

results obtained by the proposed method and that of Pflüger.—Maurice **Niclox**: An experiment realising the mechanism of the passage of carbon monoxide from the mother to the foetus.—Ch. **Pussenot**: The middle Westphalian in the alpine axial zone.—G. Goure de **Villemontée**: A case of globular lightning.—E. A. **Martel**: The displacement of the thermal springs at Roosevelt Dam, Arizona.

## CALCUTTA.

**Asiatic Society of Bengal**, December 4, 1912.—Dr. Sten **Konow**: Fragments of a Buddhist work in the ancient Aryan language of Chinese Turkestan. This paper gives an account of six MSS. leaves (forming part of a bulky work containing about 400 leaves) recovered from Khotan, and written in verse in what is provisionally designated as the ancient Aryan language.—Dr. N. **Annandale**: Contributions to the biology of the Lake of Tiberias. No. 1, an account of the sponges. The paper is the first in a series based on a visit to Palestine made in October, 1912, with the object of discovering whether the peculiar fauna characteristic of fresh water in tropical Africa and Asia, especially as regards the lower invertebrates, extends northwards up the Jordan valley. Considered as a whole the sponge fauna of the lake provides evidence (1) that a peculiar fauna of closely related species is being evolved therein; (2) that in this lake, as in others, there is a tendency for the Spongillidæ to lose their characteristic gemmules; and (3) that as the gemmules disappear the skeleton of the sponges becomes harder and more compact.—D. **Hooper**: The Ash of the plantain (*Musa sapientum*, Linn.). The ash of plantain leaves and stalks is used in India for various industrial purposes: as a mordant in dyeing, as a soap, medicine, table salt, and manure. Analyses of authentic samples show a variation in composition and alkalinity, and do not exhibit a greater value than ashes of other plants. There is evidence that the composition of the ash is influenced by the soil in which the plants are grown.—M. H. **Sastri**: A short note on Ayi Pantha, a newly discovered cult in the Bilada District of the Marwar State. The new religion was preached by women in the fifteenth century A.D. Its chief seat is at Bilāda in Marwar. It has a perfect administrative organisation, and it has about a lac of adherents. The chief object of worship is a light kept up for the last 450 years fed by ghee. It emits no smoke, but a yellow substance called "Kesara," which means saffron. The lady preacher is known as "Ayi," and the cult is therefore called "Ayipantha." As Shams Tabrez is an object of reverence, this cult seems to be a survival of the ancient fire-worship of Irān.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

Handwörterbuch der Naturwissenschaften. Edited by E. Korschelt and others. Lief. 26 to 34. (Jena: G. Fischer.) Each 2.50 marks.

Beziehungen des Lebens zum Licht. By Dr. C. Neuberg. Pp. 63. (Berlin: Allgemeine Medizinische Verlagsanstalt G.m.b.H.) 1.50 marks.

The Moorlands of North-Eastern Yorkshire: their Natural History and Origin. By F. Elgee. Pp. xvi+361+illustrations+maps. (London and Hull: A. Brown and Sons, Ltd.) 12s. 6d. net.

The British Bird Book. Edited by F. B. Kirkman. Section x. Pp. 188+plates. (London and Edinburgh: T. C. and E. C. Jack.) 10s. 6d. net.

Notes on the Natural History of Hornsea Mere. By G. Bolam. (London and Hull: A. Brown and Sons, Ltd.) 1s.

Untersuchung und Nachweis organischer Farbstoffe auf spektroskopischem Wege. By Prof. J. Formanek.

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Zweite Auflage. Zweiter Teil. 2 Lief. Pp. 165-366+plates. (Berlin: J. Springer.) 14 marks.

Abregé sur l'Hélice et la Résistance de l'Air. By M. Gandillot. Pp. 188. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars.) 10 francs.

Bergens Museums Aarbok, 1912. 2det Hefte. Pp. 84+plates xxvii+152+plate i. (Bergen: J. Griegs.)

Bergens Museums Skrifter. Ny Række. Band ii. No. 1. Vestlandske Graver fra Jernalderen. By H. Schetelig. Pp. iii+242. (Bergen: J. Griegs.)

## DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

GEOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION, at 8.—Some Valleys and Moraines in the Bergen District, Norway: H. W. Monckton.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 6

ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY, at 8.—Intentional Thinking: Prof. Frank Granger. SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, at 8.—The Estimation of Glycerol Acetate in Essential Oils: S. Godfrey Hall and A. J. Harvey.—The Estimation of Moisture: F. H. Campbell.—The Determination of Moisture in Foods, etc.: W. P. Skertchly.—The Determination of Water: G. N. Huntly and J. H. Coste.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

RONTGEN SOCIETY, at 8.15.—Spark Photographs at High Pressure: Prof. A. W. Porter, F.R.S., and W. B. Haines.—Some Relations between Kathode and Kontgen Rays: Dr. R. Whiddington.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—The Geological History of the Malay Peninsula: J. B. Scrivenor.—A Mass of Anhydrite in the Magnesian Limestone at Hartlepool: C. T. Trechmann.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

CONCRETE INSTITUTE, at 7.30.—Concrete in its Legal Aspect: W. Valentine Ball.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 8.—The Design of Apparatus for Improving the Power Factor of A. C. Systems: Prof. Miles Walker.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—The Reduction of Ideal Numbers: W. E. H. Berwick.—Proofs of Certain General Theorems Relating to Orders of Coincidence: J. C. Fields.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 5.

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## Editorial and Publishing Offices:

MACMILLAN & CO., LTD.,  
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Advertisements and business letters to be addressed to the Publishers.

Editorial Communications to the Editor.

Telegraphic Address: PHUSIS, LONDON.

Telephone Number: GERRARD 8830.