

on an experiment of M. Birkeland, by M. H. Poincaré. A mathematical study of the deflection of the kathode rays by means of a magnet.—On the infections caused by the bacilli of the *Proteus* group, and on the agglutinating properties of the serum in these cases, by MM. Lannelongue and Achard.—The truffles of Greece: *Terfezia Gennadii*, by M. Ad. Chatin. Three specific types have been found in Greece: *Terfezia Claveryi*, *Terfezia Gennadii*, and *Terfezia Leonis*.—Correction to a preceding note on the homogeneity of argon and helium, by Profs. W. Ramsay and J. N. Collie. (See NATURE, October 8, p. 546).—The cave of La Mouthe, by M. E. Rivière. This note, the fifth on this subject, deals with the drawings on the sides of the cave. There seems to be no doubt of the great antiquity of these drawings, many being covered up with stalagmitic deposits.—On algebraic systems, and their relations with certain systems of partial differential equations, by M. H. E. Delassus.—On the region within which a summation of Taylor's series is possible, by M. E. Borel.—Anti-staphylococic serotherapy, by M. Capman. With the filtered toxins from staphylococcus cultures, dogs were successfully rendered immune; the serum from these dogs, taken about three weeks after the injection, amply protected the rabbit and the guinea-pig against a toxic injection. The curious fact was established, that shortly after injection in the dog there was a temporary increase in toxicity, the serum taken two days after the commencement of the fever being five times the toxic strength of the toxine inoculated.—On beans, by M. Balland. A study of the physical and chemical properties of beans of various origins. Analyses are given showing the composition of the whole bean, the skin, and the cotyledons with the germ.—Neuro-psychosis, by M. Bouketeiff.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Linnean Society, August 26.—P. N. Trebeck in the chair.—On the Australian *Bembidiides* referable to the genus *Tachys* (fam. *Carabidae*), with the description of a new allied genus, by Thomas G. Sloane.—Descriptions of two new species of *Prostanthera*, from New South Wales, by R. T. Baker.—Eucalypts and Loranths in their relations of host and parasite, and as food-plants, by J. J. Fletcher. The object of this paper was mainly to evoke discussion on a subject which is not devoid of interest. The propositions brought forward may be summarised as follows:—Even a cursory investigation of the relations subsisting between some of the most characteristic forms of Australian vegetation—*e.g.* Proteads, Acacias, and Eucalypts—and the animals (more particularly insects) to which they serve as food-plants, shows a state of affairs in harmony with Mr. Wollaston's axiom "that the most peculiar insects of a region are usually to be found either dependent on or inhabiting the same area as its most peculiar plants" (*Trans. Ent. Soc.* (3), i. 1862-64, p. 136). Among the plants mentioned, the Eucalypts, in point of both variety and number of the species dependent upon them, stand conspicuously first; being preyed upon by a goodly assemblage of forms, including phytophagous mammals, insects of almost every order—phytophagous, xylophagous, juice-feeding and gall-making, not to speak of anthophilous forms—as well as Phytophagous. Nor is it merely individual plants that suffer; for there are not wanting recorded instances in which species have been locally threatened with extinction by reason of the depredations of phalangiers, coleoptera, lepidopterous larvæ, phasmids, &c. Eucalypts have now become extensively acclimatised in other parts of the world, where, by way of contrast to the state of things sketched above, it is interesting to know that on the whole the attitude of insects towards them is one not of indifference merely, but in some cases even of positive antipathy. In cases like that of the Laurel- and Euphorbia-infesting animals referred to by Mr. Wollaston, and the Eucalyptus-infesting animals of Australia, the opinion was expressed that the adaptation of the animals to their food-plants—which contain more or less abundant stores of chemical substances ordinarily distasteful to animals—was one requiring a long period of time for its acquirement, and for the development of hereditary tastes; perhaps also the stimulus of stern necessity. As to whether, as has been supposed, the association of Loranths and Eucalypts is to be looked upon as a case of mimicry, it was pointed out that the association is at most—over and above any gain accruing from parasitism—but of partial and local benefit to the former; that in times past it was profitable; but that now, on the whole, it is a possible case of true mimicry in the later stages of becoming bankrupt and played out.

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DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

LONDON.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20.

ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 8.—Half-tone direct from Nature: Wm. Gamble.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—New Hymenoptera from the Mesilla Valley, New Mexico: T. D. A. Cockerell.—A Monograph of British Braconidae, Part vii.: Rev. T. A. Marshall.

ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Photo-micrographic Camera designed chiefly to facilitate the Study of Opaque Objects: J. Butterworth. On the Occurrence of Endocysts in the Genus *Thalassiosira*: T. Comber.—On the Measurement of the Apertures of Objectives: E. M. Nelson.

BOOKS AND SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—A Sketch of the Natural History of Australia: F. G. Aflalo (Macmillan).—The Elements of Electro-chemistry; Prof. M. Le Blanc, translated by W. R. Whitney (Macmillan).—Notes of the Night, &c.: Dr. C. C. Abbott (Warne).—The Romance of the Sea: F. Whympster (S.P.C.K.). Peasblossom: C. Pridham (J. Heywood).—An Egyptian Reading-Book for Beginners: Dr. E. A. W. Budge (K. Paul).—Elementary Geology: Prof. G. S. Boulger (Collins).—University College, Bristol, Calendar 1896-7 (Bristol, Arrowsmith).—Die Principien der Wärmelehre: Dr. E. Mach (Leipzig, Barth).—Examples in Electrical Engineering: S. Joyce (Longmans).—Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel (new issue) Asia, Vol. 2, Southern and Western Asia: A. H. Keane (Stanford).—A Text-Book of Bacteriology: Prof. E. M. Crooksbank, 4th edition (Lewis).—Diagrams of Terrestrial and Astronomical Objects and Phenomena: R. A. Gregory (Chapman).

SERIALS.—Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie, Band ix., Heft 4 (Leiden, Brill).—Reliquary and Illustrated Archæologist, October (Bemrose).—Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vol. xxxii. (Salem, Mass.).—Strand Magazine, October (Newnes).—Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, September (Stanford).—Lloyd's Natural History—Birds, Parts 5 and 6; Dr. R. B. Sharpe (Lloyd).—American Journal of Science, October (New Haven).—Science Progress, October (Scientific Press).—Engineering Magazine, October (Tucker).—Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Zoologie, lxvii. Band, 1 Heft (Leipzig, Engelmann).—Annals of Scottish Natural History, October (Edinburgh, Douglas).—Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania for 1894-95 (Hobart).—Journal of Physical Chemistry, No. 1 (Ithaca, N.Y.; London, Gay).—American Journal of Mathematics, Vol. xviii. No. 4 (Baltimore).—Mind, October (Williams).

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