

Rev. O. P. Cambridge was read, "On the Spiders of Palestine and Syria," in which was given a general list of the Araneidea of those countries, together with descriptions of numerous new species, and the characters of two new genera.—A communication was read from Dr. John Anderson, containing descriptions of some Persian, Himalayan, and other reptiles, either new or little known to science. A second paper by Dr. Anderson contained some further remarks on the external characters of the new Burmese macaque, which he had recently described under the name *Macacus brunneus*.—A communication was read from Count Thomaso Salvadori, containing a note on a specimen of Lidth's jay (*Garrulus lidthii*), in the collection of the King of Italy, which had originally been received alive from Japan. Mr. D. G. Elliot read a note on a Cat described by Dr. Gray in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for 1867, as *Felis pardinoides* from India, which Mr. Elliot considered to be identical with *Felis Geoffroyi* of S. America.

#### MANCHESTER

Literary and Philosophical Society, February 6.—E. W. Binney, F.R.S., president, in the chair. Dr. Joule, F.R.S., called attention to the very extraordinary magnetic disturbances on the afternoon of the 4th instant, and from which he anticipated the aurora which afterwards took place. The horizontally suspended needle was pretty steady in the forenoon of that day, but about 4 P.M. the north end was deflected strongly to the east of the magnetic meridian, and afterwards still more strongly to the west. The following were the observations made:—

Time	Deflection from the Magnetic Meridian.	Time	Deflection from the Magnetic Meridian.
4.0 P.M.	. . . 0 50 E.	6.10 P.M.	. . . 1 24 W.
4.30 "	. . . 0 47 W.	6.12 "	. . . 1 18 "
4.55 "	. . . 2 22 "	7.41 "	. . . 0 10 "
4.58 "	. . . 3 0 "	7.43 "	. . . 0 0 "
5.9 "	. . . 3 45 "	8.9 "	. . . 0 42 "
5.12 "	. . . 0 52 "	8.31 "	. . . 0 10 "
5.23 "	. . . 5 36 "	8.54 "	. . . 1 18 "
5.24 "	. . . 2 28 "	8.58 "	. . . 0 52 "
5.35 "	. . . 0 52 "	11.3 "	. . . 0 5 "
5.55 "	. . . 0 52 "		

Mr. Sidebotham states that he also expected the magnificent aurora on account of the violent disturbance of the needle at Bowdon, amounting to at least 3°. Observation with the spectroscope by Dr. Joule showed a bright and almost colourless line near the yellow part of the spectrum. This line appeared in whatever part of the heavens the instrument was directed, and could be plainly seen when the sky was covered with clouds and rain was falling. When looking at the most brilliant red light of the aurora a faint red light was seen at the red end of the spectrum, and beyond the bright white line, towards the violet end, two broad bands of faint white light. Mr. Thomas Harrison stated that he saw the aurora on last Sunday evening from 6<sup>h</sup> 15<sup>m</sup> to 9<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> and took spectroscopic observations thereon from various parts of the sky. In each case, however, he discovered only one bright yellow line, situated between D and E, being on Kirchhoff's scale about 1255 to 1260. He is not acquainted with any known substance that gives a corresponding line. The line throughout was very clear and decided, both in the narrow and wide slit; but he failed to discover any continuous spectrum. The line was also very perceptible by reflection from those parts of the sky in which no trace of aurora was visible; and although the streaks were both red and white, the spectroscope appeared to give the aurora as a monochromatic light.

#### KILKENNY

Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, January 17.—The Mayor of Kilkenny in the chair. Rev. J. Graves (hon. sec.) read the report for 1871. The following members were elected:—Earl of Dunraven, Rev. W. H. Fraser, L. Daniel, J. Lloyd, G. Reade, W. Irvine, J. Martin, W. J. Lemon, A. Gibb, A. Menzies, F. Barton, and W. Moore; the Rev. Dean Watson and B. Delanny, were raised to Fellows.—"Historical Documents of 1644" were exhibited by the hon. sec., one of which contained a key to the cipher used in the correspondence between Ormonde and the confederate leaders at the time. The following papers were read: "On a recent discovery of Coins at Mullaboden, Ballymore Eustace, co. Kildare," by Rev. J. F. Shearman; "On Kilkenny, past and present," by P. Watters; "On some Unrecorded Antiquities in Yar-Connaught," by G. H. Kinahan; "On some Antiquities of Oak at Bellisle, co. Fermanagh," by W. F. Wakeman.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Principles of Geology, 11th edition, Vol. i.: Sir C. Lyell (J. Murray).—Scottish Meteorology, 1855-1871, Edinburgh Observatory.—A Treatise on the Theory of Friction: J. H. Jellett (Macmillan).—The Climate of Uckfield: C. L. Prince (Churchill).

AMERICA.—Transactions of the Albany Institute, Vols. 1-6.—Transactions of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts in the State of New York, Vol. iv., Part II.—Annals of the Dudley Institute, Vols. i. and ii.—Annual Address before the Albany Institute: O. Meads.—The Advice of a Father to his Son: N. François.

#### DIARY

##### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—On the relative Power of 34 Substances to Prevent the Development of Protoplasmic and Fungus Life, and in Arresting Putrefaction: Prof. Grace-Calvert, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Further Facts in the History of the Early Discovery of Australia: R. H. Major, F.S.A.

##### FRIDAY, MARCH 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Measuring Temperature by Electricity: C. W. Siemens.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, at 8.—On the Geology of Hampstead, Middlesex: C. Evans, F.G.S.—Note on a recently exposed Section at Battersea: J. A. Coombs.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 4.

##### SATURDAY, MARCH 2.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Demonology: M. Conway.

##### SUNDAY, MARCH 3.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 4.—On the Icelandic Language and its similarity to English. The Literature of Iceland, Old and Modern: Jon A. Hjaltalin.

##### MONDAY, MARCH 4.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—Anthropological Collections from the Holy Land, No. III.: Capt. R. F. Burton and Dr. C. Carter Blake.—Race Characteristics as related to Civilisation: J. Gould Avery.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—Elementary Chemistry: Prof. Odling, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 2.—General Monthly Meeting.

##### TUESDAY, MARCH 5.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.—Notes on an O. trich, recently living in the Society's collection; A. H. Garrod.—Catalogue of the Birds found in Ceylon, with some remarks on their habits and local distribution, and descriptions of two new species peculiar to the Island: E. W. H. Holdsworth.

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY, at 8.30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Circulatory and Nervous Systems: Dr. Rutherford.

##### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On *Prognathus Güntheri* (Egerton), a new genus of Fossil Fish from the Lias of Lyme Regis; On two Specimens of *Ischyodus* from the Lias of Lyme Regis: Sir P. de M. Grey-Egerton, Bart., M.P., F.R.S.—How the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy were formed: Prof. James Nichol, F.G.S.—Notes on Atolls or Lagoon Islands: S. J. Whitnell.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On the *Goliath* Training Ship: Capt. Bouchier.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

##### THURSDAY, MARCH 7.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Chemistry of Alkalies and Alkali Manufacture: Prof. Odling, F.R.S.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

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