those of the cube. The points of intersection we consider as those representing the molecules, inasmuch as any point within the limits of the cell may equally well be taken to represent the cell and the molecule, provided the choice is analogously made throughout the structure.

It has recently been found possible to determine the relative dimensions of these molecular cells, the distances of separation of the points of the space-lattice, in those cases where we know that the structure is similar, as in isomorphous salts; and the interesting discovery has been made that the "molecular distance ratios," as these space-dimensions are called, are functions of the atomic weights of the interchangeable members of the family of chemical elements constituting the series, just as the crystal angles have been shown to be.

We are now able, moreover, to take yet one further step, for the chemical molecules are composed of atoms, and it has been indubitably shown that the atoms occupy definite positions in the crystal. For when we replace, say, the alkali metal in a sulphate or selenate by another, we observe a marked alteration in the crystal angles and the molecular distance ratio along a particular direction, this direction being the same whichever metals of the group are interchanged; whereas if we replace the sulphur by selenium, a similar kind of alteration occurs, but along a totally different direction. Now we know that the atoms are arranged in the chemical molecule in what is known to chemists as their stereometric arrangement, depending on the maximum satisfaction of their chemical affinities. Hence this important experimental fact of the occupation by the atoms of definite positions in the crystal proves, first, the homogeneous similarity of arrangement of the molecules, and, secondly, explains why we have classes or subdivisions within the systems. For it is the arrangement of the atoms within the molecule which causes the variations of the degree of symmetry, within the limits prescribed by the system and space-lattice; in other words, which determines the class.

Now obviously any one of the atoms in the molecule may be chosen to represent the latter, and the points thus chosen analogously throughout the structure will constitute the molecular space-lattice. Hence the whole structure may be considered as made up of as many interpenetrating similar space-lattices as there are atoms in the molecule. The crystal structure will thus be dependent on two factors, the space-lattice and the scheme of interpenetration of the space-lattices, the former dominating the style of architecture, the crystal system, and the latter the vagaries of the style, the crystal class. Sohncke has shown that there are sixty-five such vagaries possible, which he terms regular point systems, and these coincide with sixty-five of the 230 possible modes of partitioning space.

These are the broad, simple facts, now proved up to the hilt, which explain the majority of crystal structures, all, in fact, but a very few, of the more complicated classes of the thirty-two. For the remaining 165 ways of appropriating space all fall into a very small number of crystal classes. They are of very great interest, however, and involve an entirely new principle, that of "reflective" or "mirror-image" symmetry, enantiomorphism as it is technically termed, and include those crystals which possess the remarkable property of rotating the plane of polarised light. These are the cases the geometrical possibility of which has been accounted for by the simultaneously independent work of Schönflies, von Fedorow, and Barlow, and to which we were experimentally introduced by the discovery of the right- and left-handed varieties of tartaric acid by Pasteur. The latter has since been followed by the revelation of many similar cases of two forms of the same chemical substance, related crystallographically and structurally like a right hand to a left-hand glove, and optically differing by the direction in which they rotate a beam of plane polarised light.

With their discovery and explanation the elucidation of the seven styles of crystal architecture and their thirty-two subdivisions becomes *un fait accompli*, and although many difficult problems still confront the crystallographer, problems of vast importance to chemistry, the groundwork is now securely laid, the memorable achievement of the last twenty years. The results, moreover, are in entire accordance with the now well-proved fact that the chemical atom is composed of electronic-corpuscles. For the definite orientation of the atom and its sphere of influence within the molecule and the crystal is thereby accounted for, the motion in the solid state so frequently hitherto attributed to the atom being a myth, such motion relating, in fact, to the corpuscles within the atom.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, August 23.—M. Bouquet de la Grye in the chair.—The calculation of the roots of numerical equations: M. **Lémeray.** Referring to a recent paper by M. de Montessus on this subject, the author points out that he published a method on the same principle in December, 1898.—Movements from the vertical due to the attraction of the moon and sun, the earth being supposed absolutely rigid: Ch. **Lallemand.**—A poison elaborated by yeast: A. **Fernbach.** It has been recently shown by F. Hayduck that there exists in the yeast cell a substance which is toxic to yeast. The present paper contains some new observations on the same subject. A solution of the toxic substance is shown, not only to be antiseptic to yeast cells, but also to bacteria such as *B. coli* and Staphylococcus, although it has no effect on moulds. The most remarkable property of this substance is that it is volatile under reduced pressure at a temperature not above 40° C. The distillate contains no formaldehyde; further researches on the nature of this substance are in progress.—The development of the eggs of *Philine aperta* exposed to the action of radium: Jan **Tur.**

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