

Mathematical Sciences, 3000 francs, researches on the elasticity of one or more crystallised bodies from the experimental and theoretical standpoints; L. Lacaze, 10,000 francs each, to the authors of the best work on physics, chemistry, and physiology; Montyon, 500 francs, vital statistics; Jecker, 10,000 francs, organic chemistry; Delesse, 1400 francs, to the author of a treatise on the geological or mineralogical sciences; Barbier, 2000 francs, for any valuable discovery in surgery, medicine, pharmaceuticals, or botany, in connection with therapeutics; Desmazières, 1600 francs, for the most useful work on the whole or any section of cryptogamy; Thore, 200 francs, awarded alternately for works on the cellular cryptogams of Europe, and for researches on the habits and anatomy of any European entomological species; Montagne, 1000 and 500 francs, to the authors of important works on anatomy, physiology, the development or description of the lower cryptogams; Grand Prize of the Physical Sciences, 3000 francs, researches on the phenomena of phosphorescence in animals; Bordin, 3000 francs, for a comparative study of the African, South Asiatic, and Australasian freshwater fauna; Bordin, 3000 francs, for a comparative study of the auditory apparatus in the warm-blooded vertebrates, mammals, and birds; Savigny, 975 francs, for young zoological travellers; Montyon, 750 francs, medicine and surgery; Bréant, 100,000 francs, to the discoverer of an efficacious remedy against Asiatic cholera; Godard, 1000 francs, anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the genito-urinary organs; Serres, 7500 francs, general embryology, especially as applied to physiology and medicine; Chaussier, 2500 francs, for important works on forensic and practical medicine; Lallemand, 1800 francs, for works relating to the nervous system in the widest sense of the term; Montyon, 750 francs, experimental physiology; Gay, 2500 francs, distribution of heat on the surface of the globe; Montyon, unhealthy industries; Trémont, 1100 francs, for any naturalist, physicist, artist, or mechanician needing assistance in the accomplishment of any undertaking useful to France; Gegner, 4000 francs, in aid of any *savant* distinguished by serious pursuits undertaken for the purpose of advancing the positive sciences; Petit D'Ormoys, 10,000 francs, pure and applied mathematics, and the natural sciences; Laplace, a complete edition of the works of Laplace, for the first student leaving the Ecole Polytechnique. General conditions: the Academy retains all memoirs, the authors being at liberty to obtain copies from the Secretary. Competitors must send in their papers by June 1, accompanied by a brief summary of the part containing the discovery on which they desire the judgment of the Academy. No one can claim the title of Laureate of the Academy unless awarded a prize. Honourable mention or any other formal recognition of merit does not justify the assumption of this title.

## STOCKHOLM

**Society of Natural Science, September 18.**—Prof. Wittrock gave an account of the gypsies, chiefly in relation to Hungary, which country he had recently visited with a view to studying its various nationalities.—Dr. Skåuberg exhibited abnormal specimens of various plants he had found in Sweden last summer, viz. *Pheum pratense*, *Listera ovata*, *Linaria cymbalaria*, *Typha angustifolia*, and *T. latifolia*.—Herr Berggren exhibited a specimen, in spirits, of *Nyctalis parasitica*, which had grown on another fungus, *Russula adusta*, whilst the latter was still quite fresh. The former fungus, he said, was also at times attacked by a smaller parasitic one, imparting to it a kind of coating.—Herr Meves exhibited a specimen of *Oriolus gubula*, shot last May, a bird very rarely found in Sweden.

**Entomological Society, September 25.**—Prof. Chr. Aurivillius gave an interesting account of his studies, last summer, of the habits of various species of Hymenoptera. He specially referred to one, *Odynerus muralis*, which he had found when boring holes in red-painted wooden walls, at the bottom of which it deposited its larvæ, protecting the latter against attack by making partitions of clay at intervals, and by putting a prop at the end, which it carefully covered with tiny bits of red paint, whereby these holes were almost impossible to detect.—Dr. Lampa described his observations of the remarkable keenness of the olfactory organs of the males of *Bombyx quercus*, L., whereby they were enabled to discern the females, even when far off. In one instance a female had been discovered by a male, although access to the former, which was in a cage, could only be gained through a balcony and room beyond.—Dr. Adlerer referred to an unusual case of hermaphroditism in an ant, whose left half was formed like a male, and the right like a female.

## CHRISTIANIA

**Society of Sciences, October 1.**—The following papers were presented:—Der Ursprung der Etrusker durch zwei lemnische Inschriften erläutert, by Prof. Sophus Bugge.—Fresh contributions to our knowledge of the extension of the tube plants in Norway, by Prof. A. Blytt.—On variations in climate in the course of time (see NATURE, vol. xxxiv. pp. 220 and 239), by the same.—Ueber die Entwicklungsgeschichte der Pollenkörner des Angiospermen, by Dr. N. Wille.—Fresh contributions to our knowledge of the extension of lichen in Norway, by Herr B. Kaalaas.—Dr. G. Storm read a paper on voyages to countries north and north-west of Iceland, maintaining that the priests who, in 1285, discovered "Nya Land" (New Land) did not reach Newfoundland, but the south-eastern part of Greenland, and that the island discovered in 1194, "Svalbarde," was Jan Mayen. He further believed that the old Norsemen knew of other Arctic countries north of Russia and Norway.

## BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

Annual Report of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, new series, vol. i.: A. R. C. Selwyn (Dawson Bros., Montreal).—Negretti and Zambra's Encyclopædic Catalogue.—Proceedings of the Royal Physical Society, Session 1885-86 (M'Farlane and Erskine, Edinburgh).—Den Norske Nordhavs-Expedition, 1876-78, XVI. Zoologi, Mollusca, II.: H. Friele (Grondahl, Christiania).—Transactions of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, vol. vii. 1885-86 (Stanford).—Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Zoologie, xlv. Band, 4 Heft (Engelman, Leipzig).—Geological Survey of Alabama—On the Warrior Coal-Field: H. McCally (Montgomery).—Year-book of Photography, 1887 (Piper and Carter).—Anuario de la Oficina Central Meteorologica de Chile, 3er Cuaderno, Mayo i Junio.—Fourth Annual Report of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.

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