

Mr. A. J. Ellis, F.R.S., communicated a question which had been forwarded to him by Prof. Haldeman, of Columbia, Pennsylvania, U.S., "The number of lines in a rhymed stanza being given, how many variations of rhyme-distribution does it admit of, suppose no line to be left without a rhyme?"

Victoria Institute, March 18.—Mr. Charles Brooke, F.R.S., in the chair.—Dr. Bateman on "Darwinism tested by recent Researches as to the Localisation of the Faculty of Speech." Having called attention to Mr. Darwin's statement, that the difference between man and the higher animals was only one of degree, and not of kind; he proceeded to show that such could not be the fact, and instanced the faculty of articulate language, a distinctive attribute of which there was no trace in the ape or other animals. After defining articulate language, he demonstrated that it was exclusively man's prerogative, and there was no analogy between it and the forms of expression common to the lower animals. He then stated that it had been thought that a particular part of the brain was the seat of language, and, if it were so, the Darwinian might contend that, as there was a certain similarity between the brain of man and of the ape and other animals, that they had the germs of the faculty. He then cited many cases which had been brought under the notice of German, French, American, English, and other surgeons, to show that even where various portions of the brain had been injured or destroyed, the faculty of speech remained. He concluded by stating that the faculty of articulate speech seemed to be an attribute, the comprehension of which was at present beyond us.

## GLASGOW

Geological Society, February 8.—Sir William Thomson, LL.D., was elected president; Messrs. E. A. Wunsch, John Young, and James Thomson, F.G.S., vice-presidents.—Professor Young, the retiring president, delivered an address on "Rock Formations in relation to Geological Time." He concluded by expressing the pleasure he felt in resigning the chair to one so eminent in the walks of science as Sir William Thomson, whose contributions to theoretical geology had been of the utmost importance.—The President, in taking the chair, briefly thanked the members for the honour they had conferred upon him, and hoped he might be of some service to them in the prosecution of geological inquiry.

## DUBLIN

Natural History Society, March 6.—Professor E. Perceval Wright, president, in the chair.—The President delivered his inaugural address. He gave an interesting account of the history of the society from its commencement in 1838, when their meetings were held in Suffolk Street, and the opening address delivered by Mr. O'B. Bellingham. "There were then 104 members, and in 1840 the number had increased to 150. In 1844 the museum so increased that Mr. M'Coy was appointed curator, and he in 1845 laid a catalogue of the Irish animals in the museum before the society. This catalogue was printed and appended to the report for 1845-46. During these years many records of species new to Ireland were made. Very many valuable and interesting papers on zoological subjects were read. Many of these are to be found in full in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*. It is strange in looking over some of these to be reminded how great has been the development of some branches of natural science since they were written. Friends of many of us here—friends still living—many of them by no means yet full of days, yet wrote before the developmental stages of the crustacea were known, and could write of *Spongilla* as undoubtedly allied to the Diatomaceae. About 1851 a few students in college, including myself, determined to form the University Natural Science Association, which is now amalgamated with the present society. Ere ceasing to speak of the College Society, let me pay a passing tribute to the memory of those who were our strong support, and who freely and generously held out to us that helping hand, and who have now left us for ever—Robert Ball, W. H. Harvey, A. H. Haliday, and A. Furlong; nor would it be seemly to forget all the encouragement and assistance given to us by the authorities of the College and the Regius Professor of Physic, or the loss we sustained when Allman, our Professor, counsellor, and friend was, by a hard fate, moved to succeed Forbes in Edinburgh."

## PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

ENGLISH.—The Dolmen Mounds and Amorpholithic Monuments of Brittany: S. P. Oliver, R.N.—Remarks on the successive Mining Schools of Cornwall: J. H. Collins.—The Unity of Man's Being: A. Diesterweg.—Modern Examples of Road and Railway Bridges, Part I.: Maw and Dredge.—Transactions of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland

—Quarterly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office, July-Sept., 1870.—Annual Report of the Geologists' Association, 1871.—Modern Science and the Bible; their Positive and Direct Antagonism.—The Study of Economic Botany: Jas. Collins.—Lord Derby on the United Kingdom Alliance.—Statistics of the Liqueur Traffic: Rev. D. Burns.—19th Report of the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom Alliance.—The Deviation of the Compass in Iron Ships: W. H. Rosser.—Proceedings of the Geologists' Association.—Report of the Committee on Ships of War.—Report of the Case of H.M.S. *Megara*.—Journal of the Iron and Steel Institute, February.—Catalogue of Microscopical Preparations of the Quekett Microscopical Club.—On the Mechanical Impossibility of the Descent of Glaciers by their Weight only: Canon Moseley.—French Farmers' Seed Fund Reports.—Eastbourne Natural History Society Report.—Journal of the Royal Dublin Society, No. 40.—Quarterly Journal of the Meteorological Society.

AMERICAN & COLONIAL.—Hirrichs' School Laboratory of Physical Science, Nos. 3 and 4.—Experimental Steam Boiler Explosions: Prof. Thurston.—Observations on Encke's Comet: Prof. C. A. Young.—The Phoenix, for January, 1872.—Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge; Converging series expressing the ratio between the diameter and circumference of a circle: W. Ferrel.—7th Annual Catalogue of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.—The Lens, No. 1.—Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, July-Dec., 1871.—Lecture on Water: C. F. Chandler.—Inaugural Lecture of the Department of Practical Science in McGill University: G. F. Armstrong.—Lectures delivered at the Industrial and Technical Museum at Melbourne during the Autumn Session of 1871.

FOREIGN.—Bericht der Kaiserliche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Wien.—Bulletin de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St. Petersburg.—Karte der Alpen in 8 kolorierten Blättern: Mayr u. Berghaus.—Die Centralen Ostalpen; nebst einem Anhang zu der Adamello-Presanella-Alpen: J. Payer.

## DIARY

## THURSDAY, APRIL 4.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Geographical Distribution of Compositae: G. Bentham, President (concluded).  
CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, at 8.—On the Excavations on the Site of the Law Courts: Wilfrid H. Hudleston, and F. G. H. Frice.—On Columnar Basalts: John Curry.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 4.

## MONDAY, APRIL 8.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION, at 8.30.—H.M.S. *Agin-court* on, and off, the Pearl Rock: Commander R. H. Boyle, R.N.  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—Notes on the Hair of Oceanic Races: Dr. B. Davis.—Note on the Hair of a Hindostance: Dr. H. Blanc.—On the Descent of the Esquimaux: Dr. Rink.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Statistics and Social Science: Dr. Guy.  
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 8.—M. Merget's Mercury Process.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Notice of some of the Secondary Effects of the Earthquake of 10th January, 1869, in Cachar: Dr. Oldham, Calcutta, and Robert Mallet, F.R.S.—Notes on Atolls or Lagoon Islands: S. J. Whitnell.—On the Glacial Phenomena of the Yorkshire Uplands: J. R. Dakyn.—Modern Glacial Action in Canada: Rev. W. Bleasdel, M.A.  
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 11.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.  
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.  
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Heat and Light: Dr. Tyndall.  
MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Mechanical Description of certain Sextic Curves: Prof. Cayley, V.P., F.R.S.

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