

of Elbeuf-sur-Seine, entitled "Des Troubles du Côté des agents de la Respiration chez les Fileurs, et de leur Conséquences."

After a speech by the President, complimenting the Secretaries on their work, and a vote of thanks to the President, the meetings of the Section terminated.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Entomological Society, September 2.—Mr. Frederick DuCane-Godman, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Mr. G. F. Scott-Elliott exhibited a series of various species of Diptera collected on *Ranunculaceæ*, *Papaveraceæ*, and *Cruciferae*. He said that during the past summer he had studied about forty species of plants belonging to the orders named, and that they had all been visited by insects which were probably necessary for nectariferous flowers. The majority of the Diptera caught were not confined to one species or even genus, but, in view of the unmodified character of the flower in the orders named, this was only to be expected. Mr. Verrall observed that certain insects affected certain plants, but that the *Geraniaceæ* were seldom visited. The discussion was continued by Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Kirby, and others.—Mr. W. L. Distant exhibited a specimen of the orthopterous insect *Hemisaga hastata*, De Sauss., which, in the Transvaal, he observed to attack and feed on *Danaïa chrysiptus*, a butterfly well known from its protective character and distasteful qualities to have a complete immunity from the usual Lepidopteral enemies. The *Hemisaga* lurked amongst the tops of tall flowering grasses, being consequently disguised by its protective resemblance to the same, and seized the *Danaïa* as it settled on the bloom. From close watching and observation, Mr. Distant could discover no other danger to the life of this well-known and highly protected butterfly.—Mr. T. R. Billups exhibited four species of Diptera, which he believed to be respectively *Oxycera terminata*, *Pipizella annulata*, *Chidogastra puncticeps*, and *Oxyphora arnicæ*, taken at Oxshott, Surrey, on July 11 last. He mentioned that all of them were recorded in Mr. Verrall's list only as "reputed British." He also exhibited a specimen of *Hypoderma bovis*, Deg., taken at Plumstead on July 29 last.—Dr. D. Sharp, F.R.S., exhibited several species of *Forficulidæ*, and called attention to the diverse conditions of the parts representing the wings in the apterous forms.—Mr. H. Goss exhibited living larvæ of *Scoria dealbata*, reared from ova. They were feeding on *Polygonum aviculare*, but not very freely; *Brachypodium sylvaticum* had been named as a food-plant for this species, but he did not find that the larvæ would eat this or any other grass.—The Rev. Dr. Walker exhibited, and read notes on, a collection of Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Neuroptera, and Diptera, which he had recently made in Norway.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, September 7.—M. Duchartre in the chair.—Remarks on the influence that the aberration of light may exercise on spectroscopic observations of solar prominences, by M. Fizeau. Several observers have recently measured remarkably high velocities in solar prominences by the application of the Doppler-Fizeau principle. It is evident that if the matter of which the eruption consists be ejected in the neighbourhood of the ecliptic with a velocity equal to that of the earth in its orbit, the prominence will suffer an apparent displacement of 20"·445, in the same manner that a star is displaced by 20"·445 owing to the motion of the earth combined with the velocity of light. Aberration should therefore be taken into account in determining the positions and heights attained by the phenomena in question.—On the number of roots common to several simultaneous equations, by M. Émile Picard.—On the blending of separate chromatic sensations perceived by each of the two eyes, by M. A. Chauveau. If two colours are simultaneously and separately received on the corresponding points of the two retinas and transmitted respectively to the nervous centres, do they blend together at these centres and give rise to the sensation of the resultant colour? This is the question investigated by the author. And he finds that there is a real blending of the colour perceptions resulting from the independent excitation of each of the two retinas.—On the influence of the products of the culture

of *naphyloccque doré* on the vaso-motor nervous system and on the formation of pus, by M. S. Arloing.—Observations of the asteroid discovered by Dr. Palisa on August 30, made at Toulouse Observatory, by M. E. Cosserat. Three observations for position were made on September 1 and one on September 2.—On the distribution in latitude of the solar phenomena observed at the Royal Observatory of the Roman College during the first half of this year, by M. P. Tacchini. Prominences have been most frequent in the southern solar hemisphere, as was also the case in 1889 and 1890, and the maximum of frequency in the zones $\pm 40^{\circ}$ - 50° . The spots and faculae have preserved their preponderance north of the equator, with maxima of frequency in latitudes slightly lower than the prominences. All the phenomena have been rare near the solar equator.—Direct synthesis of primary alcohols, by M. Paul Henry.—On some attempts to reproduce acid rocks, by M. H. Le Chatelier.—On the quantity of starch contained in the tubercles of the radish, by M. P. Lesage.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

Livingstone and the Exploration of Central Africa: H. H. Johnston (Philip).—My Water Cure: S. Kneipp, translated (Blackwood).—Monthly Weather Reports of the Meteorological Office, May to December 1887 (Eyre and Spottiswoode).—Hourly Means, 1887 (Eyre and Spottiswoode).—Meteorological Observations at Stations of the Second Order, 1887 (Eyre and Spottiswoode).—Quarterly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office, July to December 1880, and October to December 1880 (Eyre and Spottiswoode).—Cyclone Tracks in the South Indian Ocean (Eyre and Spottiswoode).—Manufacture of Sulphuric Acid and Alkali; vol. i. Sulphuric Acid, 2nd edition: Dr. G. Lunge (Gurney and Jackson).—A Hand-book of the Destructive Insects of Victoria, Part 1: C. French (Melbourne, Brain).—Notes on Elementary Physiography: H. C. Martin (J. Heywood).—Peloponnesische Bergfahrten: Dr. A. Philippson (Wien).—An Account of British Flies, Part 1: M. C. E. Leigh and F. V. Theobald (E. Stock).—Studies from the Kindergarten, vol. iv., No. 1 (Laurie).—Carta delle Strade Ferrate Italiane al 1° Aprile, 1891 (Roma).—Jahrbuch der k. k. geologischen Reichsanstalt, Jahrg. 1890, xl. Band, 3 and 4 Heft (Williams and Norgate).—Himmel und Erde, September (Berlin, Paetel).—L'Anthropologie, 1891, Tome ii., No. 4 (Paris, Masson).—Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, vol. xiii. Part 2 (117 Victoria Street).

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