the Jurassic Beds of Balin, near Krakaw;" the other by Dr. Bunzel, "On the Vertebrata of the Cretaceous Formation of Grünbach in Austria." Of the general geological map of Austria, edited by Fr. v. Hauer, appeared sheet No 3 (the northern Carpathians), and the printing in colours of sheet No. 7 (the Hungarian plain) was finished. Dr. Neumayer noticed the discovery of the salt formation in the valley of Hall in Tyrol, at a point far below the salt mines now being worked. Here the mining work would meet with considerably less difficulty,

arising from the great height of the fold mine (5,000 feet above the level of the sea) the access to which in winter time is always dangerous, often even impossible.—M. Charl. v. Hauer read a note on a very successful boring for coal in the tertiary basin near Fohnsdorf in Styria. On the northern edge of this basin, many years since, a large seam of coal had been worked. The bore-hole had been opened in the midst of the basin, 300 fathoms from the nearest point of the mine. At the depth of 155 fathoms the coal was reached in two seams, having together a thickness of 5½ fathoms. This discovery is of great importance for the industry of Upper Styria.—Dr. E. Tietze "On the Eocene Formation south of Glina, in Croatia." It consists of three members; the lowest a fresh-water deposit, with Planorbis, and traces of coal; the middle, green sandstones alternating with marly beds, probably identical with the so-called Albarese or Galestro of the Appennine mountains; and the upper, formed of slaty sandstones with fucoids.

## DIARY

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On Ice, Water, Vapour, and Air. No. I. Prof. John Tyndall, F.R.S.  
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—The Philosophy of Magic: 2. The Magic of the Theatre: J. C. Brough, F.C.S.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On Ice, Water, Vapour, and Air. No. II. Prof. John Tyndall, F.R.S.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 1.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—On the Hereditary Transmission of Endowments: George Harris.—The Adamites: C. Staniland Wake.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 2.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.  
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY, at 8.30.—Hebræo Ægyptiaca; or, Hebrew and Egyptian Analogies: M. Francois Chabas.—Some Observations upon the Inscription of Daly (Idalion): S. Birch, F.S.A.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Fossils of the Coal Measures; W. Carruthers, F.R.S.—Fermentation and its results: James Bell.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 4.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—The Philosophy of Magic. 3. The Magic of the Mediums: J. C. Brough, F.C.S.

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## NOTICE

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