statics." Also of the following papers :—"Astatic Equilibrium of any System of Forces, treated by Quaternions" (*Proc. Lond. Math. Soc.*) ; "The Absolute Sine Electrometer" (*Nature, Electrical Review*, &c.); "Researches in Photo-electricity" (*Proc. Phys. Soc.* and *Phil. Mag.*) ; "Impulsion Cells" (*Electrician, Proc. Phys. Soc.*) ; "Seleno-Aluminium Cells and the Electromotive Forces of Starlight" (*Astronomy and Astro-Physics*) ; "The Magnetic Field of a Circular Current" ; "The Magnetic Field close to the Surface of a Wire carrying a Current" (*Phil. Mag., Proc. Phys. Soc.*).

WILLIAM HENRY POWER,

Assistant Medical Officer, H.M. Local Government Board. Author of Reports to the Local Government Board relating to the natural history of epidemic diseases and materially extending the knowledge thereof, more especially (*a*) Demonstration in 1882 of the existence of Scarlatinal Disease in Cows, explaining the previously obscure spread of Scarlatina in human communities by means of Cow's Milk ; (*b*) Record of Cases (afterwards followed by Dr. Klein) where Diphtheria had been spread by the consumption of Cow's Milk ; (*c*) Discovery, in 1881, of the ability of Smallpox to extend atmospherically (without other personal relation) from a hospital to houses in its neighbourhood. The subject was investigated by a Royal Commission which recognised the facts ; they have been subjected to further demonstration by Mr. Power during subsequent years.

THOMAS PURDIE,

B.Sc., Ph.D., A.R.S.M., Professor of Chemistry in the University of St. Andrews. Author of the following :—"On the Synthesis of α Isoheptane" ; and "On the Action of Sodium Alcoholates on Fumaric Ethers" (*Trans. Chem. Soc.*, 1881) ; "Action of Sodium Alkyl Oxides on Ethereal Fumarates" (*ibid.*, 1885) ; "The Action of Metallic Alkylates on Mixtures of Ethereal Salts with Alcohols" (*ibid.*, 1887). Joint author with W. Marshall, B.Sc., of :—"Action of Alcohols on Ethereal Salts in presence of Small Quantities of Sodic Alkylates" (*Trans. Chem. Soc.*, 1888) ; "The Addition of the Elements of Alcohol to the Ethereal Salts of Unsaturated Acids" (*ibid.*, 1891). Joint author with J. Wallace Walker, M.A., of :—"Resolution of Lactic Acid into its Optically Active Components" (*ibid.*, 1892) ; "Optically Active Ethoxysuccinic Acid" (*ibid.*, 1893).

APRIL METEORS.

COMPARATIVELY few meteors of the April shower appear to have been seen this year in consequence of the cloudy weather which prevailed. But if the results are scanty they are interesting, for three fine meteors were observed at more than one station, and their real paths in the atmosphere have been computed.

On April 14, 11h. 44m., a bright first mag. meteor was seen by Prof. A. S. Herschel at Slough, and by the writer at Bristol. It moved rapidly in a rather long path, and left a bright streak. The radiant point is indicated at 316° + 31° near ζ Cygni, and the meteor fell from 87 to 71 miles over the English Channel. During its visible career it traversed a course of 107 miles with a velocity of about 49 miles per second. The radiant of this meteor near ζ Cygni is almost identical with that (314° + 27°) found for a 1–2 mag. meteor observed on April 20, 1893, also by Prof. Herschel and the writer.

On April 19, 10h. 59m., a fine meteor, variously estimated as = 1st mag., 2 × ♃, = ♀, = 1st mag., was observed by Mr. Corder at Bridgwater, Mr. Blakeley, Dewsbury, Mr. Packer, Birmingham, and the writer at Bristol, respectively. Its motion was moderately slow, and it left a streak. The direction of its flight shows it to have been a Lyrid with a radiant at 269° + 30°. The meteor descended from 91 to 43 miles over the North Sea and Lincolnshire, and traversed a path of 97 miles with a velocity of 33 miles per second. This object appeared much brighter to the observers at Birmingham and Dewsbury than to those at Bridgwater and Bristol, for the meteor was far more distant from the latter places, and its light much veiled in the mist lying over the stars of Cygnus near the north-east horizon.

On April 19, 11h. 46m., another conspicuous meteor, moving very swiftly, and leaving a bright streak, was seen in Hercules and Boötes by Mr. Corder at Bridgwater, and the writer at Bristol. Its radiant was in Sagitta at 300° + 20°. The meteor fell from 77 to 71 miles over Wiltshire and Somerset, and travelled along a path of 40 miles in less than one second of time. The radiant in Sagitta furnishes a well-defined meteor shower at the April epoch, and I first detected it in 1877. My positions for the radiant are as follow :

D, 92 ...	1877, April 16–19 ...	298° + 25°	6 meteors
D, 110 ...	1885, April 18–20 ...	299 + 24	5 ,,
D, 121 ...	1887, April 19–25 ...	302 + 23	4 ,,

The mean position is at 300° + 24°. Mr. Corder saw a shower in April–May 1876–9 from 300° + 20° (7 meteors), which presents an excellent accordance. The meteors of this stream are very swift, and commonly germinate streaks; but the shower is not well displayed until the morning hours, the radiant being very low before midnight. W. F. DENNING.

NOTES.

THE following fifteen candidates were selected on Thursday last by the Council of the Royal Society, to be recommended for election into the Society :—Mr. J. Wolfe Barry, Prof. A. G. Bourne, Mr. G. H. Bryan, Mr. J. Eliot, Prof. J. R. Green, Mr. E. H. Griffiths, Mr. C. T. Heycock, Prof. S. J. Hickson, Major H. C. L. Holden, Mr. F. McClean, Prof. W. MacEwen, Dr. S. Martin, Prof. G. M. Minchin, Mr. W. H. Power, Prof. T. Purdie. We give the qualifications of the candidates in another part of this number.

THE memorial of the late Prof. J. C. Adams, at Westminster Abbey, will be unveiled this afternoon by the Duke of Devonshire.

WE are glad to be able to report that Prof. Huxley has been steadily improving in health during the past few days.

DR. P. DANGEARD has been appointed Professor of Botany to the Faculty of Sciences at Poitiers.

AT a meeting of the Court of the Spectacle Makers' Company, on Thursday last, Mr. W. H. M. Christie, the Astronomer Royal, was presented with the honorary freedom of the Company, in recognition of his services to astronomical science.

THE De Candolle prizes have been awarded by the Physical and Natural Histor Society of Geneva to Dr. O. Warburg for his monograph of the *Myristicaceæ*, and to Dr. R. von Wettstein for his monograph of the genus *Euphrasia*.

DURING the past week, the deaths of several eminent men of science have occurred. Surgeon-Major Carter, who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1859, and obtained the Royal Medal in 1872, died on Saturday last, the 4th inst., at his residence in Budleigh Salterton. We notice also the death of Mr. A. E. Durham, late Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the author of numerous works on subjects connected with medicine and surgery. Among the announcements of deaths abroad, we regret to see the name of Prof. K. Ludwig, Professor of Physiology in the University of Leipzig, and Director of the Physiological Institute there. He was seventy-eight years of age. The death is also announced of Prof. Manuel Pinheiro Chagas, General Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Lisbon. Prof. Chagas was born November 13, 1842.