

Royal Irish Academy, April 10.—Rev. J. P. Mahaffy, president, in the chair.—Major **Berry**: The Sierra Leone cannibals, with notes on their history, religion, and customs. Traces of a formerly richer flora and the remains of human settlements would tend to prove that the Sahara was subject to cyclical periods of aridity and humidity, and that in Palaeographical times it possessed a climate favourable to life. It was in the Sahara that the Mediterranean race probably originated and sent forth waves of migration, one of which, moving southwards, pushed the blacks back to the unhealthy coast-line. These blacks were by the Arab historians called the Dem-Dem, and are now known as the Mampas. Formerly they must have been powerful, but are now broken up along the coast from the Gambia to the Niger. From time immemorial these people have practised cannibalism, less for food than as a sacrament, with definite ritual curiously resembling that of ancient Mexico and Egypt. There are traces of a Mother Goddess, and the symbology connected with their religion and customs suggests other than local origins. Details of the customs and cannibalistic ritual collected in the country by the author are given and discussed.

GÖTTINGEN.

Royal Society of Sciences.—The *Nachrichten* (physico-mathematical section), part i. for 1911, contains the following memoirs communicated to the society:—

November 16, 1910.—E. **Kohlschütter**: The structure of the earth's crust in German East Africa.

January 14, 1911.—W. **Voigt**: Contributions to Lord Rayleigh's theory of grating-inflexion.

December 10, 1910.—N. **Galli** and K. **Försterling**: Theoretical and experimental researches on the optical behaviour of minimal metallic films.

November 26, 1910, and January 28, 1911.—W. **Voigt**, with a note by H. A. **Lorentz**: General considerations on emission and absorption in connection with the question of measurements of intensity in the Zeeman effect.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20.

SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS, at 8.—The Dyeing of Paper Pulp: R. Bickerstaffe.

MONDAY, APRIL 24.

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY, at 8.—The Ratio of Light to Illumination: Havdn T. Harrison.—Some Notes on the Effect of Wall-papers upon the Illumination of Interiors: P. J. Waldram.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE, at 4.30.—The Sidereal Universe: Sir David Gill, K.C.B., F.R.S.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.15.—River Life and People in Upper India: P. B. Bramley.

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—The Application of the Method of Multiple Correlation to the Estimation of Post-censal Populations: E. C. Snow.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—The Production and Identification of Imitation and Artificial Gems: Noel Heaton.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Llandovery and Associated Rocks of North-eastern Montgomeryshire: A. Wade.—Geology of Northern Nigeria: Dr. J. D. Falconer.

BRITISH ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION, at 5.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 4.30.—The Trend of Mineral Development in India: Sir Thomas Henry Holland, K.C.I.E., F.R.S.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.—The Optical Properties of Metallic Vapours: Prof. R. W. Wood.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—On the Geometry of a Deformable Octahedron: G. T. Bennett.—A Symmetrical Method of Apolarly Generating Cubic Curves: W. P. Milne.—The Solution of the Homogeneous Linear Difference Equation of the Second Order (Second Paper): G. N. Watson.—A Cartesian Theory of Complex Geometrical Elements of Space: G. B. Mathews.—The Number of Primes of given Linear Form: Lieut.-Col. A. Cunningham.—On the Proofs of the Properties of Riemann's Surfaces discovered by Lüroth and Clebsch: Prof. M. J. M. Hill.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Battery Economics and Battery Discharge Arrangements: A. M. Taylor.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—The Revolutions of Civilisation: Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie, F.R.S.

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PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—High-tension Electrostatic Wattmeters: Prof. Ernest Wilson.—Previous Magnetic History as Affected by Temperature: Prof. Ernest Wilson and L. C. Budd.—Note on the Behaviour of Incandescent Lime Cathodes: Dr. R. S. Willows and T. Picton.—On the Formation of Dust Striations by an Electric Spark: Dr. S. Marsh and W. H. Nottage.

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—Gas-producers: J. Emerson Dowson.—The Effect of Varying Proportions of Air and Steam on a Gas-producer: E. A. Allcut.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 8.—The Commercial and Technical Relations of Engineering Design and Work: T. Frame Thomson.

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