

ture next to language being the tape-like flattening of their hair noticeable in an ordinary lens. The paper was accompanied with a comprehensive exhibition of Papuan weapons, works of art, utensils, and articles of dress, which will remain at the Institute till their next meeting, April 25, when the discussion, in which Col. Fox, Lieut. Armit, R.N., Mr. Franks, Mr. Hyde Clarke, the Rev. A. H. Sayce, and others took part, will be continued.—Mr. Brabrook, the Director, then read a paper by Mr. B. Walker entitled "Religion, Politics, and Commerce of Old Calabar," which contained an account of the singular institution of Egbo, the principal object of which is to secure mutual protection amongst the freemen. Admission to the various grades, nine in number, is by purchase. As regards religion each district has a separate but subordinate divinity. Their commerce consists of palm oil, ebony, ivory, and barwood. The inhabitants appear to be advancing in civilisation.

Entomological Society, April 5.—Prof. Westwood, president, in the chair.—Messrs. J. W. Douglas, E. C. Rye, G. Lewis, C. Fenn, J. Dunning Kay, and W. C. Copperthwaite were elected Ordinary Members; and Mr. B. A. Bower, jun., was elected a Subscriber.—Mr. F. Bond exhibited a specimen of *Xylina lambda* taken near Erith in September last by Mr. W. Marshall, being the fifth instance of its having been taken in Britain. He also exhibited *Ebulea stachydalis*, taken by himself at Kingsbury, Middlesex, in June 1862.—Mr. Champion exhibited specimens of *Egialia rufa*, taken by Mr. Sidebotham near Southport, and he brought examples of *Psammodyus sulcicollis* for distribution.—The President made some observations respecting the habits of the common gnat, in continuation of his remarks at the meeting of Nov. 4, 1872. Large numbers of females had again appeared in his house at Oxford, not a single male having been observed, and he believed they had hibernated in the house, appearing the first warm days of spring. He also remarked that Dr. Leconte's valuable collection of *Coleoptera* had been presented to the University of Cambridge, Mass.—Sir Sidney S. Saunders exhibited living specimens of *Stylops Kirbyi* taken by himself at Hampstead; altogether he had found eighteen males. Mr. Enock also exhibited a row of eleven males taken on the wing at the same place and about the same time.—The Rev. A. E. Eaton stated that he was preparing a supplement to his monograph of the *Ephemeridae* (*Trans. Ent. Soc.*, 1871), chiefly from materials in the collections of Mr. McLachlan and Mr. Albarda, and that he would be glad of any assistance that could be given him by entomologists possessing insects belonging to that group. It appeared that the deficiency in legs in *Campsurus* and some of its allies was due to their being shed with the pupa skin when the insect obtains well-developed wings, and that in some forms all the legs were thus cast off by the female.—Mr. Smith made remarks on the distribution of some genera of Hymenopterous insects from New Zealand, of which a collection had been placed in his hands by Mr. C. M. Wakefield; and was followed by Mr. McLachlan, who remarked on the gradual extinction of the endemic fauna of New Zealand, although introduced forms thrive wonderfully.—The Rev. R. P. Murray stated that he was preparing a list of the species of Japanese butterflies, and that he would be grateful to any entomologist who could assist him with the loan of specimens.—Mr. McLachlan exhibited a series of *Anomalopteryx Chawiniana*, Stein., from Silesia, given to him by the discoverer of the species, Fräulein Marie von Chauvin, of Freiburg. This singular Trichopterous insect pertained to the family *Limnophilidae*, and was remarkable for the lanceolate anterior, and abbreviated posterior wings of the male; those of the female being normal, excepting that the posterior wings were smaller than usual. Also apterous females of *Acentropus nivicus* received from Mr. Ritsema, of Leyden; and a microscopic slide with a full-grown female example of *Phyllozera vastatrix* of the root form. This he had recently obtained, with many others, from a viney near London, which was terribly infested with the insect.

Meteorological Society, April 19.—Mr. H. S. Eaton, president, in the chair.—T. H. G. Berrey, Assoc. Inst. C.E., H. G. Bolan, J. Bravender, J. Holden, G. A. Hutchins, F. Jackson, J. L. Johnson, B. Latham, A. G. McBeath, W. R. Maguire, A. S. Moss, C. Pink, J. R. Rogers, E. Toller, S. Tomlinson, W. A. Mc I. Valon, H. Walker, W. E. Woolley, were elected Fellows of the Society. The following papers were then read:—Velocity of the wind at Liverpool, tabulation of anemometric records, by W. W. Rundell; on the aspiration of the dry and wet bulb thermometers, by Samuel H. Miller,

F.R.A.S.; on the storm which passed over the south of England on March 12, 1876, by Robert H. Scott, F.R.S.—The members of the Permanent Committee of the Vienna Meteorological Congress were present and took part in the discussion.

Victoria (Philosophical) Institute, April 3.—Mr. Howard, F.R.S., read a paper on the history of Egypt in connection with the Bible.

ROME

R. Academia dei Lincei, Dec. 5, 1875.—M. Moriggia communicated the results of experiments on the natural poisons of the body, bile and amygdaline.—M. Volpicelli gave a short neurological memoir of Wheatstone.

Jan. 2.—M. Volpicelli described the construction, properties, and applications of a constant inductor.—M. Sella gave the composition of various salt springs in Italy.—M. Capellini presented a paper on Tuscan fossil whales.—M. Castaldi communicated a note on fossils from the dolomitic limestone of Monte Chaberton, studied by M. Michelotti.—M. Cossa described the periclasiferous predazzite of Monte Somma.—M. Canizzaro reported on a memoir by MM. de Negri on the purples of the ancients; also on a memoir by M. Paterno, on usnic acid and on two new principles accompanying it in *zeora sordida*; also on one by M. Selmi, on toxicological chemical studies relating to atropine and its detection.—M. Struver communicated a memoir on the minerals of Lazio.

BOOKS RECEIVED

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN.—Verhandlungen der Naturhistorischen Gesellschaft für Natur- und Heilkunde, 2 parts (Bonn, Cohen and Sohn).—La Transfusione del Sangue, pel Dott. Malachia de-Christoforis (Milan).—The Fungus Disease of India: T. R. Lewis, M.B., and D. D. Cunningham, M.B. (Calcutta).—The Soil and its Relation to Disease: Same Authors (Calcutta).—Kurze's Chemisches Handwörterbuch: Dr. O. Dammer (Berlin, K. Oppenheim).—Check List of North American Ferns: J. Robinson (Salem, Mass.).—Freshwater Shell Mounds of the St. John's River (Florida, Jeffries Wyman, Peabody Academy).—Nephrit und Jadeit: Heinrich Fischer (E. Koch, Stuttgart).—Adolf Stieler's Hand-Atlas (Gotha, Justus Perthes).—List of Hemiptera of the Mississippi: P. R. Uhler.—Algebra for Beginners: Prof. James Loudon (Toronto, Copp, Clark and Co.).—Le Positivisme: André P. Garnier Baillièrre.—Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution (Washington, U.S.A.).—The Vertebrata of the Cretaceous Formations of the West: E. D. Cope (Washington, U.S.A.).—Daily Bulletins of Weather Reports for March 1873 (Washington, U.S.A.).

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