

objects as may be too heavy for the beeswax). The pane to slide between two grooves into any convenient movable stand. The advantage of this form and arrangement is obvious, as after the object or objects are fixed to the glass they can be inverted or placed sideways, as may best suit the light, without moving the camera. Moreover, the stand can be tilted or set obliquely at the operator's pleasure, the object being thus adjusted to the camera instead of the camera to the object. The backgrounds can of course be changed at will to any shade between black and white—a most important power, as a background that will set off one object will often be unsuitable to another.

Torquay, September 15

ARTHUR R. HUNT

Animal Intelligence

AT the north side of Dublin there is at Clontarf a sea inlet where the water at certain times of the tide is very shallow. A little stream flows under the road into the sea at this place. The bridge beneath which it passes has pretty high parapets. A huge dog, a frequent companion during my student days, used to mount one of these parapets, employing it as a lookout when he happened for the moment to lose sight of me. Mrs. Comerford, widow of a distinguished barrister, was my landlady. This dog, aided by an accomplice named Bran, slew Mrs. Comerford's red cat, a great favourite, and buried him, all but the point of his tail, in the garden. The accomplices demeaned themselves in the most innocent manner, but betrayed considerable confusion when their delinquency was detected. It did not seem to occur to their canine minds that the mere tip of the poor cat's tail, when the body itself was out of sight, could possibly incriminate them. But to return to Clontarf. It was the practice among the lads about, when the depth of water suited, to wade out and catch little flatfish. These abound in great numbers, and lie commonly on the seabed. The waders went in barelegged, and when they happened to tread upon a fish, kept the foot in position until they could stoop down and secure their prey. One of the fisherboys was one day attended by his dog, and when the intelligent creature saw the work in which his master was engaged, proceeded to help him by plunging about, and whenever he felt a fish, kept his paw upon it until his master should come up and place it in his creel. This curious method of catching flatfish is not confined to Clontarf. I was walking one day along Con's Water, called after the old chieftan of the name, Con or Constantine O'Neil, when I observed a barefooted lad wading in the shallow water, for the tide was out, and from time to time casting something on the bank. He was catching flatfish with his feet. I did not detect his occupation, in which he seemed pretty successful, until I went close up in order to see what he was about.

Belfast, September 22

HENRY MACCORMAC

Meteor

IT may interest some of your readers to know that a meteor was seen here this evening during a thunderstorm, and immediately after a flash of lightning. It appeared about the size of an ordinary cricket ball, and was of a brilliant yellow colour, and moved very slowly in an upward northerly direction from about east-south-east. As it moved along, it gradually decreased to the size of an ordinary star, and was then lost to my view. The storm began about 7 o'clock, and lasted about half an hour, during which time the lightning was very vivid. A very thick fog (that arose suddenly) preceded the storm, but disappeared before its commencement. The weather during the day had been close, with heavy showers at intervals. C. FORTESCUE

11, Oxford Road, Banbury, September 30

A Remarkable Rainbow

ON Monday, September 24, I saw at Chertsey, in Surrey, a remarkable rainbow. Beyond the blue of the inner bow the colours repeated themselves three times, so that there appeared four contiguous spectra; the three extraordinary ones being narrower and less bright than the ordinary. The outer bow appeared as usual. I am not aware that this phenomenon has been noticed before, and being quite unable to account for its appearance would be greatly obliged to any one who would enlighten me.

Firfield, Weybridge Heath, September 25

L. C.

Professor Cayley

WITH reference to Dr. Salmon's account of Dr. Cayley's undergraduate career it may be worth while to call the attention

of some of the readers of NATURE to a contemporary description in C. A. Bristed's "Five Years in an English University," vol. i. pp. 130-132 (1852). In this volume are also to be found many notices of other Senior Wranglers and Senior Classics of about the above date.

R. T.

THE NORDENSKJÖLD GREENLAND EXPEDITION

THE following is an abstract of two communications received from Dr. A. G. Nathorst, dated Upernivik, in Greenland, July 22 and August 2, in which the eminent Swedish naturalist gives an account of the work of the Nordenskjöld expedition up to the latter date:—

Having left Reikiavik on June 10, we sighted the coast of Greenland in lat. 65° 50' on the 12th, but were unable, on account of the pack-ice, to reach the shore. During the following day we steamed along the ice, dredging and making hydrographical measurements with great success, and on the 14th we came very close to the shore in lat. 62° 40', but, as it was impossible to land even here, we made for Julianshaab, *viâ* Cape Farewell. From there Nordenskjöld, Herr Kolthoff, and myself made an excursion to Nunasernansak, in the Kongerduarsuk Fjord, the only spot on the earth where the remarkable mineral "endialyt" is found, and from which the metal known as zirconium is produced. Of this, as well as of other minerals found here, we made an excellent harvest.

Having called at Godhavn, we arrived, on June 29, at Ujaragsugsuk, where Herr Hamberg and I landed in order to examine the fossil plant-bearing strata here, while the vessel proceeded to the Auleitsvik Fjord, whence the ice journey was to commence. On the way north the *Sophia* called at Egedesminde, and on July 1 anchored at Tessiursarsoak, where a splendid harbour was discovered, which was afterwards charted by Sergeant Kjellman under the name of "Sophia Harbour." July 2 and 3 were spent in bringing the baggage for the ice journey up on the ice, and on July 4 Nordenskjöld started in the company of Dr. Berlin, in the finest weather, on his inland excursion.

On July 8 the ship was to have left the harbour to take us on board again, but it was not until four days after that she succeeded in getting out on account of ice. These days were occupied by Dr. Forsstrand and Herr Kolthoff in dredging and in making ornithological, entomological, and botanical collections, a labour which was attended with remarkable success. On the 14th the *Sophia* arrived at Godhavn, where the *Yantic* and *Proteus*, the two American vessels on the way to Smith's Sound for the relief of Lieut. Greely's expedition at Lady Franklin Bay, were lying. Here the well-known Esquimaux interpreter, Hans Hendrik—generally called Hans Christian—who has participated in Arctic expeditions ever since Kane's voyage, joined the vessel, and on the 7th Herr Hamberg and I were taken on board.

The results of our researches at Ujaragsugsuk are *exceedingly* good, and many new discoveries, both geological and palæontological, have been made. The finds made at Atonekerdluk, on the other side of the Waigat, were especially very remarkable and valuable, as a number of hitherto unknown strata bearing fossil plants were discovered, from which magnificent leaves of *Aralia*, *Magnolia*, *Lycasartia*, *Platanæ*, and others were extracted. An idea of the size of the collection made may be gathered from the fact that they fill five large barrels, five boxes, and a firkin, which will all be despatched by a sailing vessel to Copenhagen. On July 22 the *Sophia* left Upernivik for Cape York, where Hans Hendrik says that the iron blocks we desire to examine are really lying. On the way north we found little ice, most of it being "calved" from the glaciers; we encountered, however, much fog, and were often compelled to "lay to," but such time has always been spent in dredging and studying the sea.