

attempted during the whole of the proceedings, which lasted about a quarter of an hour, to bite the frog. The frog was removed quite uninjured, but apparently exhausted either by fear or by muscular exertion.

T. MARTYR

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Hybrids between the Black Grouse and the Pheasant

In Yarrell's "British Birds," 4th ed. vol. iii. p. 69 *seq.*, a number of hybrids between the cock pheasant and the gray hen are enumerated as having occurred in England. Being desirous to give a life-sized and coloured figure of such a hybrid in my forthcoming work on the black grouse, the capercaillie, and their allies, I wish to borrow a specimen for a short time, and, as my endeavours to procure one have so far been unsuccessful, I beg to make this known through your widely read journal, hoping that some fortunate possessor may be kind enough to communicate with me concerning his willingness to lend me a specimen for the said purpose.

A. B. MEYER

Royal Zoological Museum, Dresden, July 5

THE FINSBURY TECHNICAL COLLEGE CONVERSAZIONE

THE annual *conversazione* given by the students of the above College as the closing event of the session came off on Friday evening, July 2, and proved in every way a success. The large number of interesting objects brought together for exhibition certainly speaks well for the activity of the various committees which were intrusted with the work of organisation, and at the same time indicates how widely spread is the interest shown in the welfare of the College by the different firms of manufacturers who contributed to the exhibition. The electrical department exhibited in action most of the apparatus used for educational purposes in the College. In this department also were exhibits of apparatus and models by Messrs. Woodhouse and Rawson, the Electric Apparatus Company, Messrs. Mayfield's vacuum-tubes, and other electrical and physical apparatus made by this firm. The exhibits in the chemical department were especially numerous and representative of chemical technology in most of its branches. In the way of apparatus Messrs. Cetti, of Brooke Street, exhibited barometers, thermometers, vacuum-tubes, &c.; Messrs. Townson and Mercer showed a new carbonic acid generator, Schutzenberger's gas apparatus, filter pumps, nickel crucibles and basins, Pasteur flasks, inland revenue stills, Abel's petroleum testing apparatus, &c.; and Mr. B. Redwood lent a set of viscometers. Fine chemicals were exhibited by Messrs. Hopkin and Williams, and a splendid set of alkaloids and other products by Messrs. Howard of Stratford. Messrs. Pontifex and Wood exhibited sets of pigments and the materials used in their manufacture, Mr. C. Richardson a set of specimens illustrating the manufacture of cements, Mr. Ashley samples of English and foreign lubricating oils, and Messrs. J. and L. Cripps the materials and finished products representing the manufacture of size, glue, and gelatine. Glass manufacture was represented by a set of tools and specimens from the Whitefriars glass-works (Messrs. Powell). Messrs. Field showed a fine series of waxes and other materials used in candle-making, and a good exhibition was made also by Price's Patent Candle Company. The manufacture of soap was illustrated by a very complete set of specimens contributed from Messrs. E. Rider Cook's works at Bow and by Messrs. Knight, &c. Cotton seed and its products were shown by Messrs. W. and W. H. Stead of Blackwall and Liverpool. The specimens and diagrams sent by Gaskell, Deacon, and Co., of Widnes, gave an excellent idea of the alkali manufacture in this country.

The collection of coal-tar products was especially rich, specimens having been sent by the Badische Company, the Hoechst Colour Works, Messrs. Brooke, Simpson,

and Spiller, the British Alizarine Company, and Messrs. Burt, Boulton, and Haywood. The latter firm exhibited a splendid model of their timber creosoting plant. Amongst other tar products was a set of preparations of the new sweetening substance, saccharine, sent by Dr. Fahlberg. The Broadburn Oil Company showed a very complete set of shale products. The sugar industry was represented by a set of polarimeters, models and specimens, exhibited by Mr. Newlands of the Clyde Wharf Sugar Refinery, and by the Beetroot Sugar Association. In the course of the evening Prof. S. P. Thompson gave a lecture on waves of light and Mr. John Castell-Evans discoursed on explosives. The entertainment was on the whole highly creditable to the College, and many of the firms who sent objects for exhibition have signified their approval by presenting their exhibits to the establishment as lecture specimens.

THE RECENT DISCOVERIES AT TIRYNS¹

THE excavations made during the last two years at Tiryns, by Dr. Schliemann and Dr. Dörpfeld, have thrown new light on what has been hitherto an almost unknown period of Greek history—that far-off time, more remote even than the age of the Homeric poems, when Hellenic civilisation had not yet emerged from its Oriental cradle, nor developed its highly cultured systems of social and political government out of the splendid but semi-barbarous tyrannies of Western Asia Minor.

The literature of Greece has made us familiar with the later times, when the individual was for the most part merged in the State, and when the wealth and artistic skill of each city was devoted to public uses, such as the Council-chamber, the Agora, or the stately temples of the gods, rather than to the luxury of any one person.

But at Tiryns a very different picture is presented to us: we see a single autocratic chieftain, ruling in a sort of feudal state, and occupying a magnificent palace, surrounded by the humbler dwellings of his circle of retainers; while, instead of the utmost resources of the architect, the sculptor, and the painter being lavished on the shrine of the presiding deity, a mere open-air altar is dedicated to the god, and it is the chieftain's house which is decked out with the splendours of gilt bronze, marble sculpture, and painted walls.

The rock in the marshy plains of Argolis, on which stands the citadel of Tiryns, is about three miles distant from the Gulf of Nauplia, and commands an extensive view reaching from Argos, with its rich olive-groves, to Mycenæ on its lofty crags, and, between the two, the once prosperous sea-port of Nauplia, by the blue waters of its sheltered bay.

The massive fortification wall which surrounds the Tirynthian Rock was an object of wonder and admiration in the earliest historic times of Greece: its enormous stones keenly aroused the Greek imagination, and created legends which attributed them to mysterious Cyclopean builders, and peopled the walls with the demi-gods of the heroic age, such as Perseus and Heracles, whose early youth was fabled to have been spent in the Tirynthian city—the *Τίρυνς τερχιόεσσα* of Homer's "Iliad." This wonderful wall, some stones of which are no less than 11 feet long and 4 feet thick, was originally nearly 50 feet high at its loftiest part, measuring from its base outside: inside the city the height was very much less, as its lower part acted as a retaining wall, which kept up the loose earth which formed a level interior surface above the irregular contour of the rock.

The southern part of the Acropolis wall, where it incloses the great palace, is a very complicated structure,

¹ "The Prehistoric Palace of the Kings of Tiryns." The results of the latest excavations, by Dr. Henry Schliemann. The preface by Prof. F. Adler, and contributions by Dr. Wm. Dörpfeld. With 188 woodcuts, 24 plates in chromolithography, 1 map, and 4 Plans. (London: John Murray, 1886).