

treasurer of the fund is Dr. Suresh P. Sarbadhicary, 79/1 Amherst Street, Calcutta.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Lancet* states that the Governor-General of Algeria has brought a proposal for the founding of an Algerian university before the financial delegates, who have adopted it. It will be remembered that the late M. Moissan and Prof. Bouchard, having inspected the secondary schools in Algiers, reported favourably on the founding of a university. They proposed the establishment of an institute of natural science, experimental botany, zoology, and hygiene, and pointed out the political and social effects of the foundation of a university which would form a powerful link between the various races which form the population of Algeria.

THE secondary and agricultural school at Bigods Hall, Dunmow, which was established by Lady Warwick ten years ago to provide a scientific education in agricultural affairs for the boys and girls of the district, is to be closed. The Earl of Warwick, in a letter to the chairman of the Essex Education Committee, explains the reasons for the taking of this step. He states that, although the county committee has given the school a grant, it has intimated the possibility of a re-consideration of the educational necessities of the locality, and the headmaster has received the offer of another appointment; complaint is also made that the school has suffered from a lack of cordial support from the committee.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, August 19.—M. A. Chauveau in the chair.—Presentation of vol. xiii. of the *Annales de l'Observatoire de Bordeaux*: M. Loewy. This volume contains an account of the work done at Burgos on the total eclipse of the sun of August 30, 1905, by MM. Rayet and Courty, also actinometric observations made by M. Esclangon at Bordeaux, from a balloon, on the same occasion. The observations made during 1899 and 1900, forming the contribution of the Bordeaux Observatory to the photographic catalogue of the sky, are also given.—Symmetrical dimethylethylene oxide, $\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2$:

Louis Henry. A study of the reaction between this oxide and methyl-magnesium bromide. The tertiary alcohol, $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{C}(\text{OH})\cdot\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$, is formed exclusively, from which it follows that this substituted ethylene oxide behaves towards the magnesium compound as though it were first converted into the isomer $\text{CH}_3\cdot\text{CO}\cdot\text{CH}_2\cdot\text{CH}_3$.—The comet 1907d: Ernest Esclangon. Observations with the large equatorial of the Observatory of Bordeaux on August 1, a specially clear night, brought out many details of the comet's structure. The nucleus was brilliant, sensibly circular, and appeared like a star of 5.5 magnitude. No scintillation was noticed, from which it may be concluded that the nucleus has a real sensible diameter, corresponding to the apparent diameter of the image of about 8". Combining this with the known distance from the earth, the nebulosity forming the head would have a diameter about thirteen times that of the earth. The structure of the tail of the comet is shown in a figure.—The results of observations made at Cistierna, Spain, during the total eclipse of the sun on August 30, 1905: A. Lebeuf and P. Chofardet. Clouds interfered with observations during totality, but measurements were made of the first and fourth contacts, a reduction of these measurements being given.—The variations of the absorption bands of crystals of parisite and tysonite in a magnetic field at the temperature of liquid air: Jean Becquerel. The magneto-optical properties of two crystals of the same family present close resemblances, but with marked difference in details. From the behaviour of the bonds in parisite it is concluded that either there must be an inversion of the magnetic field in certain parts of the interior of the crystal, or positive and negative electrons must exist simultaneously.—The motion of electricity without action between the electric charges and without external forces: T. Levi-Civita.—Some modifications which produce the splitting up of the curve of rate of decay of induced radio-activity: Ed.

Sarasin and Th. Tommasina.—The atomic weight of radium: Mme. Curie.—The disengagement of the emanation by radium salts at various temperatures: L. Kolowrat. It is known that the quantity of emanation produced in unit time is constant. When the salt is in solution, the whole of the emanation is evolved, but in the solid state a part remains in the salt. The author confirms the observation of J. Curie and J. Danysz, that when the radium salt is fused the whole of the emanation is given off. At a fixed temperature the quantity of emanation obtainable from a salt previously deprived of its emanation in a given time is a function of the temperature. It results from this work that, in the application of the method of heating to the estimation of radium in minerals or other solid substances by the disengagement of the emanation, it is absolutely necessary to fuse the material.—The dissociation of calcium carbonate: D. Zavrjeff. A repetition of the work of H. Le Chatelier, especial care being taken to secure uniformity of temperature. The dissociation pressures are given for six temperatures ranging between 815° C. and 926° C.—The alloys of nickel and tin: Em. Vigouroux. Alloys containing between 57.65 per cent. and 66.76 per cent. of tin treated with hydrochloric acid leave residues richer in nickel, approximating to Ni_3Sn_2 ; treatment with nitric acid, on the contrary, gives alloys richer in tin, tending towards NiSn . All these alloys are brittle, brilliant, and non-magnetic.—Study of the alloys of cobalt and tin: F. Ducelliez. Alloys containing less than 50 per cent. of tin behave as mixtures of cobalt and Co_2Sn_3 , the latter remaining when the alloys are subjected to the action of dilute nitric acid.—The action of some substances upon potassium iodide: B. Szilard.—A new and very sensitive method for the qualitative detection of nickel: Emm. Pozzi-Escot. The method is based on the fact that molybdate of nickel is insoluble in presence of an excess of alkaline molybdate, whilst cobalt molybdate is very soluble under the same conditions.—The preparation of unsymmetrical halohydrins and the properties of the corresponding ethylene oxides: MM. Fournau and Tiffeneau.—Rhinanthin: Marcel Mirande.—The ichthyological fauna and the age of the shell marls of Pourcy (Marne): Maurice Leriche.

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