

phosed arkose is provisionally referred to the Gedinnian division of the system.

M. Renard is understood to be at work upon a detailed memoir on the metamorphosed rocks of the Ardennes, in which their chemical constitution and microscopic characters will be fully described.

THE RECENT STORM

THE great and destructive storm of Saturday and Sunday last may almost take rank as a historical event, seeing that on the Saturday evening atmospheric pressure fell considerably lower in Scotland than is known ever to have occurred in these islands since the barometer became an instrument of observation. This remarkable barometric fluctuation, as observed at Edinburgh, is shown by the following observations made on those two days, the observations being reduced to 32° and sea level:—

	Barometer Inches		Barometer Inches		Barometer Inches
Saturday.		Saturday.		Saturday.	
9.0 a.m.	28.934	5.30 p.m.	27.853	9.30 p.m.	27.467
2.0 p.m.	28.376	6.0 "	819	10.0 "	451
2.30 "	266	6.30 "	779	10.30 "	464
3.0 "	167	7.0 "	721	11.0 "	505
3.30 "	064	7.30 "	61	11.30 "	565
4.0 "	27.984	8.0 "	580	Sunday.	
4.30 "	934	8.30 "	516	3.0 a.m.	27.835
5.0 "	921	9.0 "	494	4.30 "	968
				9.0 "	28.311

As the barometer was closely watched for some time before and after 10 p.m., and no change was observed, the reading 27.451 inches may be regarded as absolutely the lowest that occurred. Since the wind veered during the storm from S.E. by S.W. to N.W., the centre of the storm passed to the northward, and along its path still lower readings were doubtless recorded.

The following observations have been already received, showing in inches the lowest observed readings and the hour when they occurred:—Moffat, 27.662 at 10.15 p.m.; Marchmont, near Duns, 27.581 at 11 p.m.; Inverness, 27.516 at 11.10 p.m.; Fort William, 27.467 at 8 p.m.; Joppa, near Edinburgh, 27.464, Leith, 27.453, and Edinburgh, 27.451, at 10 p.m.; Glasgow, 27.427 at 9 p.m.; Dundee, 27.382 at 10.30 p.m.; Ochtertyre, near Crieff, 27.332 at 9.45 p.m.; and 27.400 is stated to have occurred at Aberdeen. With the observations made at the 160 stations of the Scottish Meteorological Society, it will, in a few days, be easy to trace the history of this extraordinary atmospheric depression in its passage across the island.

At Ben Nevis Observatory, the lowest reading of the barometer on Saturday, 23.173 inches, occurred at 8.30 p.m.; at noon, temperature was 15°, and at 10 p.m. 22°; at 7 p.m. the wind was S.E. force 8, and at 10 p.m., N.E. force 4.

In the sixty years preceding 1827, during which Mr. James Hoy made barometric observations, the lowest reading was 28.007 inches; during the last 43 years observations have been made at Culloden, and the lowest reading, observed by the late Mr. Arthur Forbes, was 27.984 inches at 11 a.m. on December 27, 1852. During the interval between these two long continued series of observations, Mr. George Innes, optician, made observations at Aberdeen; and on the occasion of the memorable storm of January 7, 1839, recorded an observation on that morning of 27.695 inches. On the same morning, at 9 o'clock, the lighthouses on the east of Scotland, which were near the centre of the storm at the time showed readings varying from 27.806 inches in the Firth of Forth, to 27.716 inches near Peterhead.

As these three series of observations extend over the last 120 years, it is evident that over at least the east of Scotland, from Inverness to the Tweed, atmospheric pressure fell on the evening of Saturday the 26th from a third to half an inch lower than has occurred during that extended period.

NOTES

WE are glad to be able to announce that Prof. Flower has been definitely appointed by the Trustees to the position of Superintendent of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, vacated by the recent resignation of Sir Richard Owen.

THE German Emperor, at the instance of the Berlin Academy of Sciences, has been pleased to make Prof. Sir William Thomson a Knight of the Order *Pour le Mérite* for Science and Art.

ACCORDING to an announcement made by Prof. E. Stefan at the last meeting of the Vienna Physical Society, Prof. S. von Wroblewski, of Krakow, has succeeded in solidifying hydrogen.

IT is reported that Prof. Wilhelm Klinkerfues, the well-known astronomer, shot himself on Monday in the Observatory at Göttingen.

WE are glad to see that the fishermen of Scotland have at last realised the necessity of a thorough scientific investigation into the habits of fish. At a meeting at Peterhead the other day the Solicitor-General for Scotland was requested to help the fishermen to obtain Government aid for the prosecution of such research; the country, it was admitted, is behind all others "in scientific information on fish." The Solicitor-General, Mr. Asher, admitted the lamentable deficiency of our knowledge of the habits of food fishes, and promised to do all he could to obtain a grant for the Committee of the Fisheries Board, who are now endeavouring, with the slender means at their command, to investigate the subject. "Prof. Ewart and his colleagues," Mr. Asher stated, "had entered upon an investigation which, if duly prosecuted, could not fail to be productive of immense results and advantages in connection with all kinds of fisheries."

AT the end of March the Austrian botanist, Mr. Joseph Knapp, Conservator des Herbariums des Allgemeinen Oesterreichischen Apothekervereines of Vienna, will go to Northern Persia (Azerbaijan), with a scientific expedition for exploring the flora and fauna of that little-known province.

DURING February Prof. W. K. Parker will give a series of lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons on Mammalian Descent, as follows:—February 4th, Introductory; 6th, On Monotremes; 8th, On Marsupials; 11th, On Edentata; 13th, On Insectivora; 15th, Insectivora (continued); 18th, Insectivora (concluded); 20th, On the remaining Orders of Mammalia; 22nd, On Man (conclusion).

IN connection with the opening of the Turin Exhibition, the Italian Government offers a prize of 400*l.* to the inventor of the most practicable method for the transmission of electricity to a distance. The competition will be international.

WITHIN a few days the exhibition of the *Talisman* collection will be opened at the Jardin des Plantes of Paris, with diagrams exhibiting the circumstances of the operations, and the instruments which were used.

THE Asiatic Society of Bengal celebrated its centenary on Tuesday last week. The proceedings began with a special meeting, the Hon. H. Reynolds, the President of the Society, being in the chair. Six gentlemen, namely, Dr. Joule, Prof. Haeckel, Mr. Charles Meldrum, Prof. Sayce, M. E. Senart, and Prof. Monier Williams, were elected honorary members.