

hot springs found in Wheal Clifford," by Colonel Philip Yorke, F.R.S., from which it appears that a gallon of this water contains 26 grs. of lithium chloride and one million parts in 7 of cesium chloride, or more than ten times as much of the latter as the Dürkheim water, in which, it will be remembered, that element was first detected by Kirchhoff and Bunsen in 1860.

Zoological Society, March 5.—Mr. John Gould, F.R.S., vice-president, in the chair. Mr. Howard Saunders exhibited and made remarks on specimens of *Falco barbarus* and *Cypselus pallidus*, obtained in Southern Spain, being the first recorded occurrences of these species on the continent of Europe.—A letter was read from Mr. Walter J. Scott, of Queensland, giving some further information respecting the supposed existence of an undescribed large carnivorous animal in that colony. This letter was accompanied by drawings of the impression of the foot of the animal.—Mr. A. H. Garrod read some notes taken on the dissection of an ostrich, recently living in the Society's menagerie. The examination of this bird proved that its death was due to copper poisoning, a number of copper coins and pieces of coin in a much worn state having been found in its stomach.—Mr. E. W. H. Holdsworth read a paper containing a catalogue of the birds found in Ceylon, with remarks on their localities and geographical distribution; and gave a description of two new species, which were proposed to be called *Zosterops ceylonensis* and *Arrenga blighi*. The total number of Ceylonese birds included in Mr. Holdsworth's list was 323, of which 36 were stated to be peculiar to the island.—A communication was read from Dr. Hermann Burmeister, containing a list of the species of the Lamellirostral birds of the Argentine Republic, with remarks on their habits and times of occurrence.—A communication was read from Dr. W. Peters, containing a list of a collection of small mammalia recently made by Mr. J. J. Monteiro in Angola.—Dr. J. E. Gray communicated some notes on a new species of tapir (*Tapirus leucogenys*) from the snowy regions of the Cordilleras of Ecuador, recently obtained by Mr. Buckley; to which were added some observations on the young spotted tapirs of Tropical America.

Society of Biblical Archæology, March 5.—Dr. Birch, president, in the chair.—Mr. J. W. Bosanquet read a paper "Concerning Cyrus, son of Cambyses, grandson of Astyages, who took Babylon; as distinguished from Cyrus, father of Cambyses, who conquered Astyages." In this paper, the learned chronologist endeavoured to show that, contrary to the received opinion of historians, Cyrus, son of Cambyses, though leader of the Medes as early as the year B.C. 535, was contemporary with the early part of the reign of Darius Hystaspes; having taken the throne of the Persian Empire after the death of his father. This view he believed to be consonant with the results of recent discoveries, and afforded a satisfactory explanation of the confessedly difficult chronology of Ezra and the Chaldee writers. Mr. Bosanquet summed up his argument as having proved:—(1) that Cyrus, father of Cambyses, who conquered Astyages, neither conquered Babylon nor reigned in Babylon, as Ptolemy assumes in his Babylonian Canon; (2) that Cyrus, son of Cambyses, King of Persia, grandson of Astyages, twice conquered Babylon; but did not reign over Babylon till after his father's death in B.C. 518; (3) that Ptolemy's Canon rests upon no sound authority, either historical or astronomical, as regards placing the reign of Cyrus at Babylon before the reign of Cambyses; (3) that the alternative reckoning deduced from Demetrius is to be preferred to that of Ptolemy, as resting upon the dates of three solar eclipses.

Anthropological Institute, March 4.—Mr. G. Harris, vice-president, in the chair.—Mr. Charles F. Tyrwhitt Drake was elected a member.—Captain Richard F. Burton read his third paper "On Anthropological Collections from the Holy Land." It contained accounts of the Hamath Inscriptions, facsimiles of which were exhibited, and of skulls from Siloam. An interesting discussion was raised on the high antiquity of the Hamath Inscriptions. Dr. Carter Blake described the human remains brought by Captain Burton from Siloam, and by M. Ganneau from the "Tomb of Jesus," near that place; the former were stated to be undoubtedly Jewish, and the latter of modern Turkish origin. Mr. J. Gould Avery read a paper "On Race-characteristics as related to Civilisation."

BOOKS RECEIVED

ENGLISH.—Dr. Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica: Edited by Bentley and Redwood (Longmans).—Sir John Herschel's Outlines of Astronomy, 11th edition (Longmans).—Science Primers: Chemistry, by Prof. H. E.

Roscoe; Physics, by Prof. Balfour Stewart (Macmillan).—Astronomy and Geology compared: Lord Ormathwaite (J. Murray).—The Higher Ministry of Nature: J. R. Leifchild (Hodder and Stoughton).
FOREIGN.—Annuaire de l'Académie Royale de Belgique, 1871. (Through Williams and Norgate).—Lehrbuch der Botanik: Dr. O. W. Thomé, 2^{te} Auflage.

DIARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 14.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.—Contributions to the History of the Opium Alkaloids.—IV.: Dr. C. R. A. Wright.—Further Investigations of Planetary Influence on Solar Activity: W. De La Rue, F.R.S., B. Stewart, F.R.S., and B. Loewy.—The Decomposition of Water by Zinc in connection with a more Negative Metal: Dr. Gladstone, F.R.S., and A. Tribe.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.—Stone Altar and Thurble from Syria: Capt. Burton.—Further Facts in the History of the Discovery of Australia: R. H. Major, F.S.A.
MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Shall the Society apply for a Charter?
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Chemistry of Alkalies and Alkali Manufacture; Prof. Odling, F.R.S.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Digestive Organs of the Vertebrata: Prof. Flower, F.R.S.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 9.—The Alphabet and its Origin: J. Evans, F.R.S.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Demonology: M. D. Conway.
ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH, at 7.30.—Mr. Stansfeld's Public Health Bill: Dr. A. W. Barclay.—On the Criminal Deaths of Infants, as shown by the Records of the Coroner's Court of Liverpool: F. W. Lowndes.

MONDAY, MARCH 18.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Digestive Organs of the Vertebrata: Prof. Flower, F.R.S.
ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 8.—Comparative Longevity of Man and Animals: George Harris.—Physical Condition of Centenarians: Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., M.D.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Circulatory and Nervous Systems: Dr. Rutherford.
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 9.—Report on additions to the Society's Menagerie in February, 1872: The Secretary.—On a specimen of the Broad-fronted Wombat (*Phascolomys latifrons*): Prof. Macalister.
STATISTICAL SOCIETY, at 7.45.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, at 4.—On the Digestive Organs of the Vertebrata: Prof. Flower, F.R.S.
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Wealden as a fluvio-lacustrine Formation, and on the relation of the so-called "Punfield Formation" to the Wealden and Neocomian: C. J. A. Meyer, F.G.S.—Notes on Atolls or Lagoon Islands: S. J. Whittell.—On the Glacial Phenomena of the Yorkshire Uplands: J. R. Dakyn.—Modern Glacial action in Canada: Rev. W. Bleasdel, M.A.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 8.—Notes from a Diamond Tour through South Africa: T. W. Tobin.
METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 7.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 8.30.
ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—On the Chemistry of Alkalies and Alkali Manufacture: Prof. Odling, F.R.S.
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES, at 8.30.
LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 8.—On the Geographical Distribution of Compositæ: G. Bentham.
CHEMICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
LA SEINE	377
OUR BOOK SHELF	380
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:—	
The Placental Classification of Mammals.—Dr. PYE-SMITH, F.Z.S.	381
Potential Energy.—A. G. GREENHILL	382
Development of Barometric Depressions.—W. CLEMENT LEY	382
A Safety Lamp.—B. G. JENKINS	382
Beautiful Meteor.—Lord Rosse, F.R.S.; J. BUDD	382
"Whin."—Rev. Wm. R. BELL	383
CUCKOO AND PIPIT	383
DR. G. E. DAY	383
OCEAN CURRENTS. By W. FERREL	384
FERGUSON'S RUDE STONE MONUMENTS. By SIR JOHN LUBBOCK,	
Bart., M.P., F.R.S. (With Illustrations.)	386
THE STUDY AND TEACHING OF MECHANICS	389
NOTES	390
AURORA AUSTRALIS. By A. MELDRUM, F.R.S.	392
GEOLOGY: Supposed Legs of Trilobites. By Prof. J. D. DANA	393
PHYSIOLOGY: Blood Crystals	393
SCIENTIFIC SERIALS	393
SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES	394
BOOKS RECEIVED	396
DIARY	396

NOTICE

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