

The chairman thought there could be no difficulty about it; the Rev. Mr. Cotton had taken bees out to New Zealand by keeping them at a low temperature, and consequently in a dormant condition, by means of ice.—Mr. McLachlan further wished the opinion of the committee with respect to another New Zealand inquiry by Captain Hutton; Aphides were now becoming very common in New Zealand, but were probably not indigenous. Could the golden-winged fly (*Chrysopa*) be advantageously introduced to check them. The chairman thought that it would be far better to send out dormant lady-birds (*Coccinella*). Mr. Wilson, F.R.S., pointed out the necessity of caution in these introductions; sparrows and hares were far from a boon in Australia.—Prof. Thiselton Dyer read a letter from Mr. Scott, F.R.S., Director of the Meteorological Office, with respect to a change in the climate of Scotland recently insisted on by Mr. McNab. He stated that it was an opinion too general to be lightly disregarded that our winters are warmer and summers cooler, on an average, than in the last century, but did not know where to find records which could be quoted with confidence in a discussion of the question.—Dr. Voelcker, F.R.S., mentioned that there was no doubt that it was quite possible to make wine from grapes ripened in this country; the often-repeated argument that our summers must be cooler because wine was not now made was manifestly fallacious.—Mr. A. W. Bennett, F.L.S., communicated a paper on pollen-eating flies of the group *Syrphidae*.—Mr. Baker, F.L.S., sent capsules of *Lilium auratum* and *L. speciosum*.

Anthropological Institute, Dec. 9.—Mr. F. G. H. Price, F.G.S., in the chair.—Mr. J. Park Harrison gave a detailed description of two incised tablets, from Easter Island in the South Pacific, discovered by the French missionaries in one of the stone houses supposed to be formerly occupied by the chiefs. The signs appeared to be principally iconographic and to represent forms of life and incidents connected with islands several thousand miles to the west.—Prof. T. McK. Hughes described the results of his exploration of the rock-shelter known as Cave Ha, near Giggleswick, Settle, Yorkshire. In the upper deposits flakes and scrapers of chert and flint and other ancient remains in stone and iron were mixed up with the most recent works of art by the operations of badgers, rabbits, &c. In these beds the bones were found by Prof. Busk to be all of recent species, still, or till quite lately, common in the district. In the older deposits, which were composed chiefly of angular fragments of limestone, and, therefore, were not disturbed by burrowing animals, the remains of bear occurred associated with ox, goat or sheep, and dog; but as yet no traces of men. A point to which the author called special attention was the explanation found here of the occurrence in many ossiferous caves of such immense quantities of the bones of mice. The floor was in places strewn with broken up pellets of owls with here and there a few retaining their form, which, when the hair had decomposed away would exactly correspond to the layers and little bunches of the bones of mice in the underlying beds.—Prof. Hughes also read a joint paper by himself and Rev. D. R. Thomas, "On the occurrence of Felstone implements, of the Le Moustier type, in Pontnewydd Cave near St. Asaph, North Wales." After explaining by reference to sections, the position of the cave and of the deposits in it, the authors described a series of implements of felstone as similar to the common forms of Le Moustier as would be expected, allowing for the difference of material. They exhibited also a collection of bones from the same deposit which were referred by Prof. Busk to *Ursus spelæus*, *U. ferox*, *Hyæna spelæa*, *Rhinoceros hemistachus*, and others, including a human molar which Prof. Busk pointed out was remarkable for its large size. As the rock, of which the implements were manufactured, occurred in that river basin in the boulder clay only, as the implements seemed to have been made from fragments such as occur in the drift, and are found associated with remanié drift mixed with tumble from the roof of the cave, the authors inferred that the deposit was post-glacial, while the forms of the implements, and the animal remains found with them would refer the beds to the earliest cave deposit in which human remains have been found.—A communication was made by Prof. Busk on a human fibula of unusual formation discovered in Victoria Cave, Settle, Yorkshire. The fragment lay at a considerable depth in the cave and beneath a thick layer of Boulder Clay, and was associated with bones of the two large species of cave Bear, *Hyæna*, *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, *Bison* and *Cervus*. From its position, accompaniments, and

other considerations, the deposit in which the specimen was found, had been regarded as of pre-glacial age.

The London Anthropological Society, Dec. 2.—Dr. R. S. Charnock, president, in the chair.—Causes which determine the Rise and Fall of Nations, by T. Inman, M.D. The paper embraced the whole historical range.—Western Anthropologists and Extra Western Communities, by J. Kaines, D.Sc. The paper shows what should be the moral attitude of the more civilised to the less civilised—what the latter has to teach the former—and the evils of western contact with the backward races.

Photographic Society, Dec. 9.—J. Spiller, F.C.S., V.P., in the chair.—On photo-collotype printing, by Capt. J. Waterhouse. The author recommended the use of citric acid as a clearing agent.—Lieut. Chermiside, R.E., read a paper on photography in the Arctic Regions. Mr. Chermiside accompanied Mr. Leigh Smith in his Arctic expedition last summer. The temperature at which pictures were actually taken was rarely less than 32° Fahr., but much difficulty was experienced in maintaining the solutions in proper order during excessive cold. The author gave some practical advice on the subject of overcoming actual difficulties inherent to photographic manipulations in high latitudes.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, Dec. 15.—M. de Quatrefages, president, in the chair.—The following papers were read:—On the laws of the magnetisation of steel by currents, by M. Jamin.—An answer to a note read by M. Trécul at the meeting of the Dec. 8, by M. Pasteur. This was a reply to M. Trécul's criticism on the author's note on beer and displayed considerable acrimony, M. Pasteur of course sustained his well-known views of the nature of ferments.—M. Berthelot presented some new remarks on the nature of the chemical elements, which however could not be read on account of want of time. The author, it may be stated, admits the possibility of the elements being modifications of a fundamental substance, and stated that nothing renders it improbable that a discovery like that of the voltaic current might not give us power to still further simplify matter. His paper concluded thus:—We shall only be too happy if Mr. Lockyer, guided by stellar spectral analysis, can shed a new light upon these questions, and continue to investigate problems raised now forty years ago by M. Dumas in a work (*Leçons de Philosophie Chimique*) which has contributed so much to our scientific education.—Researches on new butyl derivatives by M. A. Cahours. The author dealt with the aluminium silicon tin and mercury compounds of butyl.—On the propagation of the *Phylloxera*, by M. H. Marès.—Report on Mr. Douglas Galton's paper "On the Construction of Hospitals," by M. Larrey, and General Morin:—Valuation in mechanical units of the quantity of electricity produced by an element in a battery, by M. Branly.—Hybernation of the *Phylloxera* on the branches and leaves of the vine, by M. Max. Cornu.—Action of the volcanic earth of the solfatara of Pouzzoles on the diseases of the vine, by M. S. De Luca.—On certain morphological changes observed in the genus *Cypripedium*, by M. R. Guérin.

BOOKS RECEIVED

AMERICAN.—Catalogue of Stars observed in the United States Observatory, 1845-71: Rear-Admiral Sands (Washington).—Daily Bulletin of Weather Reports for September 1872: War Department (Washington).—Annual Record of Science and Industry: Dr. Spencer F. Baird (Harper, New York).—Elements of Logarithms: Pierce (Ginn Bros.).  
FOREIGN.—Annalen der Sternwarte in Leiden: Dr. F. Kaiser (Nijkoff).—Somario delle Lezioni di Fisica: Prof. Mombello (Foligno).—Zoologische Studien auf Capri: Dr. Theodore Eimer (Engelmann, Leipzig).

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