

with golden rain. The falling motion was very slow. I think it was visible for two minutes after the explosion, but though we tried more than once to consult our watches, the light was insufficient.

HENRY H. HIGGINS

Rainhill, Oct. 11

AN exceedingly brilliant meteor was seen here about 8.50 on Sunday evening, which was so bright that it attracted general attention, the light from it being as strong as an unusually bright flash of lightning, but more white. On looking up I saw, near the zenith, a long almost straight and uninterrupted ribbon of light, somewhat pointed at the end towards the north-east. After watching it for some time and noticing that it retained its brilliancy, I began slowly counting, and counted up to twenty before there was any noticeable diminution of luminosity. The last portion visible was the end opposite the pointed end, which appeared as a faintly luminous patch as large as the apparent disc of the moon. I consider that, from its first appearance, it was visible from 80 to 100 seconds.

Wisbech, Oct. 11

A. BALDING

## Rainbows

As a supplement to the description of a "Double Rainbow," published by Prof. Tait in NATURE, vol. x. p. 437, the following diagram may be of interest to your readers. It represents a phenomenon which was seen here a few days ago, and one which I should think must be of very rare occurrence.



FIG. 1.

It will be observed that all the four bows were incomplete, but this only arose from the accidental cause mentioned by Prof. Tait. The two extra bows were due to reflection from a calm sea.

It may perhaps be remembered that about eighteen months ago I published in NATURE a verbal description of a rainbow similar to that now figured by Prof. Tait; only I was fortunate enough to see the bows complete and extraordinarily brilliant. Hence there were three bows, thus:—

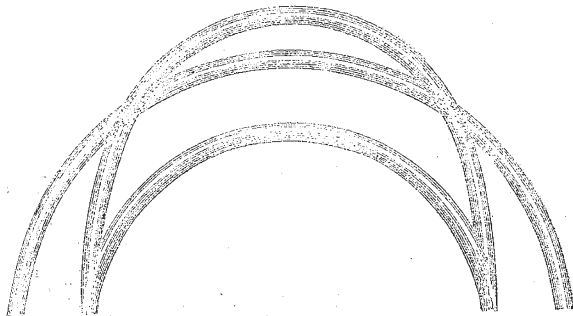


FIG. 2.

I presume that the presence of the fourth bow, as shown in the first diagram, is to be accounted for by the reflection from the sea having been sufficiently bright to give rise to a double concentric bow.

GEORGE J. ROMANES

Danskaith, Ross-shire, Oct. 3

IN reference to Mr. Tait's letter in NATURE, vol. x. p. 460, it may interest some of your readers to hear that our party saw a very perfect lunar rainbow at North Malvern, Worcestershire,

on the evening of July 27, this year. The bow was so perfect that the colours were easily distinguishable—that is, of course, the main colours. The appearance lasted about five or ten minutes (10.35 to 10.45 P.M.)

JOHN LATCHMORE, JUN.

Leicester, Oct. 12

## The Cry of the Frog

WITH reference to the power of the frog to cry out, I may mention that while in India, as I was walking in my garden after dusk during the rainy season, when a peculiar kind of enormous green frog make their appearance for a few weeks, I was surprised to hear a cry exceedingly like that of a baby. On sending for a light I found a large frog, with a small one in its throat which it was apparently swallowing, while the small frog, the snout of which was just perceptible, was shrieking in the way I describe. On tapping the big frog sharply on the back, the little frog jumped out and made off.

Leamington, Oct. 10

J. P. G.

I HAVE on three different occasions heard a frog expostulate in the manner described by Mr. Mott. One did so on being patted inquisitively by a cat; the two others on being examined by a little dog. In each case the frog was of so unusually vivid a yellow as to suggest that it was either a variety of the common frog, or that it was in some unusual condition. Is Mr. Mott's frog equally brilliant? I may add that my three were also Leicestershire frogs.

E. H.

Oct. 13

It may interest your correspondent who has elicited what he believes to be a cry of fear from a frog, to know that an explanation of this cry—which is probably but the croaking experiment or *Quackversuch* of Goltz—is given at p. 201 of the recently issued volume of the West Riding Asylum Reports in the very remarkable paper by Dr. Lauder Brunton, on "Inhibition, Peripheral and Central." The extract is too long for quotation.

H. W. P.

Oct. 13

I REMEMBER as a boy being rather startled by a shrill wailing cry which proceeded from a small pond, and on running to the spot I found a common snake in the act of swallowing a frog. They were on the surface of the water in the middle of the pool; the hinder part of the frog had already disappeared, and the terrified creature was crying piteously. He proved, however, too big a mouthful to be readily disposed of, and when by the aid of a long stick I interrupted the banquet and released him, he dived away apparently unhurt.

Though I have lived much in the country, I never heard a frog cry but on this occasion. I have often seen them played with, tumbled about, and patted by dogs and cats, as described by your correspondent F. T. Mott, but they have always borne the indignity in silence.

F. BADEN BENDER

Manchester, Oct. 10

## The Edible Frog

It is stated in Bell's "History of British Reptiles," 2nd edit., p. 111, that the Edible Frog (*Rana esculenta*) was captured for the first time in this country in Foulmire Fen, Cambridgeshire, in 1843. Mr. Bell received some specimens which on comparison he identified as belonging to the continental species, he having at that time some living ones obtained from France. Mr. Bond, who had written to the *Zoologist* on this subject, said "the whole fen was quite in a charm with their song." Their very remarkable and sonorous croak had procured for these frogs the name of "Cambridgeshire nightingales."

I have recently been informed that this reptile was introduced from France some fifty years ago, and turned loose in the south of Cambridgeshire; and that very recently some one who is partial to the dish called "Frog-pie" has introduced the animal into Norfolk. But I cannot obtain any satisfactory information as to the naturalisation of the reptile. Are those brought into this country dying out? If not, they do not seem to have reached Norfolk, and I cannot find any in this neighbourhood. Is, then, the *Rana esculenta* to be regarded as a British reptile? If any of the readers of NATURE can inform me whether they have obtained it in the Fen district, I should be much obliged.

Wisbech, Oct. 9

SAML. H. MILLER