

it would embrace all Italy. Nothing nowadays can flourish which has not its root in the people. Great individuals have given place to the co-operating multitude, and the sole thing left for the people to reverence is science—the one surviving deity on the deserts of Olympus. In Palermo, the city of the chivalric Normans and the knightly Suabian Frederic, chivalry survives, but its tournaments are philosophical discussions, and its mistress is science, which is the immortal poetry of nature and truth. Count Mamiani then signalised Sicily's services to science, and spoke of what she will yet do for meteorology.

PETERMANN'S *Mittheilungen* for September will contain the following among other papers:—On the Linguistic Divisions of Elsass-Lothringen, with a map coloured to show the districts in which Dutch, German, and mixed Dutch and French are spoken.—Travels in the Republic of Guatemala in 1870, by Dr. G. Bernouilli, concluded from previous numbers.—Remarks on a Map of Western Australia, which will accompany the number.—Under the title of "Bilder aus dem hohen Norden," Lieut. Weyprecht will commence a series of Sketches of Phenomena in the Arctic Regions; the article in the September number dealing with the Aurora and the Ice.

M. BRAZZA, an ensign in the French navy, and M. Marche, a traveller, who has already made important discoveries on the banks of the Ogové, left Paris last week for Toulon, in order to resume the exploration of Tropical Africa, and to discover the sources of the river just named. They will stay for some time Saint Louis, the chief town of the Senegal settlements, and recruit a number of Laptots chosen from among the negroes engaged under the French colours. The expedition is supported by the Society of Geography, private subscriptions, and a small grant given by the French Government. The principal resource is the sale of objects of natural history, which are so numerous in a country rich in plants, birds, and animals of every description. They are to be sent to M. Bouvier, the well-known naturalist of Paris, and catalogues will from time to time be circulated. The exploration will last for five years.

M. LEVERRIER has published in the Paris papers a notice intimating that the Observatory will be opened for observations three times a week, from half-past seven, weather permitting. Two large telescopes are placed at the disposal of visitors, who may procure a letter of admission by writing to the Secretary of the Observatory.

THE reforms which the French Minister of Public Instruction is preparing for the next University term are so numerous that no holidays will be granted to the *employés* of the Ministry of Public Instruction this year.

THE French Government have published in the *Journal Officiel* of August 24 a decree notifying the precautions to be observed by manufacturers of explosives in which dynamite is the base. The precautions, which are numerous, have been most carefully drawn up by a special commission, and are worthy of general attention.

IN the Paris International Maritime Exhibition there is a small object deserving of notice. It is a platinum wire placed in a bottle and ignited by electricity from a bichromate battery. It is intended to be immersed in the sea, and the light emanating from it is said to attract an immense number of fishes. Experiments have been tried lately on the coast of the Côtes du Nord department with a fishing-boat, and have proved very satisfactory, on a bank of sardines. The glass must be green or black, otherwise the fish are frightened by the glare and do not follow the submarine light.

THE *Civilian* states that Major-Gen. Cameron, R.E., C.B., has been appointed Director of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and Ireland.

THE Russian expedition to Hissar has resulted in a complete elucidation, from a scientific point of view, of the questions connected with the Hissar and Kuliaba rivers. All the important towns in the country have been visited, astronomical observations have been taken at fourteen places, and the members of the expedition are in a position to draw up a complete map of the country. Moreover, a map of military routes has been draughted and an entomological collection has been made. The Expedition has discovered that the Turkham river, whose very existence was so long doubted by geographers, is one of the most important tributaries to the Amu, and that the Drongate Pass, now called Busgol Kham, fully bears out the formidable accounts of Asiatic travellers.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include five Bonnet Monkeys (*Macacus radiatus*) from India; a Yellow Baboon (*Cynocephalus tabouin*), and a Sykes's Monkey (*Cercopithecus albicularis*), from W. Africa, presented by Mr. J. B. Tunnard; a Common Marmoset (*Leopoldus jacchus*) from S. E. Brazil, presented by Mrs. Puente; a Darwin's Pucras (*Pucrasia darwini*) from China; an Indian Cobra (*Naja tripudians*) from India, deposited; and an Axis Deer (*Cervus axis*) born in the Gardens.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

PARIS

Academy of Sciences, August 23.—M. Frémy in the chair. The following papers were read:—Comparison of the theory of Saturn with the observations; Tables of Saturn's motion; by M. Leverrier.—Theorems into which a condition of equality of two rectilinear segments enters, by M. Chasles.—MM. Ch. Galbruner, F. Crôte, and Lestevenon, made several communications with regard to Phylloxera.—A note by M. Declat on the pathological use of phenylic acid, and of phenylate of ammonia.—A note by M. de Fonvielle on a new method to determine the path described by a balloon.—On the integration of a system of equations with partial differentials, by M. N. Nicolaidès.—On the trisection of an angle by aid of the compass, by M. Ed. Lucas.—On the properties of the diameters of wave-surfaces and the physical interpretation of these properties, by M. A. Mannheim.—On a compound of platinum, tin, and oxygen, analogous to Cassius' gold purple (platinostannic oxide of M. Dumas), by MM. B. Delachanal and A. Mermet.—On bankoul oil, by M. E. Heckel.—A reply to M. Gauthier's objections regarding the rôle of carbonic acid in the spontaneous coagulation of blood, by MM. E. Mathieu and V. Urbain.—Note on the last elements at which it is possible to arrive by histological analysis of striated muscles; by M. A. Ronjon.—On the shooting stars of August, 1875, by M. Chapelas.

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