the face; there is difficulty in determining the shade of colour of the skin of brown people.—Hem Chandra **Das-Gupta**: Palæontological notes on the Panchet beds at Deoli, near Asansol. Descriptions of three specimens: (1) the carapace of a brachyurous crab (?); (2) a stegocephalian cranium; (3) a reptilian coracoid. The second specimen is tentatively identified as belonging to *Pachygonia incurvata*, Huxley; the third specimen, similarly, to *Epicampodon* (*Ankistrodon*) *indicum*, Huxley. The first specimen differs from the only two described genera of Triassic brachyurous crabs.—Sukumar **Sen**: Notes on the employ of the cases in the Kāṭhaka-saṃhitā. An analysis of the use of the cases as exhibited in Leopold von Schroeder's edition, published from 1900 to 1910, shows a marked difference in language and idiom as compared with other Vedic prose texts.

MELBOURNE.

Royal Society of Victoria, July 16.—Gerald F. **Hill**: Termites from the Ellice Group. The only species of termite hitherto recorded from these islands has been confused with an American species until recently supposed to have been introduced into Hawaii. The species is identical, however, with an imperfectly known Samoan insect—*Calotermes samoanus* Holmgr.—and not with any described Hawaiian or American form. *Prorhinotermes inopinatus* Silv., hitherto known only from Samoa, is now recorded from the Ellice Group. Both species are destructive to coconut palms.—C. E. **Eddy**: The *L* absorption limits of lutecium, ytterbium, erbium, and terbium. The *L* series critical absorption wave-lengths were measured relative to tungsten *L* lines as standards. A metal X-ray tube, with a thin window, and capable of being operated at 30 kilovolts and 30 milliamperes, was constructed, and used in conjunction with a low pressure spectrometer. The values of the critical absorption wave-lengths were as follows:

	L_{I}	L_{II}	L_{III}
Lutecium . . .	1136·21 X.U.	1194·0 X.U.	1337·5 X.U.
Ytterbium . .	1176·4	1238·14	1382·64
Erbium . . .	1265·5	1335·60	1479·19
Terbium . . .	1417·0	1499·4	1644·2

—W. J. **Harris**: Victorian graptolites (new series), Pt. 2. Four graptolites are described, three being new species, and one of these representative of a new family. Atopograptidæ (*fam. nov.*)—a biserial form with thecæ with extroverted apertures; represented by *A. woodwardi, nov.*, from Bendigo East. *Didymograptus nodosus, sp. nov.*, and *Cardiograptus crawfordi, sp. nov.*, from Bendigo East and Gisborne (Victoria). These three species are from Upper Darriwil beds, near the top of the Lower Ordovician.—W. M. **Bale**: Further notes on Australian hydroids, V. This paper describes *Sertularia nana* and *S. gracillima* new species, and gives a detailed account of *S. furcata* Trask, a common Californian species recorded doubtfully as Australian. A Sertularella, originally referred to *S. polyzonias*, is now described as *S. peregrina n. sp.* It is most nearly related to *S. mediterranea* Hartlaub. *Plumularia delicatula* Bale is given a new name—*P. Wilsoni*—on account of the priority of *P. delicatula* Busk (an Aglaophenia). A variety of *Aglaophenia divaricata* Busk, formerly referred doubtfully to *A. acanthocarpa* Allman, is named var. *Briggsi*.—Irene **Crospin**: The geology of Green Gully, Keilor, with special reference to the fossiliferous deposits. Green Gully is near the Keilor township, ten miles from Melbourne. The rocks consist of a succession of cainozoic sediments overlying the older basalt which rests on the Silurian bed-rock. The lowest of these cainozoic sediments is a moderately deep-water limestone which passes into a fossiliferous ferruginous rock, both of which are of Miocene (Janjukian) age. The limestone is characterised by a rich growth of calcareous alga (Lithothamnium) and by the abundance of the discoidal tests of several species of Lepidocyclina. The ferruginous bed contains a large assemblage of molluscan fossils, mainly in the form of casts, as well as some corals, which show close relationship with the Janjukian fauna of Table Cape, Tasmania, some species being restricted to the two localities.—Frederick **Chapman**: Geological notes on Neumerella and the section from Bairnsdale to Orbost. Fossils are of Miocene (Janjukian) age and were collected at Neumerella during the construction of the Bairnsdale to Orbost line. 150 species of fossils are recorded and notable additions made to the lists of fossil fishes, ostracoda, mollusca, polyzoa, and foraminifera. The fossil bands are seen in the cuttings, with remains of cetaceans and sharks' teeth; there are intercalated marly limestone layers, and evidence of local crumpling and faulting in the Janjukian. Large volutes and Nautilus frequently occur in the yellow marls as casts, and many are encrusted with a crystalline coating of calcite, probably representing the dissolved shell.

ROME.

Royal Academy of the Lincei, June 21.—B. **Grassi**: Contribution to the study of the biology of *Anopheles superpictus*.—B. **Longo** and A. **Cesaris-Demel**: The possibility of anaphylactic sensitisation in vegetable organisms.—S. **Saks**: Integration of the polynomials of Stieltjes.—Bruno **Finzi**: The motion of the boomerang.—Luigi **Carnera**: The new Washington catalogue of fundamental stars and the Berlin catalogue of circumpolar stars.—D. **Pacini**: Observations on the vertical air-earth current.—E. **Fermi** and F. **Rasetti**: Effect of an alternating magnetic field on the polarisation of resonance light.—E. **Persico**: Amplitude of the oscillations produced by a three-electrode lamp.—L. de **Caro**: Surface tensions of gelatin solutions of different hydrogen-ion concentrations.—E. **Clerici**: The diffusion of certain microscopic organisms of the rocks accompanying the Roman volcanic tufas.—Silvio **Ranzi**: The organ of sense derived from the first epibranchial placoid of Selacei.

Diary of Societies.

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11.

IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE (Birmingham Meeting) (at the University, Edmund Street, Birmingham).—J. H. Andrew and R. Higgins: The Dilatation of Cast Irons during Repeated Heating and Cooling.—M. L. Becker: Equilibrium at High Temperatures in the Iron-Carbon-Silicon System.—D. F. Campbell: High Frequency Induction Furnaces.—E. D. Campbell and J. F. Ross: The Chromium-Iron Equilibrium in Carbides recovered from Annealed 2·23 per cent. Chrome Steels.—A. L. Curtis: Steel Moulding Sands and their Behaviour under High Temperatures.—Prof. C. A. Edwards and L. B. Pfeil: The Tensile Properties of Single Iron Crystals and the Influence of Crystal Size upon the Tensile Properties of Iron.—Dr. C. F. Elam: The Orientation of Crystals produced by heating Strained Iron.—Dr. J. Newton Friend and W. E. Thorneycroft: Ancient Iron from Richborough and Folkestone.—R. H. Greaves and J. A. Jones: The Effect of Temperature on the Behaviour of Iron and Steel in the Notched Bar Impact Test.—L. Grenet: Notes on the Iron-Nickel and Iron-Cobalt Equilibrium Diagrams.—H. Kamura: Reduction of Iron Ores by Hydrogen.—J. L. Keenan: Blast Furnace Practice in India, with special reference to Economy in Coke Consumption.—W. R. Martin: The Davis Steel Wheel and its Manufacture in England.—J. A. Mathews: Retained Austenite.—H. Fiodin: A New Direct Process.—J. H. Partridge: The Magnetic and Electrical Properties of Cast Iron.—A. Sauveur and V. N. Krivobok: Dendritic Segregation in Iron-Carbon Alloys.—A. Sauveur and D. C. Lee: The Influence of Strain and of Heat on the Hardness of Iron and Steel.