Early Science at the Royal Society.

November 9, 1664. Sir Anthony Morgan promised to draw up a report concerning his majesty's power to give a grant of Chelsea College [Referring thereto, Oldenburg wrote: "Our council is now pressing to have an end of Chelsea College, which we doubt not will prove good; in which case Mr. Howard will be the society's gardiner, without admitting of any competitor, and Dr. Wilkins the weeder"].

1681. The Society was acquainted that Mr. Hodges was in a short time going to the East-Indies to reside at Haukly, upon the river Ganges; and that he was very ready to serve the Society in what he was able in that place.

November 11, 1663. Sir Robert Moray presented from prince Rupert to the Society an instrument of his highness's invention for casting any platform into perspective. It was ordered that the president, Dr. Wilkins [and others] wait upon the prince on the Friday following, and return him the humble thanks of the Society; and to shew him an instrument of Dr. Wren's invention for casting any natural object into perspective. Mr. Hooke suggesting that additions might be made to the invention, so that it might incline and recline, and be fitted to draw likewise solid bodies in perspective, and to describe all kinds of dials, was desired to bring in these additions. In the meantime it was ordered, that the prince's instrument should remain simple, as it was then, without any alteration thereon.—Sir Robert Moray mentioned a new use to be made of thermometers, viz., to know by their help the degrees of heat in a man's body in fevers, etc., by putting it into a man's hand, or mouth, or urine, etc. The physicians present conceived that there would be little certainty in it.

November 12, 1662. Dr. Charlton promised to provide a pike against the meeting for dinner, in order to show every sound tooth moveable.

1668. Mr. Oldenburg read a letter from Monsr. Huygens, in answer to what he had lately written to him by order of the Society, desiring him that if he did not think fit to print what he had discovered on the subject of motion, he would impart to them his theory of it, together with such experiments, as he grounded his theory upon. Monsr. Huygens' answer was, that he was ready to communicate to the society those rules and theorems, which he had found out in all the species of motion.

November 13, 1672. Mr. Locke being called upon for his sulphur-ball, which he promised at the last meeting to produce at this, excused himself, that he had forgot it, promising to bring it at the next.

November 14, 1666. Sir Robert Moray produced a loadstone digged up in England in Devonshire, brought from thence by the sons of Sir William Stroud for the king; which was committed to Mr. Hooke for the repository.

1678. Dr. King upon occasion of discoursing of pearls and bezoar-stones related, that he had often found pearls in the stomach of an oister; and conceived them to be generated as the bezoar-stones in the stomach of a goat.

November 15, 1682. There was a discourse with regard to great age. Mr. Hooke took notice of what Sir Christopher Wren had formerly acquainted the Society, that the people at Hudson's Bay commonly live to 120 or 130 years of age; and till that age are very lusty, and commonly go to hunting, which, when they are no longer able to do, they usually invite all their kindred, and lie down and resign themselves to be strangled by the eldest of those, who survive, and who takes the care of government in his father's stead.

Societies and Academies.

LONDON.

Royal Microscopical Society, October 15.—R. S. **Clay** and T. H. **Court**: The development of the Hooke microscope. After referring to the description of Hooke's original instrument in his justly famous "Micrographia" (1665) and to the account given by Sturm in his "Collegium Curiosum" (1776) of his experiments with an English Hooke microscope which had been lent to him, attention was directed to the important improvement of the instrument due to Helvelius and described by him in his "Machina Coelestis" (1673), namely, the screw fine-adjustment. All previous writers ascribed this addition to Marshal, whose celebrated instrument is first described in Harris' "Lexicon Technicum" (1704) (though it had almost certainly been constructed and used so early as 1693). The failure of earlier writers to mention the important share which Helvelius had in the development of the microscope is most probably due to the extreme rarity of the "Machina Coelestis."

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, October 16.—M. Guillaume Bigourdan in the chair.—A. **Lacroix**: Short account of the second general meeting of the International Geodesic and Geophysical Union, held at Madrid on October 1-8.—Charles **Rabut**: Scientific rules for the reinforcement of constructions in masonry.—Paul **Montel**: Complex families.—Maurice **Gevrey**: Certain linear integro-differential equations of the second order.—André **Bloch**: A theorem of M. Borel and a generalisation of the Picard-Landau theory.—E. M. **Antoniadi**: Some changes recently observed on Mars with a telescope of 83 cm. aperture, at Meudon Observatory. These changes are shown on reproductions of eight drawings taken at different dates.— — **Lyot**: The polarisation of the planet Jupiter.—R. **Dugas**: A system of points of variable mass.—Louis de **Broglie**: A theorem of M. Bohr.—W. P. **Allis**: The damping of the oscillations of a Hertzian resonator. The decrement of the free oscillations of a resonator is the sum of two terms, one of which corresponds to the Joule effect, the other, δ_H, to the radiation. It is shown experimentally that δ_H is inversely proportional to the square of the wave-length.—C. **Marie** and G. **Lejeune**: The influence of colloids on the cathode overvoltage of hydrogen and metals.—René **Audubert**: Photovoltaic phenomena. Details of experiments on the effect of light on the electromotive force of cells the electrodes of which consist of metals carrying a skin of another substance, such as copper oxide, copper bromide, silver chloride, silver sulphide.—Henri **Lafuma**: The corresponding temperatures of solid bodies. Discussion of a recent communication by M. Brodsky on the same subject.—M. **Bourguel**: A general method for the preparation of true acetylenic hydrocarbons. The acetylene hydrocarbon ($R . C{\equiv}CH$) taken as a starting-point is converted into its sodium derivative (by sodium amide), methylated with methyl sulphate. The resulting hydrocarbon, $R . C{\equiv}C . CH_3$, by heating with sodium amide, is converted into the sodium derivative of the isomer $R . CH_2 . C{\equiv}CNa$; this gives readily the hydrocarbon $R . CH_2 . C{\equiv}CH$, the next higher homologue of the original $R . C{\equiv}CH$. The yields are high, and details of the application of the method to cyclohexylpropine are given.—E. **Caille** and E. **Viel**: Transformation of the iodostibinates of nitrogenous organic bases into crystallised iodomercurates.—de la