

spheric air.—A contribution to the study of the latent photographic image: Eug. **Demole**. Some experiments on the reversal of the image caused by the presence of a feeble oxidising agent, such as potassium ferricyanide. The author puts forward a theory of the process based on the formation of a hypothetical silver hypobromite.—An exact method of separating ammonia and methylamine: Maurice **François**. The method is based on the fact that ammonia is readily absorbed by yellow oxide of mercury, whilst methylamine is not acted upon by this reagent.—The constitution of the azo-derivatives of ethyl benzoylacetate: A. **Wahl**.—The β -chloroethyl and vinyl ketones: E. E. **Blaise** and M. **Maire**.—The influence of manganese salts on alcoholic fermentation: E. **Kayser** and H. **Marchand**. The effect of adding manganese salts to a fermentable liquid is to increase the amount of sugar fermented, the yields of alcohol, glycerine, and volatile acid all being greater.—A new glucoside, hydrolysable by emulsin, extracted from the seeds of a *Strychnos* from Madagascar: Em. **Bourquetot** and H. **Hérissey**. The name bakankosine is given to the new glucoside, and its method of preparation, properties, and products of hydrolysis are given in detail.—The cytological peculiarities of the development of the mother cells of the pollen of *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar luteum*: W. **Lubimenko** and A. **Maige**.—The ecological characters of the vegetation in the eastern region of the Kabyle and Djurjura: G. **Lapie**. The forest vegetation in this region presents well-characterised zones standing clearly in relation with the climatological, topographical, and edaphical conditions.—A phenomenon of plant pseudomorphosis analogous to the pseudomorphosis of minerals: N. **Jacobesco**.—A spiky formation characteristic of the last dorsal vertebra in man: R. **Robinson**.—The tectonic north of Meurthe-et-Moselle: René **Nicklès** and Henri **Joly**.

CALCUTTA.

Asiatic Society of Bengal, February 6.—The exact determination of the fastness of the more common indigenous dyes of Bengal and comparison with typical synthetic dyestuffs, part i., dyeing on cotton: E. R. **Watson**. The author gives a summary of the available evidence as to the fastness of the indigenous Bengal dyes, and points out that this evidence is wanting in precision and is in many cases self-contradictory. The author has prepared samples of cotton dyed with the more common Bengal dyes, so far as possible according to native methods, and has tested the fastness of these dyeings (1) to light, (2) to washing with soap, (3) to alkalis, (4) to dilute acids such as perspiration, testing at the same time by the same methods a representative collection of dyeings with synthetic materials. Tables are given in which the fastness of each dyeing under each condition is expressed quantitatively. The dyestuffs turmeric, safflower, *palas* (*Butea frondosa*), *latikan* (*Bixa Orellana*), red sandal (*Pterocarpus santalinus*), and *padauk* (*Pterocarpus dalbergioides*) are of very inferior fastness. *Manjista* (*Rubia cordifolia*), catechu (*Acacia catechu*), and *bakam* (*Caesalpinia Sappan*) compare favourably with the great majority of synthetic dyes.—*Breynia vredenburgi*, an undescribed echinoid from the Indian Ocean: Major A. R. S. **Anderson**. The genus *Breynia* was founded in 1847 by Desor, for Spatangidae, characterised by the simultaneous presence of the three kinds of fasciole, internal, peripetalous, and subanal. Only one living species had hitherto been described, *Breynia australasiae*, from the Pacific Ocean. Another species was discovered by Major Anderson at Port-Blair, in the Andamans, and has been named *Breynia vredenburgi*. The original specimen is now in the Indian Museum.—Note on the common raven (*Corvus corax*): Lieut.-Col. D. C. **Phillott**.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Biology and Progress: Dr. C. W. Saleeby.
 CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—The Synthesis of Polypeptides: Emil Fischer.—Organic Derivatives of Silicon, Part iii, *dl*-Benzylmethylthylpropylsilicane and Experiments on the Resolution of its Sulphonilic Derivative: F. S. Kipping.—On the Reduction of Carbon Dioxide to form Aldehyde in Aqueous Solutions: H. J. H. Fenton.—The Mechanism of the Rusting of Iron: G. T. Moody.—Some Compounds of Guanidine with Sugars, Part i., R. S. Morrell and A. E. Bellars.

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LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Origin of Angiosperms: E. A. Newell Arber and John Parkin.—*Exhibitions*: Water-colour Sketches of Alpine Flowers: Miss Helen Ward.—Photographs of Transvaal Trees and Tree Scenery: J. Burt Davy.
 INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Rail Corrugation: J. A. Panton.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—Rays of Positive Electricity: Prof. J. J. Thomson, F.R.S.
 PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—Experimental Mathematics: Mr. Pochin.—Logarithmic Labyrinths and Lattice Works: Mr. Blakesley.—A Micromanometer: Mr. Roberts.—Electrical Conduction produced by heating Salts: Mr. Garrett.
 INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—A Point in Turbo-Alternator Design: F. J. Kean.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Röntgen, Kathode, and Positive Rays: Prof. J. J. Thomson, F.R.S.

MONDAY, MARCH 25.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Photographic Report of a Journey through the Highlands of Duab (Zarafshan, &c.): W. Rickmer Rickmers.
 INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES, at 5.—On the Relation between the Theories of Compound Interest and Life Contingencies: J. M. Allen.

TUESDAY MARCH 26.

INSTITUTE OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—The Application of Hydro-Electric Power to Slate Mining: M. Kellow.—Electrically Driven Winding Gear and the Supply of Power to Mines: A. H. Preece.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Southern Origin attributed to the Northern Zone in the Savoy and Swiss Alps: Prof. T. G. Bonney, F.R.S.—The Coral-Rocks of Barbados: J. B. Harrison, C.M.G.
 BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION, at 5.

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