

chemically derived from decomposition of the carbohydrate food they consume. Bacteria are present in abundance in the alimentary canal of these grubs, and oxidise the carbon of the food where no transpiration of water is possible.—Note on the origin of the name Chermes or Kermes: E. R. Burdon. The existence of the same generic name in two families of the Hemiptera is due to the following causes:—(1) that the dye-insect of the oak, *Quercus ilex*, Linn., had been known since the Arab conquest of Spain by the popular name of Kermes all over the south of Europe. (2) That Linnæus, apparently unaware of this fact, put the Kermes dye-insect into the genus Coccus, and employed Chermes as the generic name for another group of insects, amongst which he placed the spruce gall-insect. (3) That Geoffroy, objecting to this misapplication of a well-known popular name, used Chermes as the generic name for the dye-insect which Linnæus called Coccus. (4) That Boitard used the name for the same insects as Geoffroy, but spelt it Kermes. (5) That the majority of workers at the spruce gall-insects have retained the Linnæan name of Chermes, and at the same time Coccid authorities have naturally continued to use the name Kermes for the insect which had popularly been so-called from early times. The author concludes that, in view of the wide acceptance of both Chermes and Kermes, any alteration would only make confusion worse confounded.—Part x. of the reports on Biscayan plankton collected by H.M.S. *Research* in 1900: E. W. L. Holt and L. W. Byrne. An account was given of the fishes captured. It was remarkable that no fish-eggs or larvæ were taken in any of the thirty-seven hauls of the closing-net which explored the water between 2000 fathoms and fifty fathoms; they appeared to be confined to the upper 100 fathoms, and were rare at the surface. Nine species and six genera were recognisable, the deepest of which was *Gonostomâ bathyphilum*, taken in the closing-trawl between 2000 fathoms and 1500 fathoms. Several unknown larvæ are described and figured.

Royal Meteorological Society, December 19.—Mr. Richard Bentley, president, in the chair.—The Guildford storm of August 2, 1906: Admiral J. P. Maclear. This storm shows some very curious and interesting features in the remarkable violence of the wind, rain, and hail within a small area, and the suddenness with which it burst. There was an area of thunderstorms over the whole of the south of England on the evening of that day. The most violent storm, however, burst over Grayshott, on Hindhead, at 8.20, and pursued a narrow track through Godalming and Guildford to Ripley, five miles north-east of Guildford. The wind was of hurricane force, and blew down an immense number of trees and caused other damage, and also the loss of two lives. The rain, accompanied by large hailstones, was very heavy, as much as 1.17 inches falling at Grayshott in fifteen minutes. There was a magnificent display of lightning.—The metric system in meteorology: R. Inwards. The author did not discuss the general question of the advantages of the metric system over that in use by Britain and her colonies and the United States of America, but confined his remarks to the advisability of adopting some uniform system by all the meteorological observers upon the globe.

MANCHESTER.

Literary and Philosophical Society, November 27.—Prof. A. Schuster, F.R.S., in the chair.—Some Points of chemical philosophy involved in the discovery of radium and the properties of its combinations: Dr. H. Wilde.—A collection of land and fresh-water Mollusca collected by Mr. S. A. Neave in North-East Rhodesia: J. Cosmo Melville and R. Standen. The areas traversed by Mr. Neave were mainly the high plateaux and mountainous lands between the Loangwa and Kafue Rivers, at an elevation of 2000 feet to 4200 feet. Mollusca were, in certain places (particularly Kapopo, in the limestone district), plentiful in individuals, but deficient in number of species. Most notable were the large agate-snails (Burtoa, Achatina, and Limicolaria), of which one elegant form, *A. rhodesiaca*, remarkable for its attenuately-fusiform contour, is new to science. *Cleopatra mterizensis*, one of a fluviatile genus, endemic in the African continent, is also

until now undescribed, as is an interesting member of the sinistral genus *Lanistes*, which occurred at Kapopo, and is to bear the name of *L. neavei*, after its discoverer. Only twenty-two species are gathered in all, the majority being already known as natives of German East Africa, the Nyassa district, the neighbourhood of Victoria Nyanza or the Zambezi River. Little specific affinity seems to exist with the Transvaal or South Africa, excepting so far as some widely distributed species, e.g. *Melania tuberculata*, Will., and *Physopsis africana*, Krauss, are concerned.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Signalling to a Distance; the Invention of the Electric Telegraph: W. Duddell.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—Volcanoes: W. Herbert Garrison.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Signalling to a Distance: Modern Electric Telegraphs: W. Duddell.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 5.—Perils and Adventures Underground (Juvenile Lecture): E. H. Brough.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—The Fire Belt around the Globe: W. Herbert Garrison.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 4.—Signalling to a Distance: the Telephone and its Working: W. Duddell.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 4.
LONDON INSTITUTION, at 4.—Earthquakes and Geysers: W. Herbert Garrison.
ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 3.30.—Japan and the Japanese as I saw them: Miss A. L. Murcott.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 5.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Signalling to a Distance: Early Wireless Telegraphs: W. Duddell.

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