

paper, for not quoting Scripture as an authority, stated that it was perhaps judicious, as it enabled him to refute Sir John Lubbock's statement on his own ground, though it seemed strange that the latter should prefer the authority of such as Herodotus, whose writings betrayed ignorance on several points, for instance, where he refuses to believe in snow existing in a land so hot that the inhabitants were black,—to the writings of Moses, which, as writings even, were of a much higher order.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, March 25.—M. Serret presented a note by M. A. Mannheim, containing geometrical investigations upon the contact of the third order of two surfaces.—General Morin read a memoir on the simultaneous employment of electrical induction apparatus and apparatus of deformation of solids, for the study of the laws of the movement of projectiles, and of the variation of pressures in the bore of guns.—A memoir was also read by M. V. Albenque, relating to the theory of rifled artillery, and treating of the effects of the resistance of the air upon a solid of revolution animated by a simultaneous movement of rotation.—M. Phillips presented a note by M. Bresse on the determination of brachistochrones.—A note from Father Secchi was read, giving an account of injury done at Alatri by lightning striking a lightning-conductor, and passing from it to large water pipes.—A note by M. G. Volpicelli, on the use of the proof-plane in the investigation of electrical conditions, was read.—M. Wurtz communicated a note by M. G. Salet, on the absorption spectrum of the vapour of sulphur, in which the author claimed to be the first describer of this spectrum, which was noticed by M. Gernez at the meeting of the Academy on March 18. He stated that the most perceptible dark lines coincide with the luminous bands in the spectrum of sulphur in the flame of hydrogen.—A letter from M. Donati to M. Delaunay, on auroras and their cosmical origin, was read. The author considers these phenomena to depend on an exchange of electricity between the sun and the planets.—M. Delaunay announced the discovery at Bilk by M. Luther on the night of March 15-16 of a new planet of the eleventh magnitude. The discoverer proposes to name it *Peitho*.—The miserable dispute as to the priority of the invention of the preservation of wines by heat was continued by MM. Vergnette-Lamotte, Pasteur, and Thenard.—M. Wurtz presented a note on a new class of compounds of dulcite with the hydracids by M. Bouchardat. These compounds are crystallisable, but rather unstable.—M. Fremy presented a note by M. Prinvaunt on the action of bromine upon protochloride of phosphorus, by which he has obtained some curious and unexpected compounds.—A note by M. E. Jannetaz on a new type of idiocyclophanous crystals was presented by M. Delafosse.—M. C. Robin communicated a note by M. V. Feltz on the properties of the bones, in which the author stated that matters injected into the spongy tissues of the bones in the living subject are absorbed as rapidly as if they were introduced directly into the veins, from which he inferred that this spongy tissue is in direct connection with the veins, and must be regarded as forming a system of sinuses.—M. Champouillon, in a note presented by M. Larrey, stated that putrefaction is much more rapid in the dead bodies of alcoholised subjects than in those of comparatively sober individuals.—M. C. Robin presented a note by MM. Legros and Onimus containing an account of some experiments on spontaneous generation, in which the authors describe the production of fermentation within an egg penetrated with sugar by endosmotic action, and afterwards immersed in a fermenting solution of sugar.—A note by M. A. Gris containing general considerations upon the structure of the bark in the Ericinæ was communicated by M. Brongniart.—M. A. Baudrimont read a paper on the existence of mineral matter in plants, which contains some interesting results as to the amount of solid matter in fleshy plants.—M. Roulin presented a note by M. Triana on the *Gonolobus cundurango*, a South American plant, reputed to furnish a remedy for cancer.—A paper by M. L. Vaillant on the fossil Crocodiles of Saint-Gerand-le-Puy was communicated by M. Milne-Edwards. The author described three species, two belonging to the subgenus *Diplocynodon* (*D. Ratelli* Pomel, and *D. gracilis* n. sp.), and a true Crocodile allied to the African species (*Croc. aduinus* n. sp.)

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—On Bone Setting: W. P. Hood (Macmillan and Co.).—The Natural History of the Year: B. B. Woodward (S. W. Partridge).—The Journal of Mental Science, No. 45 (Churchill).

DIARY

THURSDAY, APRIL 11.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Researches on Solar Physics—Part III.: W. De La Rue, F.R.S., B. Stewart, F.R.S., and B. Loewy.—The Action of Oxygen on Copper Nitrate in a State of Tension: Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., and A. Tribe.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—On some of the Stone Remains of Brittany: Sir H. E. L. Dryden, Bart.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Mechanical Description of certain Sextic Curves: Prof. Cayley, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Heat and Light: Dr. Tyndall.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.30.—On the Distribution of Coal in the British Islands, and its probable duration: R. Etheridge, F.R.S.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Rousseau's Influence on European Thought: J. Morley.

QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, at 8.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Star-Depths: R. A. Proctor.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES, at 8.—On Geology: Dr. Cobbold.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 4.—On Ether: the Evidence for its Existence, and the Phenomena it explains: Prof. W. K. Clifford.

MONDAY, APRIL 15.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE, at 8.—On the Rationality of the Lower Animals: Rev. J. G. Wood.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On Statistics, Social Science, and Political Economy: Dr. Guy.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.—On the Mechanism of the Gizzard of Birds: A. H. Garrod.—On a supposed New Monkey from the Sunderbunds to the East of Calcutta: Dr. John Anderson.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY, at 7.45.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On the Great Central Gas Company's Works: A. Angus Croll.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 8.30.—On the Trade of Phœnicia with Ophir, Tarshish, and Britain: W. S. W. Vaux.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On Heat and Light: Prof. Tyndall, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On *Begoniella*, a new genus of Begoniaceæ: Prof. Oliver.—On three new genera of Malayan plants: Prof. Oliver.—On *Camellia scottiana* and *Ternstroemia coriacea*: Prof. Dyer.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Notes from the Laboratory of the Andersonian University: On a Compound of Sodium and Glycerine; and On Benzylisocyanate and Isocyanurate: E. A. Letts.

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NOTICE

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