

## Early Science at Oxford.

August 5, 1684. A Discourse of Sir William Petty's, concerning Land Carriages, was read.

A Discourse concerning Digestion, and ye ferment of ye stomach, drawn up by Mr. Lee of Brazenose College, was read, and will be printed in a little time.

Some Seawater sweet'ned lately by Dr. Plot, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Musgrave, was shewn ye Society, and judged to be not in ye least salt to ye tast, and fit for use.

Dr. Plot presenteu ye Society with some of ye *Pindes*, from ye Coast of Guinea; of which substance ye inhabitants make their bread, and severall meats; it seems to be a round seed: He also communicated some sawdust of a wood from Jamaica (ye name of which as yet wee know not) which being put into cold water, did in some few minutes, tinge the water of a delicate mulberry color.

Dr. Gibbons gave ye Society an account of a well near Cambden, ye water of which (as he is informed) tinges with galls, a day, or two, after it is taken from ye spring, then intermits for eight or ten days, and after that tinges again: he promises a more full account of this matter. An Account of ye weather ye last month, taken (as usually) according to Dr. Lister's scheme, was brought in by Dr. Plot.

The Society was informed, that Mr. Lee of Brasenose College has lately received a letter from a friend of his in Lanchashire, who lived severall years at Tangier, and assures him, that, during ye time of his stay there, he enquired into ye nature of ye current at ye Streights Mouth, by letting fall lines with weights at ye end of them, and that, which way soever ye upper Current went, ye lines were driven outwards; of which he sent this account to Mr. Lee, takeing ye occasion from what he finds printed by Dr. Smith in ye Transactions concerning this Subject; This matter will be farther enquired into, and (if possible) a relation of it be had under ye gentleman's hand.

August 12, 1684. Ye Minutes of ye Dublin Society, from June ye 9th, to July ye 21st, 1684, being read distinctly, and considered, it was ordered that Mr. Ash, and Mr. Molineux be desired to impart their observations on ye last solar eclipse, to be printed with those made at Greenwich, and Oxon.

It is also desired, that Mr. K— would be pleased to communicate an account of his Mesolabe. Ordered that Dr. Pitt be desired at his leisure to draw up, and communicate to this Society, his thoughts concerning Digestion.

Sr Wm. Petty's paper of Land carriages, read ye last Meeting, enquiring into ye reason of ye Dishing of cart-wheels, Mr. Walker was pleased to communicate these lines concerning it. (One reason of ye Dishing of Cart-wheels seems to be this; when one wheel falls into a Hole, or deep cartrut, so that most of ye weight lyes upon it, then ye lower part of that wheel stands more perpendicularly to ye plain of ye Horizon, and consequently bears ye weight better than if ye wheel were plain, and not dish't.)

A letter from Dr. Turberville of Salisbury was read, it gave an account of ye three following cases.

1 The *Bursa Oculi*, which was in ye white of ye eye, under ye upper lid, an empty purse, no matter in it, and hung flagg about ye length of a thumb nail.

2 Another had no visible disease in his eyes, but could not see at all without squeezing his nose with his fingers, or saddling it with narrow spectacles, and then he saw very well: him ye Doctor carried to Mr. Boyl. 3 Another from Banbury, a Maid of 22 or 23 years old, could see very well, but no color, besides black and white. She saw Scintillations by night, that much terrified her.

## Societies and Academies.

LONDON.

Royal Anthropological Institute, June 9.—Shams-ul-ulama Dr. Jivanji Jamshedji Modi: The daily life of a Parsee of the seventeenth century, as described in the Persian Farziât-nâmeh of Dastur Darab Pâhlan. The daily religious duties began with early rising at the crowing of the cock (a sacred bird, not to be killed for food, and even requiring a kind of sacred burial), followed by a recital on, or very near, the bed, of Ashem Vohu, a sacred formula of prayer in praise of Asha (Sanskrit *rita*; English, right). This was followed by the application, on the exposed portions of the body, of *nirang* or *gaomiz*, i.e. the urine of a cow (*gao*), held by the ancient Aryans as a purifying substance. The application was followed by an ordinary ablution or, in special cases, by a bath. This was followed by a prayer, and there were five periods during the day for such obligatory prayers. The ablution or bath was accompanied by the untying and re-tying of the *kusti*, or sacred thread, which a Parsee had always to put on, on a sacred shirt, as symbols of his religion. The ablutions with the requisite ritual were required after calls of nature and before meals, which began with the recital of grace. A morsel was set apart for the dogs of the house or street, semi-sacred animals useful for various purposes. For his daily diet meat may be used as little as possible, and, for that purpose, not healthy but weak animals were to be killed. It was his duty to kill noxious creatures such as serpents, scorpions, mice, and the like. All kinds of scepticism in religious matters were to be avoided. A serious and solemn view of all daily actions had to be taken, and recitals of prayers for the blessing of God upon them were required. The day ended with a recital of prayers.

Linnean Society, June 11.—W. Bateson: Pelargoniums and the production of bud-sports. Sports are probably due to the emergence of a distinct, previously existing component, originally formed by somatic segregation at an early stage. Not very rarely the hidden component, perhaps most often a dominant, forms the central core of a periclinal system, emerging regularly in buds formed adventitiously on roots of inverted plants. Not improbably the whole root belongs to the inner component. Mosaic chimæras with islands showing a dominant also occur. A growing point arising in such an island forms a periclinal with the dominant external. The core on emergence is frequently still mosaic.—F. Eyles: Remarks on the flora of Southern Rhodesia. The type occupying a larger area than any other is the open forest, with trees widely spaced, not often exceeding 50 ft. in height, with a sparse undergrowth. From the ecological point of view, water is the chief controlling factor: the edaphic influence is also considerable; while temperature has less effect on distribution, owing to the relatively small degree of local and seasonal variation. Rain-fall occurs in two clearly defined seasons, namely, six months of wet season and six months of dry season; therefore all perennials must be adapted to face and survive six months of drought every year. This necessity is met in the usual way.—W. Garstang: On the origin of the crustacean carapace. The cephalic shield is regarded as having arisen as a larval organ, in response to larval needs. It is assumed that the proximate ancestors of Crustacea, prior to the development of a cephalic shield, were essentially trilobites of lower Cambrian type, and that the larvæ were discoidal and fitted only for