Dominica, accompanied by an excellent series of specimens of the minute moth (*Cemiostoma coffeella*) which injures the leaves of the coffee plant in Dominica.—Dr. Masters exhibited a flower of a hybrid *Tacsonia* in which the anthers were replaced by petals, while from the apex of the tube formed by the filaments, a second corona of blue threads proceeded. Dr. Masters also exhibited a flower of a *Cattleya*, in which there were three equal sepals and four petals all lip-like. From the arrangement of the parts Dr. Masters concluded that there was in this specimen a passage from the whorled to the spiral arrangement.

General Meeting.—Hon. and Rev. J. T. Boscawen in the chair.—The Rev. M. J. Berkeley commented upon the objects exhibited and also upon Mr. W. G. Smith's further observations upon the resting spores of the potato-disease fungus.—Prof. Thiselton Dyer made some observations upon a fine pan of Droseras from the New Forest, exhibited by the Chairman.—Dr. Masters commented on the splendid pitchers of *Nepenthes* sent by Mr. D. Thomson, gardener to the Duke of Buccleugh at Drumlanrig.

Quekett Microscopical Club, July 23.—Annual Meeting.—Dr. Matthews, president, in the chair.—The report showed that the club had completed the tenth year of its existence and that it continued to make most satisfactory progress; the meetings had been well attended, excellent papers had been read and useful work accomplished, whilst the library and cabinet were in good order, and the field excursions had been very successful. The treasurer's statement showed that the year's income from all sources amounted to 291*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, and that there was a balance in hand of 73*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* Votes of thanks to the president and officers were duly passed, as was also a special vote of thanks to the Council of University College for their continued kindness in allowing the meetings to be held in the library of that building.—The annual address was delivered by the President, and upon its conclusion a ballot took place for the election of officers and committee for the ensuing year. Dr. J. Matthews was re-elected President. Messrs. J. Crisp, R. T. Lewis, B. T. Lowne, and T. C. White, Vice-Presidents. As Hon. Sec., Mr. Ingpen; as Treasurer, Mr. Gay. Hon. Sec. for Foreign Correspondence, Dr. M. C. Cooke. And to fill the four vacancies on Committee, Messrs. M. H. Johnson, F. Oxley, T. Rogers, and Joseph A. Smith.

BERLIN

German Chemical Society, June 28.—A. W. Hofmann, president, in the chair.—Messrs. von Dechen and Wichelhaus have studied the action of nitrobenzole on aniline. They obtain an amorphous violet colouring substance to which they give the formula $(C_6H_4)_3''N_2$; explaining its formation by the equations—

1. $C_6H_5(NO_2) + 2C_6H_5NH_2 = H_2O + (C_6H_5)_3N_3$
   Nitrobenzole. Aniline. Violaniline.
2. $(C_6H_5)_3N_3 = NH_3 + (C_6H_4)_3''N_2$
   (new substance).

Messrs. Oppenheim and Pfaff have continued their researches on oxyuvitinic acid, $C_6H_2\begin{cases}OH\\CH_3\\(CO_2H)_2\end{cases}$. They have prepared the methylic ether and the first anhydride of this acid, which they have found to be produced not only by the action of chloroform but also by that of chloral, of trichloroacetic ether, and of the chloride of carbon CCl_4 on the sodium-compound of acetic ether. They have prepared 150 grammes of pure cresol from this acid and by transforming this cresol into cresotinic acid, methylic and ethylic ethers, methyloxybenzoic, ethyloxybenzoic, and oxybenzoic acids, and studying the properties of these bodies they have determined the cresol obtained to be *metacresol*. This leads them to allege the following position to the lateral groups of oxyuvitinic acid—

$$CH_3 : OH : CO_2H : CO_2H = 1 : 3 : 4 : 6.$$

The same chemists have found anisic acid to have the melting-point 184°·2 and methyloxybenzoic acid 106-107°, the melting-points formerly given being 10° too low.—P. Griess has transformed diazocyanobenzol into cyanophenol, by heating its sulphate with water—

$$C_6H_3CN\,N_2 + H_2O = C_6H_4CN\,OH.$$

Hydrochloric acid splits it into ammonia and meta-oxybenzoic acid. The cyananiline necessary for preparing the diazo compound had been prepared by heating uramidobenzoic acid with phosphoric anhydride—

$$C_6H_4\begin{matrix}-NH-CO-NH_2\\-COOH\end{matrix} = C_6H_4\begin{matrix}CN\\NH_2\end{matrix} + CO_2 + H_2O.$$

—A. Ladenburg has repeated Mr. Fittica's experiments without obtaining a trace of his presumed and inexplicable isomers of Nitrobenzoic acid.—O. Witt, by treating diphenylamine with nitrous ether has transformed it into yellow brilliant crystals of diphenylnitrosamine $N\begin{matrix}C_6H_5\\-NO\\C_6H_5\end{matrix}$.—A Pinner has transformed $C_3H_2Cl_2$ into a nitrochloroallylene, which, with tin and hydrochloric acid yields $C_3H_4Cl_3NH_2$ trichloropropylamine. Sodium acts on $C_3H_2Cl_2$ in a peculiar way. It forms with it a solid compound decomposed by water into chloride of sodium and C_3H_2 a gas forming the bromide $C_3H_2Br_2$.—A. W. Hofmann has distilled the compound ammonium $(CH_3)_3NC_2H_3OH$, hoping to obtain vinylic alcohol; he obtained, however, trimethylamine, water, and acetylene.

PARIS

Academy of Natural Sciences, July 26.—M. Fremy in the chair. The following papers were read:—Researches on the theory of aberration, and considerations on the influence of the proper motion of the solar system in the phenomenon of aberration, by M. Yvon Villarceau.—On the latitude of Abbadia near Hendaye (Basses Pyrenees), by M. A. D'Abbadie.—On the distribution of magnetism in compound bundles of very thin bars of finite length, by M. J. Jamin.—Note by M. Chevreul on the Compte Rendu of the meeting of July 19.—Complementary notice on the contemporaneous formation of minerals by the thermal springs of Bourbonne-les-Bains (Haute Marne); production of phosgenite, by M. Daubrée.—Researches on the phenomena produced by electric currents of high tension, and their analogy with natural phenomena, by M. G. Planté.—Action of electrolytic oxygen on glycerine, by M. Ad. Renard. The author finds as the result of this action formic and acetic acids and the first glyceric aldehyde.—Study of the pyrites employed in France for the manufacture of sulphuric acid, by MM. A. Girard and H. Morin.—On the toxic properties of the fermentation alcohols, by MM. Dujardin-Beaumetz and Audigé.—On amyloxanthate of potassium (for the destruction of Phylloxera), by MM. Zoeller and Grete.—On the thermal phenomenon accompanying inversion, by M. G. Fleury. The author concludes that the inversion of sugar by acids is an exothermal phenomenon.—Note on a substance serving to adulterate guanos, by M. F. Jean.—New researches on germination, by M. P. P. Dehérain.—Experiments showing that the mammæ removed from young female guinea pigs are not reproduced, by M. J. M. Philipeaux.

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

BRITISH.—British Wild Flowers. Parts 14 and 15: J. E. Sowerby (Van Voorst).—Sound. New Edition: J. Tyndall, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. (Longmans).—Six Lectures on Light, delivered in America, 1872-73. New Edition: J. Tyndall, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. (Longmans).—Geometrical Contributoins to the *Educational Times*: T. Archer Hirst, F.R.S. (Hodgson and Son).—Report of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries for 1874 (Dublin, Thom).—Insectivorous Plants: Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S. (John Murray).

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