

dentition of both jaws nearly complete, with other bones of other specimens. The wording of the description is intricate and short.

A PAPER entitled "A Study of North American Noctuidæ, by A. R. Grote, was read on July 2 before the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, declaring that six new genera (*Ufeus*, *Ablepharon*, *Ommatostola*, *Argillophora*, *Harveya*, *Spiloloma*) and twenty-seven hitherto undescribed species (*Agrotis*, 7; *Ufeus*, 2; *Mamestia*, 1; *Dianthæcia*, 1; *Oncocnemis*, 3; *Hadena*, 1; *Ommatostola*, 1; *Cucullia*, 1; *Xylina*, 1; *Heliothis*, 6; *Argillophora*, 1; *Harveya*, 1; *Spiloloma*, 1), occur in the N. American Insect Fauna.

SIR HENRY RAWLINSON'S presidential address at the last anniversary meeting of the Geographical Society has been published in a separate form by Messrs. Clowes and Sons. We are glad to see it reproduced in a handy and well-printed form, for it contains a masterly summary of the progress of geographical knowledge during the past year.

WE have received the prospectus of what promises to be a handsome and valuable work, "The Fenland, Past and Present: its History, Geography, Geology, Natural History, Scenery, Antiquities, Climatology, Drainage, Agricultural Produce, and Sanitary Condition; illustrated with Wood Engravings, Maps, and Diagrams; by Samuel H. Miller, F.R.A.S., Fellow of the Meteorological Society; and Sydney B. J. Skertchley, F.G.S., H.M. Geological Survey." It will be published by Leach and Son, Wisbech; and Longmans, Green, and Co. London. Under the head "Fenland," the authors include that area of low, once marshy lands, in which the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene, and Ouse interlaced, including nearly 2,000 square miles, and roughly bounded by a line drawn from Lincoln by Bourn and Peterborough to Cambridge on the west; from Lincoln to Skegness on the north; from Cambridge and St. Ives to Brandon on the south; and from Brandon to Lynn on the east (thus including Boston, Sleaford, Spalding, Croyland, Thorney, Wisbech, March, Huntingdon, Ely, besides the border towns.)

A VERY deserving institution has recently been established in Cincinnati, under the title of the Cincinnati Acclimatisation Society, its object being to effect the introduction of such foreign birds as are worthy of note for their song or their services to the farmer or horticulturist. The society announces that during last spring it expended 5,000 dol. in introducing fifteen additional species of birds, and that it had already successfully accomplished the acclimatisation of the European sky-lark, which is stated to be now a prominent feature of the summer landscape in the vicinity of Cincinnati. Among the species which it is proposed to introduce is the European titmouse, considered abroad as one of the most successful foes of insects injurious to vegetation.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Harnessed Antelope (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), a Double-crested Pigeon (*Lopholanius antarcticus*), two Senegal Touracous (*Corythaix persa*), two Chilean Tinamous (*Rhynchotus perdicarius*), a White-fronted Dove (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*), a Glossy Ibis (*Ibis falcinellus*), a Mauge's Dasyure (*Dasyurus maugei*), a Barbary Ape (*Macacus inuus*), and others.

### SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

*Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie Neue Reihe*, Band xci. Heft 2 und 3, June 14. This number begins with communication No. 83 from the Griefswald Laboratory, the subject of which is Phenathren, by M. Hayduck. The author describes several of the compounds of this body.—From the same laboratory we have a notice on the compound  $C_{14}H_8S_2$ , by C. Pauly.—B. Rathke contributes a paper on the chloro-sulphides of carbon, and an-

other on the compounds of the amides with that body. One of these chloro-sulphides has the formula  $CSCl_4$ —perchloromethylmercaptan, another the formula  $CSCl_3$ , several of their compounds are described. The same author also contributes a short paper on the changes nitro-compounds undergo in sulpho-acids.—Messrs. Maunder and Tollens communicate a paper on  $\beta$  Bibromopropionic acid, in which they give an exhaustive account of this body and its compounds.—Messrs. Caspary and Tollens have converted  $\beta$  Bibromopropionic acid into acrylic acid and give an account of the process, and of the salts of acrylic acid.—Mr. B. Tollens communicates a paper on the constitution of the allyl and acryl derivatives.—Prof. Max. von Pettenkofer has a paper on "Nourishment in general, and on flesh extract as an essential portion of human nutriment in particular."—Messrs. Lieben and Paterné have a paper on the dry distillation of calcic formate.—J. Wislicenus communicates a paper on the optically active lactic acid of flesh extract, and on paralactic acid. The same author also communicates some observations on ethyl-lactic acid. The next paper is by C. E. Groves on the formation of naphthaquinone by the direct oxidation of naphthalene, which has already appeared in the March number of the Chemical Society's Journal. Messrs. Hlasiwetz and Kachler, in a postscript to their paper on a new derivative of sulpho-carbaminic acid, mention the discovery of the body in question by Zeise in 1842. H. Ranke finishes the number with some experimental proofs of the possibility of the spontaneous combustion of liay.

*Reale Istituto Lombardo di Scienze e Lettere Rendiconti*, serie ii. vol. vi. Fascicoli x.—We notice papers on *Felobates fuscus*, by Prof. Emelio Cornalia; on the Italian earthquake of March 12, by A. Serpieri; on some geological theories, by G. Cantoni; on the inversion of currents in electromotors, by A. Ferrini. Besides these there are papers on Manzoni and on Kant's philosophy, the first by A. Buccellati, and the second by C. Cantoni. Fascicolo XI. contains only social papers, none of scientific interest. In Fascicolo XII., S. A. Lemoigne contributes a paper on the mechanism of rumination, and J. A. Serpieri one on the earthquake of March 12; S. A. Cantoni has a paper on the molecular movements of gases. The rest of the number is devoted to the section of moral and political science.

IN the *Annali de Chimica applicata alla Medicina* for June is a paper on the cremation of the dead, which practice is strongly advocated. The author, who is anonymous, states that in Belgium 7,500 hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres) are unproductive of food, through being used as cemeteries. He estimates the value of this land at from 38 to 40 millions (lire?).

### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

#### LONDON

Royal Horticultural Society, July 16.—Scientific Committee.—Dr. M. T. Masters, F.R.S., in the chair.—A letter was read from the locomotive superintendent of the Brighton Railway stating the results of the company's experience in using a mixture of chalk with coal for fuel. It was found that used for any other purpose than that of saving the fire-bars from Welsh coal (for which it is admirably suited) or for reducing the area of heating surface it increases the ordinary consumption of fuel considerably.—The Rev. M. J. Berkeley showed female flowers of *Lychnis diurna*, in which the calyx was reduced by arrest of development to a mere rim.

August 6.—General Meeting.—W. B. Kellock in the chair.—The Rev. M. J. Berkeley commented upon the fruits and vegetables exhibited. He mentioned the remarkable improvement in the quality of W. Indian pines owing to the introduction from England of the better cultivated kinds.—Prof. Thimelton Dyer pointed out that a curious cucurbit which had lately been introduced, rather as a curiosity than for any useful purpose, under the name of Sooly Qua, was a form of *Luffa aegyptiaca*, the common washing gourd. Another cucurbit known as the Toong Qua appeared to be identical with *Benincasa cerifera*.—A new method of propagating ipecauanha had been devised in India by Mr. Jaffray, and promised to be of great importance. It simply consisted in striking the leaves upright in pots. These produced roots and the most superficial of these eventually produced buds.—As an interesting fact bearing upon the distribution of plants, an extract of a letter from Mr. Mosley, naturalist on board H.M.S. *Challenger*, was read. A vessel laden with grapes was wrecked on the coast of Bermuda a short time ago.