

AMSTERDAM.

Royal Academy of Sciences, March 25.—Prof. van de Sande Bakhuyzen in the chair.—Prof. Zaayer reported, both on behalf of Prof. Fockema Andreae and himself, upon a letter from the Minister of the Interior, concerning the question addressed by the Belgian Ambassador to the Dutch Government with respect to prize essays.—Prof. Pekelharing reported, both on behalf of Prof. Winkler and himself, on the paper of Dr. G. C. van Walsem, entitled "An attempt at a systematical method of the normal and pathological microscopico-anatomical and anthropological inquiry into the central nervous system." This paper will be published in the Academy's *Transactions*.—Prof. J. C. Kluyver, on reducible hyperelliptic integrals. The paper deals with the algebraic conditions to be satisfied by hyperelliptic equations, when it is possible by a theta transformation of the r -order to arrive at a period matrix of which the constituents, all but the first, are equal to zero. Particularly the cases $\beta = 2, 3$, $r = 2, 3$ are considered. An expression of the invariant relation between the branch places is given for the case $\beta = 2, r = 3$, also a proof for the special form of the reducible integral, mentioned by Prof. Burnside (*Proc. Lond. Math. Soc.*, vol. xxiii.).—Prof. Winkler, on inquiries, made by Mr. Wiardi Beckman and himself, into the influence that expiration undergoes through faradic irritation of certain sensible and sensory nerves.—Mr. Hamburger, on the influence of salt solutions on the volume of animal cells (second communication).—Prof. Van der Waals, on an anomaly in the course of the plait-point curve in the case of a mixture of anomalous substances. All these communications will be inserted in the *Proceedings*.—The following papers were also presented for publication in the *Proceedings*: Prof. Van der Waals, on volume and pressure contraction (iii.); and on behalf of Prof. L. Boltzmann, foreign member of the Academy, on the characteristic equation of Van der Waals.—Prof. Kamerlingh Onnes, on behalf of Dr. E. van Everdingen, jun., on the galvanomagnetic and thermomagnetic phenomena in bismuth (second communication).—Prof. Bakhuis Roozeboom, on behalf of Dr. Ernst Cohen, on electrical reaction velocity.

April 22.—Prof. Van de Sande Bakhuyzen in the chair.—Prof. Bakhuis Roozeboom communicated the first experiments, made for the confirmation of his theoretical views, concerning the melting points of optical isomers. These views were confirmed in the case of mixtures, both of racemic and dextrorotatory salts of tartaric acid and of the same derivatives of diacetyltartaric acid. In the first system, the inactive ester had a higher melting point than the active one; in the second system, it was just the opposite.—Prof. Kamerlingh Onnes presented, on behalf of Dr. E. van Everdingen, jun., a communication concerning the galvanomagnetic and thermomagnetic phenomena in bismuth (a continuation of the second communication).—Prof. Van der Waals presented a paper on the deduction of the phase equation, being a controversy with Prof. Boltzmann.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, MAY 25.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Water Weeds: Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S.

FRIDAY, MAY 26.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Climbs and Explorations in the Andes: Sir W. Martin Conway.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—On the Thermal Properties of Normal Pentane, Part 2: Prof. S. Young and Mr. Rose-Innes.—On the Distribution of Magnetic Induction in a Long Iron Bar: C. G. Lamb.

AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Exhibition of Models: Lawrence Hargrave and Dr. Barton.

MONDAY, MAY 29.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Explorations in Patagonia and the Eastern Andes: Dr. Francisco Moreno.

TUESDAY, MAY 30.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Recent Advances in Geology: Prof. W. J. Sollas, F.R.S.

SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—The Revival of Tradesmen's Signs: J. Starkie Gardner.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.30.—On the Beginnings of Currency: Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Temple.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.—Election of Fellows. — At 4.30.—*Probable Papers*: The Parent-Rock of the Diamond in South Africa: Prof. T. G. Bonney, F.R.S.—Results of Experiments in Telegony: Prof. Ewart, F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Water Weeds: Prof. L. C. Miall, F.R.S.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the High Level Plants of the Andes as illustrated by the Collections of Sir W. Martin Conway, Mr. Edward Whymper, and others: W. Botting Hemsley, F.R.S.—On some Australasian Collembola: Sir John Lubbock, Bart., F.R.S.

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SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 4.30.—The Port of Calcutta: Sir Charles Cecil Stevens, K.C.S.I.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Hydrosulphides, Sulphides, and Poly-sulphides of Potassium and Sodium: W. Poplewell Bloxam.—On the Relative Efficiency of various Forms of Still-head for Fractional Distillation: Dr. Sydney Young, F.R.S.—The Salts of Dimethylpyrone, and the Tetravalence of Oxygen: Dr. J. N. Collie, F.R.S., and Thomas Tickle.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Music of India and the East, and its Influence on the Music of Europe (with Musical Illustrations): Edgar F. Jacques.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Sewage-Analysis: J. A. Wanklyn and W. J. Cooper (Paul).—Anleitung zur Darstellung Chemischer Präparate: Prof. H. Erdmann, Zweite Auflage (Frankfurt a.M., Bechhold).—Einleitung in die Vergleichende Gehirnphysiologie und Vergleichende Psychologie: Dr. J. Loeb (Leipzig, Barth).—Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India, 1897-98, &c. (Calcutta).—Flora of Kent: F. J. Hanbury and E. S. Marshall (Hanbury).—A Treatise on Practical Chemistry, &c.: Dr. F. Clowes, 7th edition (Churchill).—Die Entstehung des Lebens: Dr. L. Zehnder, 1 Teil (Freiburg i.B., Mohr).—Cries and Call Notes of Wild Birds: C. A. Witchell (Gill).—Man, Past and Present: A. H. Keane (Cambridge University Press).—A Select Bibliography of Chemistry: H. C. Bolton, 1st Supplement (Washington).—Wetterprognosen und Wetterberichte des xv. und xvi. Jahrhunderts (Berlin, Asher).

PAMPHLETS.—Hey for the Holidays! (R. E. Taylor).—Sull' Impiego del Microsismografo, &c. (Venezia, Ferrari).—History and Present Status of Instruction in Cooking in the Public Schools of New York City (Washington).—The Slide-Valve Simply Explained: W. J. Tennant (Dawbarn).

SERIALS.—Zeitschrift für Wissenschaftliche Zoologie, lxx. Bd., 4 Heft (Leipzig).—Die Meteorologie der Sonne und das Wetter im Jahre 1898, &c.: Prof. K. W. Zenger (Prag, Rivnáč).—Knowledge, May (Witherby).—Journal of the Chemical Society, Supplementary Number (Gurney).—Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, Vol. 43, Part 1 (Manchester).—Atlantic Monthly, May (Gay).—Atti della Fondazione Scientifica Cagnola della sua Istituzione in Poi, 1896-97, 1897-98 (Milano).—Zoologist, May (West).—Physical Society of London Proceedings, May (Taylor).—Morphologisches Jahrbuch, 27 Bd. 2 Heft (Leipzig).—Journal of the Franklin Institute, May (Philadelphia).—Popular Astronomy, May (Northfield, Minn.).—Psychological Review, Monograph Supplement, Vol. 2, No. 5 (Macmillan).—American Anthropologist, April (Putnam).—Astrophysical Journal, April (Chicago).—Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, Vol. ix. Part 4 (Halifax, N.S.).—Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1898, September-December (Philadelphia).—Annals of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College, Vol. xxxix. Part 1 (Cambridge, Mass.).—Royal Magazine, June (Pearson).

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