

of Berosus (the Biblical Noah), is the Accadian Susru or Na (Anu). Like the traditions, a large proportion of the words in the Semitic languages which express the objects of civilised life are borrowed from the Accadian—the ordinary terms for “city,” “weighing,” “measures,” “ciphers,” &c., come from this source. We are thus enabled to gauge the primitive civilisation of the Semitic nomads, and to determine that their home had no great rivers or mountains, like the deserts of Northern Arabia.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, April 1.—M. Serret presented a continuation of M. A. Mannheim's geometrical researches upon the contact of the third order of two surfaces.—A paper was read by M. C. Decharme on the spontaneous ascensional movement of liquids in capillary tubes. The author here stated as the result of his experiments that each liquid possesses a proper ascensional velocity, which he proposes to call its “capillary velocity,” and he indicated the peculiarities presented by certain liquids as regards the relation between this velocity and the length of the column, &c. An aqueous solution of hydrochlorate of ammonia has the greatest capillary velocity, and next to it chloride of lithium; both these have a greater velocity than pure water.—A note by M. de la Rive on the theory of polar auroras was read; the author maintains the atmospheric nature of the phenomenon.—The second part of a paper by M. A. Crova on the phenomena of interference produced by parallel nets was read.—M. Faye gave a long account of an association recently founded in Italy under the title of “Società dei Spettroscopisti Italiana,” and also presented a memoir on the hypothesis of persistent winds on the sun.—In a second communication on the history of fermentation, M. E. Chevreul described in some detail the chemical labours of Stahl, and especially his theories of fermentation and combustion, which the author regarded as physical rather than chemical.—M. Joseph Boussingault presented a note on sorbite, a saccharine material allied to mannite, obtained from the juice of the berries of *Sorbus aucuparia*.—A note was read by M. A. Clermont, on some metallic trichloracetates, and M. Balard presented a note by M. E. Reboul on the identity of the brominated hydrobromate and hydriodate of propylene, with dihydrobromate and iodohydrobromate of allylene, and on the dihydrobromate of acetylene.—A note by M. Duval-Jouve, on the anatomy of the dissepients presented by the leaves of certain species of *Fucus*, was communicated by M. Duchartre.

April 8.—M. Serret presented a note by M. E. Combesure on a peculiar system of equations with partial differences; and a paper entitled “Investigations upon substitutions,” by M. C. Jordan, was read.—M. Le Verrier communicated two notes by M. Diamilla-Müller, one on terrestrial magnetism, the other on the cosmical origin of auroras. In the latter he claimed priority in having put forward the notion of these phenomena being due to solar influences.—M. J. Silbermann read a continuation of his memoir on the laws of atmospheric tides; and M. C. Sainte-Claire Deville communicated a note by M. O. Silvestri, giving a chemical and microscopic analysis of the sand-shower which fell in Sicily on March 9, 10, and 11 in the present year.—M. Chevreul read a second note on the crystallisation of barytic salts, the acids of which originate from the maceration of dead bodies.—A memoir on the alteration of the sulphurous waters of Eau-Bonnes in contact with a limited atmosphere, by the late M. Louis Martin, was read.—M. H. Sainte-Claire Deville presented notes by M. A. Ditte on the apparent volatilisation of selenium and tellurium, and on the dissociation of their hydrogenated compounds; by M. B. Renault, on the reducing properties of hydrogen and vapours of phosphorus, and on their application to the reproduction of drawings; by M. de Tomasi, on a compound of binoxide of chrome and potassic dichromate, kalichromic dichromate [(CrO₃)² (CrO₃)² K²O] H²O; and by M. L. Grandea, on the function of the organic materials of the soil in the nutrition of plants.—M. Cahours presented a note by MM. S. Clôz and E. Guignet on the chemical composition of the Chinese green (*lokno*).—An interesting note on the polymorphism of *Mucor nuceolo*, by MM. P. Van Tieghem and G. Le Meunier, was communicated by M. Decaisne.—M. A. Vulpien read a memoir on the alteration of the muscles produced under the influence of traumatic or analogous lesions of the nerves, and on the tropical action of the nervous centres upon the muscular tissue; and M. Gauthier de Claubry presented some observations on M. Champouillon's recent remarks as to the rapid decomposition of the bodies of alcoholised subjects. He adduces facts which seem to show that the difference in the rate

of putrefaction may be otherwise accounted for.—M. A. de Lapparent read a note on the date of the elevation of the district of Bray.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—History of the Birds of New Zealand. Part 1.: W. L. Buller (Van Voorst).—The Teeth, and How to save them: L. P. Meredith (W. Tegg).

FOREIGN.—Verhandlungen der k. k. zoologisch-botanischen Gesellschaft in Wien, Band 21.—Die Grundlagen der Vogelschutzgesetzes (Ritter v. Frauenfeld)—Die Pflege der Jungen bei Thieren (Ritter v. Frauenfeld).—Ueber die Weizenverwüsterin *Chlorops tæniopus*: Prof. Max Nowicki.—La Photographie appliquée aux études géographiques: Jules Girard.—(Through Williams and Norgate.)—Die Metamorphose der Squilliden: Prof. C. Claus.

DIARY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—On the Connection between Explosions in Coal Mines and Weather: R. H. Scott, F.R.S., and W. Galloway.—On the Fossil Mammals of Australia. Part VII. Genus *Phascolomys*. Species exceeding the existing ones in size: Prof. Owen, F.R.S.

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

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Test of Certain Centurial Stones: H. C. Coote.

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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—On the Sulphurous Impurity in Coal Gas and the means of removing it: A. V. Harcourt, F.R.S.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20.

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

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 21.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 4.—On the Hindus—Ancient and Modern—their Manners, Customs, &c.: Dr. F. J. Mouat.

MONDAY, APRIL 22.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Letter from Dr. Kirk on the Movements of Dr. Livingstone.—On Recent Explorations of the North Polar Regions: Capt. Sherard Osborn, R.N.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—On the Hair and some other peculiarities of Oceanic Races: Dr. J. B. Davis, F.R.S.—(On the Hair of a Hindoostanee: Dr. H. Blaoc.—On the Descent of the Esquimaux: Dr. Kink.—Le Sette Comuni: Dr. R. S. Charnock.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23.

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

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 2.—Anniversary Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Notes on the Geology of Queensland: R. Daintree; with Descriptions of the Fossils, by R. Etheridge, F.R.S.—Notes on Atolls or Lagoon Islands: S. J. Whitnell.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—On Nuts; their Produce and Uses: P. L. Simmonds.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, at 4.30.—Anniversary Meeting.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 12.—Anniversary Meeting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.

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

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.30.—Turner and Mulready: Dr. Liebreich.

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