

mineral salts in the cephalo-rachidian fluid.—N. A. **Barbieri**: The non-existence of free or combined lecithines in yolk of egg and in biological structures.—Mme. and M. Victor **Henri**: Variation of the abiotic power of the ultra-violet rays with the wave-length. The abiotic power of the ultra-violet rays increases as the wave-length diminishes. There is no indication of a maximum.—Maurice **Holderer**: The mechanism of the arrest of diastases by filtration.—Em. **Bourquelot** and Marc **Bridel**: The reversibility of fermentations. The influence of the dilution of ethyl alcohol on the synthetic action of emulsin in this medium.—M. **Köhler**: The Echinoderms of the Charcot expedition.—J. L. **Dantan**: The working of the genital gland in *Ostrea edulis* and *Gryphaea angulata*. The protection of natural oyster beds.—E. **Boullanger** and M. **Dugardin**: The mechanism of the fertilising action of sulphur.—Ed. **Dujardin-Beaumetz** and E. **Mosny**: The evolution of the plague in the marmot during hibernation.—J. **Vallot**: The comparative absorption of the chemical and heat radiations of the sun between Mt. Blanc and Chamonix.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Linnean Society, May 29.—Mr. W. W. Froggatt, president, in the chair.—Dr. R. **Greig-Smith**: Contributions to our knowledge of soil-fertility. No. 5. The action of fat-solvents upon sewage-sick soils. Experiments are brought forward to show that the action of the volatile disinfectants upon sewage-sick soils is to segregate or translate the fatty material which, in the soil under examination, constituted 19 per cent. of the volatile and organic matter. The lower layers of treated soil gave greater bacterial growths than the upper, into which the fatty substances had been carried by the evaporating solvent. When the soil was heated at 62° C. to kill off phagocytic protozoa, subsequent treatment with chloroform caused a very much increased growth of bacteria.—J. H. **Maiden** and E. **Betche**: Notes from the Botanic Gardens, Sydney. No. 17.—C. **Hedley**: Some land-shells collected in Queensland by Mr. Sidney W. Jackson. Primarily in quest of ornithological material and information on behalf of Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, Mr. Jackson visited the coastal districts of Queensland from Brisbane to Cairns in 1908. A large collection of land-shells was also gathered, a portion of which is treated of in this paper, including nineteen species, of which eleven and two varieties are described as new.—C. **Hedley** and A. F. Basset **Hull**: The Polyplacophora of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. Nine species referable to the five genera, Chiton (3), Ischnochiton (1), Ornithochiton (1), Acanthochites (2), and Lepidopleurus (2), are described as new, of which four are peculiar to Lord Howe Island, three to Norfolk Island, and two are common to both localities. None of them extend either to the mainland of Australia or to New Zealand, although two species are very closely allied to mainland species.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Aus dem Luftmeer. By M. Sassenfeld. Pp. iv+183. (Leipzig and Berlin: B. G. Teubner.) 3 marks.
Einführung in die Biologie. By Prof. K. Kraepelin. Dritte Auflage. Pp. viii+356. (Leipzig and Berlin: B. G. Teubner.) 4.80 marks.
English History Illustrated from Original Sources, 1066-1216. By N. L. Frazer. Pp. xvi+234. (London: A. and C. Black.) 2s. 6d.
The Task of Social Hygiene. By H. Ellis. Pp. xv+414. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd.) 8s. 6d. net.
Studien an intracellularen Symbionten. I. Die intracellularen Symbionten der Hemipteren. By Dr.

P. Buchner. Pp. iv+116+Taf. 1-12. (Jena: G. Fischer.) 18 marks.

The Formation of the Alphabet. By Prof. W. M. Flinders Petrie. Pp. iv+20+ix plates. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., and B. Quaritch.) 5s. net.
Les Alpes de Provence. By G. Tardieu. Pp. iv+310. (Paris: Masson et Cie.) 4.50 francs.

The Grouse in Health and Disease. Edited by A. S. Leslie, assisted by A. E. Shipley. Popular Edition of the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Grouse Disease. Pp. xx+472+plates. (London: Smith, Elder and Co.) 12s. 6d. net.

Libya Italica. Terreni ed Acque, Vita e Coltura della Nuova Colonia. By P. V. de Regny. Pp. xv+214. (Milano: U. Hoepli.) 7.50 lire.

Le Zebre. By Dr. A. Griffini. Pp. xxviii+298+41 plates. (Milano: U. Hoepli.) 4 lire.

Festschrift W. Nernst zu seinem Fünfundzwanzigjährigen Doktorjubiläum Gewidmet von seinen Schülern. Pp. vi+487. (Halle a.d.S.: W. Knapp.) 21.60 marks.

Problems in Eugenics. Papers Communicated to the First International Eugenics Congress, held at the University of London, July 24-30, 1912. Pp. xix+490. (London: Eugenics Education Society.) 8s. 6d. net.

An Introduction to the Chart of the Elements. Second Edition. Pp. 43+chart. (London: The Metallic Compositions Co.) 3s. 6d.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES.

AUGUST 22-28.—(i) International Congress of Mathematicians, and (ii) International Commission on Mathematical Teaching. President: Prof. Klein. Treasurer: Sir J. Larmor, F.R.S., St. John's College, Cambridge.

SEPTEMBER (first week)—International Congress of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology. Geneva.

SEPTEMBER 4-11.—British Association. Dundee. President: Prof. E. A. Schäfer, F.R.S. Assistant Secretary: O. J. R. Howarth, Burlington House, London, W.

SEPTEMBER 4-13.—International Congress of Applied Chemistry. Washington, D.C. President: Dr. W. H. Nichols. Secretary: Dr. B. G. Hesse, 25 Broad Street, New York City, U.S.A.

SEPTEMBER 8-11.—Société Helvétique des Sciences Naturelles. Atdorf. President: Dr. P. B. Huber. Secretaries: Prof. J. Brülisauer (German) and M. P. Morand Meyer (French), Atdorf.

SEPTEMBER 23-28.—International Congress on Hygiene and Demography. Washington. President: Dr. H. P. Walcott. Secretary-General: Dr. J. S. Fulton, Army Medical Museum, Washington, D.C.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Recent Medical Books	575
Biological Problems	576
Recent Books on Chemistry	578
Differential Geometry. By G. B. M.	579
Our Bookshelf	580
Letters to the Editor:—	
August Meteor-showers.—John R. Henry	581
A Flower Sanctuary.—Right Hon. Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., F.R.S.	581
Contrast Colours in the Use of Zone-plates.—W. B. Croft	581
Lord Mersey's Report on the Loss of the "Titanic"	581
The Discovery of Human Remains at Cuzco, Peru	584
The late Mr. A. O. Hume, C.B. By R. L.	584
Notes	584
Our Astronomical Column:—	
The Spectrum of Nova Geminorum No. 2	589
Observations of Jupiter	589
The Three-prism Spectrograph at Mount Wilson	589
The Institution of Mechanical Engineers	589
The Recent Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute at York	590
Joint Meeting of Learned and Technical Societies in Cornwall	591
The Meteorological Office and its Observatories. (Illustrated.)	591
The North Sea and its Fisheries. By Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson, C.B.	593
University and Educational Intelligence	598
Societies and Academies	599
Books Received	600
Forthcoming Congresses	600