

CALIFORNIA

Academy of Sciences, Dec. 17, 1872.—Mr. W. H. Dall read, "Preliminary Descriptions of new Species of Mollusca from the N. W. coast of America." The *Magasella Aleutica* (Dall, n. s.), has its *habitat* in the Aleutian Islands from Akutan Pass to the Shumagins, attached to the under surface of rocks at extremest low water of spring tides. This pretty species resembles in miniature *Laguens rubella* of Sowerby, but is proportionately shorter and broader. The animal is rather sluggish. *Acmaea (Colisella) peramabilis* (Dall, n. s.), inhabits the Shumagin group of islands, Alaska Territory, on rocks near low water mark. This lovely species has no relations with *A. sybaritica*, Dall, and *rosacea*, Cpr., except those of colour. The two latter are much smaller and the rose colour is much lighter and differently disposed. Its nearest allies are some varieties of *A. patina*. *Argonauta expansa* (Dall, n. s.) The interior of the shell is smoothly polished, the exterior, especially on the protuberances of the carinae, is covered with a multitude of exceedingly minute rough pustules, which give a very rough, harsh feel to the shell, and under a lens appear hemispherical. Laying the shell upon its aperture, with the apex posterior, we have the following measurements. Total length 3'25 in. Width of dorsal area posteriorly 0'32 in.; ditto, anteriorly 0'7. Height of shell 2'0 in. Total extension of axis from end to end, 4 in. Total length of aperture 2'25 inches; length from the anterior edge of the spire to the anterior edge of the aperture 1'9 in. *Habitat*, in the Gulf of California. This pretty and peculiar argonaut possesses an assemblage of characters not common to any described species, though there are several which have a somewhat similar lateral extension of the axis.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, January 20.—M. de Quatrefages, president, in the chair. The President announced the death of M. le Baron C. Dupin, member of the Mechanical Section.—M. Chasles read a paper on the number of points of intersection of two curves of any order at a finite distance.—M. Cahours read a note on certain new derivatives of Propyl. The bodies described were propylic sulphide, mercury propyl, tin propyl, and nitro-propane; the author finds that propylic iodide, which occupies a place between the iodides of ethyl and amyl, behaves like them.—M. A. Trécul read the first part of a paper on the carpellary theory of the *Papaveracea*. This part of the paper was devoted to the Papaver family.—An account of some new researches on the tympanic chord, by M. A. Vulpian, followed.—M. A. Dumont sent a paper on the possibility of destroying the Phylloxera in the Valley of the Rhone by submerging the vines.—M. du Pepin sent a note on the residues of the fifth power and one on the quadratic forms of certain powers of the primary numbers.—M. O. Tamin-Despalles sent a note on the connection between ozonometric determinations and the death-rate of Paris. The author finds that the winds from south to north round by west are favourable to health, and that large ozone indications are accompanied by small death-rates.—M. Yvon Villarcéau read a letter from M. Borrelly detailing some observations of No. 128, and the discovery of a new variable star. The latter is situated in the Balance; its mean position for 1873 is, $15^{\text{h}} 14^{\text{m}} 5' 60^{\text{s}}$ R. A.; $109^{\circ} 55' 42'' 7$ N. P. D.—M. P. Volcicelli sent his fifteenth note on the "Electric Influence."—M. Ch. Viollette sent a note in reply to the late communication of Messrs. Tomlinson and Van der Mensbrugge on the action of thin films of liquid on supersaturated solutions. He asserts that the ten-atom sodic sulphate crystal always caused the solidification of the solution of that salt, and that it does this of itself, and not by means of its chemical dirtiness.—M. Arm. Gautier sent a note on certain phosphorous compounds, in which that body appears to exist in the amorphous form. The formula for one of these bodies is $P_5 H_3 O$; it is formed by the action of water on PI_2 .—M. A. Chevalier sent a note on the modifications produced on coloured light by the various tinted glasses used for spectacles. He decides that as the neutral tint alone cuts out the very brilliant red and yellow portions of the spectrum that it alone is of any use.

DIARY

THURSDAY, January 30.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8 30.—Note on the Origin of Bacteria, and on their Relation to the Process of Putrefaction: Dr. Bastian.—On Just Intonation in Music: R. H. M. Bosanquet.—On the Composition and Origin of the Waters of a Salt Spring in Huef Seton Mine, with a Chemical and Microscopical Examination of certain Rocks in its Vicinity: J. A. Phillips.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Oriental Bronze Implements: A. W. Franks.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Music of the Future: Mr. Dambruther. SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Progress of India during the last Fourteen Years: J. H. Stocqueler.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On Comparative Politics: E. A. Freeman.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

SUNDAY LECTURE SOCIETY, at 4.—The Early History of Domestic Animals: L. C. Miall.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 2.—General Monthly Meeting. ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7. ASIATIC SOCIETY, at 3. LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—Physical Geography: Prof. Duncan.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

ROYAL INSTITUTION at 3.—Forces and Motions of the Body: Prof. Rutherford.

SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8. ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—On the Looshais: A. Campbell.—The Inhabitants of Car Nicobar: A. L. Distant.

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY, at 8 30.—On the Era of Ezra and Nehemiah: Dr. H. Haigh.—On an Assyrian Patern with an Inscription in Hebrew Characters—Rev. I. M. Rodwell.—Some Remarks upon a Passage in the Pænulus of Plautus: Rev. J. M. Rodwell.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—On a certain Class of Cases of Variable Protective Colouring in Insects: B. Meldola.—Report on the Hydroidea collected during the Expeditions of H.M.S. Porcupine: Prof. Allan.—Measurements of the Red Blood Corpuscles of Batrachians: G. Gulliver.—Notes on some Reptiles and Batrachians obtained by Dr. Adolf Bernhard Meyer in Celebes and the Philippine Islands: Dr. Günther.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

LONDON INSTITUTION, at 7.—Fresco and Siliceous Painting: Prof. Barff. SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8. GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY at 8.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Anniversary.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On Anthrapurpurin: W. H. Perkin.—On the Solidification of Nitrous Oxide: T. Wills.—On Isomerism in the Terpene Family: Dr. C. A. Wright.

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Lectures on the Philosophy of Law: J. H. Stirling (Longmans).—The Botanist's Pocket-Book: W. R. Hayward (Bell & Daldy).—The School Manual of Geology. Second Edition: Jukes Browne (A. & C. Black).—History of Bokhara: A. Vambéry (H. S. King & Co.).—Ozone and Antozone: Dr. C. B. Fox (J. and A. Churchill).

FOREIGN.—Reisen in der Phillippen: F. Jager. (Berlin.)

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—National Education and New School Boards: Thomas Bonnar. Quarterly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office, No. 14, Part 2, April to June, 1871.—Journal of the Women's Education Union, No. 7, January, 1873 (Chapman & Hall).—Report of the Kew Committee for fifteen months, ending October 31, 1872.—Quarterly Journal of Science, No. 37, January 1873.—On the Genetic Relation of Cetaceans and the Methods involved in Discovery: Theodore Gill.

FOREIGN.—Zeitschrift für Meteorologie, No. 1, Vol. viii. January 1873.—Über den Von Pogson, am 2 December, Aufgefunden der Komete Von Prof. Theodore V. Oppalzer.

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