

Botany: Hillhouse, Trinity, and Hoffmeister, Caius (distinguished); and three for Zoology, Anatomy, and Physiology: Caldwell, Caius; Pigeon, Christ's; and Shaw, Sidney.

Mr. J. A. Fleming, B.A., of St. John's, has been appointed to the new post of Demonstrator of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics; Mr. Fleming is a distinguished graduate of London University, as well as having attained distinction in Physics, with first class honours in the Natural Science Tripos of this year.

Mr. J. J. Lister, B.A., of St. John's College, has been appointed Demonstrator of Comparative Anatomy, in place of Mr. A. C. Haddon, who has been appointed to the Professorship of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy in the Royal College of Science, Dublin, vacated by Prof. Bridge.

Mr. A. H. Cooke, B.A., Fellow of King's College, has been appointed Curator of the Zoological Museum.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Annalen der Physik und Chemie, No. 11.—Magnetic researches, by F. Auerbach.—New researches on magnetism, by C. Baur.—On so-called polar induction, by E. Riecke.—Determination of the absolute velocity of current electricity from Hall's phenomenon, by A. v. Ettingshausen.—Method of calibration of a wire for galvanic measurements, by W. Giese.—Action of gases and vapours on the optical properties of reflecting surfaces, by P. Glan.—On a new interference-photometer, by Fr. Fuchs.—Influence of the density of gases on their conduction of heat, by A. Winkelmann.—Currents of liquids resulting from unequal temperature within them, by A. Oberbeck.—Theory of the interference-phenomenon presented by dichroitic crystal-plates cut at right angles to the axis, by E. Ketteler.—On the polarisation of diffracted light, by M. Rethy.—On changes produced in the spark and brush phenomena by coverings of the electrodes, by W. Holtz.—On atmospheric refraction of sound rays, by A. Kneser.—Double-acting mercury-pump without cock, by F. Neesen.—Alteration of Rüchhoff's absorption-hydrometer, by the same.—Reply to a note by O. E. Meyer, by L. Boltzmann.—Remarks on U. Dühring's paper on the law of corresponding boiling temperatures, by A. Winkelmann.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES LONDON

Zoological Society, December 14.—Prof. W. H. Fowler, LL.D., F.R.S., president, in the chair.—Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks on a skin of a brown female of *Pauxis galeata*, formerly living in the aviary of the late Mr. G. Dawson Rowley, F.Z.S.—Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks on a skin of a new species of *Rhynchocyon* from Eastern Africa, discovered by Dr. Kirk.—Prof. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., read a paper on the application of the laws of evolution to the arrangement of the Vertebrata, and more particularly of the Mammalia.—Lieut. Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S., read a paper on the anatomy of *Ferussacia gronoviana*, Risso, from Mentone, pointing out its general relationship with *Lovea tornatellina*, Lowe, of Madeira, and with *Ferussacia follicula*, Gronov., from Algiers.—Mr. Arthur G. Butler read a paper on a second collection of Lepidoptera made in Formosa by Mr. H. E. Hobson. Thirty-three new species were found in this collection.—Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., read a paper containing the description of a new species of *Reithrodon*, obtained in Venezuela by the late Mr. D. Dyson, which was described as *Reithrodon alstoni*.—Dr. A. Günther read a paper containing notes on some rare reptiles and batrachians now or lately living in the Society's Gardens.

Physical Society, December 11.—Prof. W. G. Adams in the chair.—New Members: Mr. W. R. Brown, Mr. T. Mightson, C.E.—Lieut. L. Darwin read a paper on the rate of loss of light from phosphorescent substances. His experiments were made at Chatham on Balmain's luminous paint, by comparing the intensity of the phosphorescent light with the light of a sun-burner; the luminous surface being kept cool by placing ice and water near, as a slight increase of temperature in the surface considerably increases the quantity of light given off in a certain space of time. The supply of light was communicated to the paint from a mirror reflecting sunlight. A table and a curve exhibited to the meeting showed the rate of loss found by Lieut. Darwin. It is independent of the original intensity of the illumination. According to the curve the light diminishes

very nearly in proportion to the square of the intensity of the light. In a report on the use of Balmain's paint in mines, it had been stated that the phosphorescence became brighter a few minutes after exposure in the dark; but the curve showed this to be an error, due probably to the fact that the eye becomes more sensitive to light after being a few minutes in the dark. Mr. Pearsall emphasised the advantages of such a light in fiery mines. Prof. Guthrie inquired if the phosphorescent power grew weaker by time, and Lieut. Darwin instanced a specimen eighty years old to the contrary; but Dr. W. Crookes stated that these luminous substances give off sulphuretted hydrogen in damp air and deteriorate. If sealed in a vacuum they would not. Dr. Crookes remarked that in Balmain's patent it was stated that the phosphorescence died out sooner when exposed to a strong light for a short time than to a weak light for a longer time; but Lieut. Darwin thought this was explained by the slow decrease in the lower part of the curve when the phosphorescence became faint. Mr. R. J. Lecky mentioned that Evelyn in his Diary (1650) describes a phosphorescent powder as "bottling up" sunlight. Dr. Coffin inquired if short exposure to strong light was equivalent to long exposure to feeble light. Lieut. Darwin thought not.—Dr. C. R. Alder Wright read a full paper on the determination of chemical affinity in terms of electromotive force. He considered first the value of the B.A. unit of resistance, which from different experimenters might be taken as really 1'005 earth quadrants per second, or not more than half per cent. out. Clark's element when carefully prepared was practically correct at 1'457 volts, and it kept constant for three or four months after being made, but deteriorated thenceforth some 3 per cent. in about two years. The deterioration was assisted by air, which could not be well excluded by the paraffin cork, as it cracked. If sealed in a Sprengel vacuum the element lasted better. Joule's mechanical equivalent of heat (J) he estimated at 42×10^6 , or not over 1 per cent. greater than Joule's water value. The chief result of Dr. Wright's researches was the conclusion that the action of a current in electrolysis is to decompose the electrolyte into "nascent" products which evolve heat in changing into ordinary products of electrolysis. These nascent products may be the ultimate atoms composing the molecules of the ordinary products, and the heat is given out in these atoms coming together to produce molecules, say of oxygen and hydrogen in the case of water. A number of deductions from this theorem are verified by experiment. One of these is that no gas battery can give a higher E.M.F. than 1'5 volts. A result, not before published, is that the E.M.F. of a Daniell cell is a function of the current and is a maximum when the current is indefinitely small. The variation may amount to 10 degrees. Therefore all methods of determining resistance by means of two currents of different strength are inaccurate. Dr. Wright's experiments also verified Faraday's law that conduction in an electrolyte is always accompanied by electrolysis. Prof. Adams inquired if Dr. Wright had seen the letter of Prof. Rowland's assistant to the effect that Dr. Wright's former estimate of the ohm was on the wrong side of unity. He had been too busy to see it. Prof. Foster thought that the variation of E.M.F. in a cell with the current was to be expected, and was probably due to the slowness of diffusion. Dr. Wright thought diffusion would account for it. Dr. Lodge said that there was no way of measuring the resistance of a cell except by employing two currents of different strength, and therefore it was necessary to know the law of variation of E.M.F. with current strength. Dr. Wright stated that he had found two methods of proceeding with currents of the same strength. With regard to the deduction of Dr. Wright that no current passes without producing electrolysis, Mr. Walenn inquired if the ordinary law of solution held when there was no evolution of hydrogen, and was answered in the affirmative.—Prof. Guthrie cited the experiments of Mr. C. V. Boys and himself on the conductivity of liquids as an instance of a current passing without electrolysis, or if there was decomposition it was followed by instant recombination. Dr. Wright thought there must be electrolysis in Dr. Guthrie's experiments (which were conducted by rotating a glass vessel filled with the liquid between the poles of a magnet, after Arago's experiment), because some two parts of the rotating vessel would be at different potentials, and a current would be set up in the liquid.—The Society then adjourned till after Christmas.

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, December 13.—M. Edm. Becquerel in the chair.—The following papers were read:—Solid and