

snowstorms fifty out of sixty days. The bay where we are now is where Parry left the *Hecla* when he went North on sledges. It is anything but a fertile place, as the low ground is all one great swamp, and there is a lot of snow on the ground still. We are going to stop here to take in water, and to get the provisions and coals out of the *Samson*."

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the last week include a Naked-footed Owl (*Athene noctua*), European, an Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), and two Buzzards (*Buteo tachardus*), from Africa, presented by Mr. S. G. Reid and Lieut. Denison; a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*), European, presented by Mr. A. W. Tait; a Paradoxure (*Paradoxurus typus*) from India, presented by Mr. A. F. Adey; a Manchurian Crane (*Grus montignesia*) from N. China; a Wild Pig (*Sus scrofa*) from N. Africa; three Common Guillemots (*Uria troile*), British; a White-backed Piping Crow (*Gymnorhina leuconota*) from Australia, deposited, and four Gambel's Partridges (*Callipepla gambelii*) hatched in the Gardens.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Der Naturforscher for July 1873, contains, among other interesting matter, an account of observations by Herr Nægeli, among plants in Alpine regions, as to the production of closely-related plant forms. He is led to conclude, (in opposition to the common view), that association is more favourable to the formation of species, than isolation. There are also botanical papers on the assimilation of air-plants under water, and the opening and closing of flowers. In physics and chemistry we have M. Amagat's recent important experiments on the expansion and compressibility of gases, and those of Troost and Hautefeuille on isomeric and allotropic transformations; a notice of M. Bichat's investigation of the influence of aggregate state on magnetic rotatory power, &c. M. Bichat has ascertained a decrease of this power as temperature rises, and entire disappearance of it in the state of vapour. Some striking facts with regard to the meteorological differences between northern and southern hemispheres are from a paper by Prof. Dove to the Berlin Academy. In physiology there are notes on the place of decomposition of albumen in animal bodies, and on the significance of common salt in the animal economy. Astronomy and technology are also represented, and there is a good selection of *Kleinere Mittheilungen*.

THE current number of the *Ibis* commences with an article on the "Ornithology of Sardinia," by Mr. A. B. Brook, which is one of a series on that subject. The part before us includes the Woodpeckers, their allies, the Swifts, and some Passerine birds, among which are *Melospiza sardus*, *Bradypterus cetti*, and the Corvine birds. Mr. R. Swinhoe describes the habits and plumage of the Rosy Ibis of China and Japan (*Ibis nippon*). He also notes points in its visceral anatomy, comparing them with the corresponding structures in the common Heron, in order to show that the affinities supposed by some to exist between the two birds are but slight. An editorial note verifies the conclusion that the Ibis and Spoonbill are intimately related, and differs justly from the author's conjecture that the former bird is related to *Tantalus*, which is a true Stork.—Mr. J. H. Gurney gives a tenth additional list of birds from Natal, including several species from the rich collection of Mr. R. B. Sharpe. Mr. J. E. Harting contributes a paper on *Charadrius pecuarius* of Temminck, in which it is shown that this bird is the smaller of the two allied species inhabiting Africa, but not found in St. Helena, and that the St. Helena species, till now unnamed, is distinct (*Aegialites sancta helena*, Harting). Vieillot's name, *Ch. varius*, must also take precedence of Temminck's *Ch. pecuarius*. An illustration is given of each of the birds referred to.—Messrs. Salvin and Elliot, in continuation of their notes on the *Trochilidae*, discuss the genera *Pygmornis*, *Glaucis*, and *Threutes*, separating the first into three groups, from the second removing *G. dohrni* to the genus *Grypus*, as already suspected by Mr. Gould, and adding *Glaucis ruckeri* to the third. The same ornithologists help to clear the synonymy of *Lophornis gouldi* by naming *L. regina* of Gould, *L. strictolophus*.—Mr. T. Ayres continues his notes on birds in the republic of Trans-Vaal, and Mr. G. N. Lawrence on the Cuckoos of the genus *Neomorphus*

defines precisely *N. geoffroyi*, *N. salvini*, *N. rufipennis*, and *N. pucherani*, showing that the specific validity of the last-named has been questioned by several distinguished ornithologists; though some time ago, Mr. Selater, on seeing the type-specimen, was convinced of its being an excellent species.—Mr. Salvin figures the typical specimen of *Fulica alba* of White, showing that it is evidently of the genus *Notornis*, as pointed out by Herr von Pelzeln.—The Viscount Walden, P.Z.S., describes, as the last paper, a collection of birds from the Andaman Islands, made by Lieut. R. W. Ramsay; figuring *Centrococyx andamanensis*, *Kittacincla albiventris*, *Sturnia andamanensis* and *Fanthenas columboides*, also entering into detail with reference to *Splornis elgini*.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

RIGA

Society of Naturalists, March 5.—Dr. Petzholdt concluded a series of five lectures on Turkestan, having described the fauna and flora, ethnographical features, dwellings, manners and customs, state of agriculture, mining and manufacture, &c. He commends the mode of treating silkworms as superior to that in Europe, and thinks the system of irrigation more perfect than in any other land not having scientific appliances. The Russian portion of Tasckent, it is stated, has now a good chemical laboratory.

The *Correspondenzblatt* (No. 6) contains a note on uncommon forms of hair-growth, with reference to two Russian peasants exhibited before the Society in December.

March 19.—Herr Berg gave an account of his excursion to Kurland, and the plants and mollusca he met with.

March 26.—Dr. Nauck described an electrical experiment. A funnel with leather bag at the end is placed in a long glass cylinder, and has mercury poured into it. The liquid streams through the pores against the glass sides, and runs down. The lower part of the cylinder and the mercury in it are found positively electric, while the upper part and the funnel with its mercury are negative. The limit between positive and negative, after some variation, divides the cylinder into two parts, of which the lower is double the upper.

April 2.—Dr. Schell reported on the present arrangement of the meteorological station of Riga, and on observations of the water-mark at Riga and at Duna mouth in 1872.

BOOKS RECEIVED

FOREIGN.—Remarks on Synonyms of European Spiders: Prof. T. Thorell (Upsala).—Lehrbuch der Physik, Dritte Lieferung: Dr. Paul Reis (Leipzig).

ENGLISH.—Gateway to the Polynia, a Voyage to Spitzbergen, from the Journal of J. C. Wells, R.N. (H. S. King & Co.).—Sound and Music: Sedley Taylor, M.A. (Macmillan & Co.).—Echoes from distant Footfalls: Rev. J. Boyes (Hodder & Stoughton).—Man a special Creation: William Sharpe, M.D. (K. Hardwicke).—Introduction to Physical Measurements: Dr. F. Hohlrausch (J. & A. Churchill).—Mitchell's Manual of Practical Assaying; Edited by Wm. Crookes (Longmans & Co.).—Descriptive Sociology, Classified and arranged by Herbert Spencer (Williams & Norgate).—Introductory Text Book of Geology: David Page, LL.D. (W. Blackwood & Sons).—Advanced Text Book of Physical Geography: David Page, LL.D. (W. Blackwood & Sons).—Half-hours in the Green Lanes: J. E. Taylor, F.Z.S. (K. Hardwicke).—The African Sketch Book: Winwood Reade (Smith, Elder & Co.).—Lacerda's Journey to Cazembe in 1798, Translated by Capt. R. F. Burton (J. Murray).—Elements of Mineralogy: James Nicol, F.R.S.E. (A. & C. Black).—Harveian Oration, 1873: G. Rolleston, M.D., F.R.S. (Macmillan & Co.).—Researches in Zoology, 2nd edition: John Blackwall, F.L.S. (J. Van Voorst).

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