

genetic and phylogenetic questions will be discussed in a later paper.—Dr. J. M. **Petrie**: The occurrence of hydrocyanic acid in plants. Part iii. treats of five indigenous and seven cultivated cyanogenetic plants. Detailed experiments were made with a number of *Alocasias*, and a description of the distribution of the glucosides in the different parts of the plants is given.—Dr. J. M. **Petrie**: The chemical investigation of some poisonous plants in the N.O. Solanaceæ. Part iv., the chemistry of the *Duboisias*. This important group of endemic plants includes the pituri-tree of Central Australia and the cork-tree of New South Wales. The former is the only nicotine plant known other than the *Nicotianas*; and the latter contains the atropine-group of alkaloids, including the new nor-hyoscyamine. A third species, resembling the cork-tree, was also found to contain the same constituents. A complete historical account is given of the numerous chemical researches on the first two of these plants; and the contradictory evidence has been settled definitely by new experimental data. The proximate composition of the plants is compared and the investigation of their alkaloids described.

#### PETROGRAD.

**Academy of Sciences, February 1.**—E. S. **Fedorov**: A new descriptive geometry.—N. **Kulagin**: The ovary of the elephant.—V. V. **Zalenskij**: The segmentation of the ovum of *Salpa bicaudata*. First period.—E. **Busch**: Ericaceæ (Arctostaphylos, Arctous, Vaccinium, Calluna) of Siberia and the Far East.—A. M. **Nikol'skij**: *Coluber (Vipera) sachalinensis*, Czar., and its history.—G. J. **Vereščagin**: The basins in the vicinity of Lake Baikal.—V. N. **Šnitnikov**: The reptiles of the province of Semirčëje.—N. M. **Krylov**: Application of the method of W. Ritz to a system of differential equations.

HISTORICAL AND PHILOLOGICAL SECTION, January 25.  
—P. A. **Falev**: Account of an expedition in Transcaucasia and to Azerbeidžan in the summer of 1916.—N. Ja. **Marr**: (1) The Georgian epic, "The Hero in the Panther's Skin," by Šota of Rustav, and a new problem touching ancient Georgian culture. (2) A source of new information concerning the history of the Caucasian peoples.—I. Ju. **Kračkovskij**: Description of the collection of Korans brought by F. I. Uspenskij from Trebizond.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Pocket Handbook of Minerals. By Prof. G. M. Butler. Second edition. Pp. ix+311. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 11s. 6d. net.

British Universities and the War: a Record and its Meaning. Pp. xv+88. (London: Field and Queen.) 1s. net.

Actions Physiologiques et Dangers des Courants Electriques. By J. Rodet. Pp. 87. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars.) 3.25 francs.

Differential Calculus. By Prof. H. B. Phillips. Pp. v+162. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 5s. 6d. net.

Lessons in Pharmaceutical Latin and Prescription Writing and Interpretation. By H. C. Muldoon. Pp. vii+173. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 6s. net.

Studies in Primitive Looms. By H. Ling Roth. (Halifax: Bankfield Museum.) 2s.

Staying the Plague. By N. Bishop Harman. Pp. viii+120. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.) 1s. net.

Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-14. Scientific Reports. Series C. Zoology and Botany. Vol. iv., part 1:—Mollusca. By C. Hedley. Pp. 80+9 plates. (Adelaide: R. E. E. Rogers.) 8s. 6d.

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## DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, MAY 24.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—The Influence of Vibrations upon the Form of Certain Sponge-Spicules: Prof. A. Dendy and Prof. J. W. Nicholson.—The Lateral Vibrations of Bars of Variable Section: Prof. J. W. Nicholson.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Chromosome Theory of Heredity and the Alternatives: Prof. W. Bateson.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—The Resources and Future of British Columbia: Dr. J. F. Unstead.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 3.—Anniversary Meeting.

AERONAUTICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—The Testing of Materials for Aeronautical Construction: Edgar A. Allcutt.

INSTITUTION OF MINING AND METALLURGY, at 5.30.—Shall Great Britain and America Adopt the Metric System?: W. R. Ingalls.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.30.—Breathlessness: J. Barcroft.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—An Investigation of Radium Luminous Compound: C. C. Paterson, J. W. T. Walsh, and W. F. Higgins.—The Resistance to the Motion of a Lamina, Cylinder, or Sphere in a Rarefied Gas: F. J. W. Whipple.—The Effect of Stretching on the Thermal and Electrical Conductivities of Wires: Dr. C. H. Lees.

SATURDAY, MAY 26.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Electrical Properties of Gases: Sir J. J. Thomson.

TUESDAY, MAY 29.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Movement of Glaciers: Prof. W. W. Watts.

THURSDAY, MAY 31.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Art of the Essayist: A. C. Benson.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.30.—The Brontës; A Hundred Years After: J. H. Ballour Browne.

GEOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION, at 7.30.—The Post-Pliocene Non-Marine Mollusca of Ireland: A. S. Kennard and B. B. Woodward

SATURDAY, JUNE 2.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Electrical Properties of Gases: Sir J. J. Thomson.

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