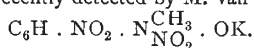


VIENNA.

Imperial Academy of Sciences, May 9.—The following papers were read:—On the preparation of indol from phenylglycocoll, by J. Mauthner and W. Suida.—On amides of carbonic acid (second communication), by F. Emich.—On the knowledge of some non-drying oils, by K. Hazura and A. Gruessner.—On the transplantation of bone, by A. Adamkiewicz.—On nerve-corpuscles in their physiological and pathological state, by the same.—Experiments on the decomposition of albumen by anaërobous micro-organisms, and on the aromatic products of decomposition, by the same.—Contribution to the knowledge of gases developed by the fermentation of albumen, by M. Nencki and N. Sieber.—On the formation of para-lactic acid by the fermentation of sugar, by the same.—On benzoyl-compounds of alcohols, phenols, and sugars, by Zd. H. Skraup.—On the constitution of grape-sugar, by the same.—Experimental researches on the periodic law, Part I, by B. Brauner.—Researches on musical psychology and acoustics, by K. Stecker.—Preparatory studies for a monograph on *Muscaria schizometopa*; Part I, synopsis of genera, by F. Brauer and J. von Bergenstamm.—On the crystals of grape-sugar and optically-active substances in general, by F. Becke.—On new improvements of the usual process of combustion, by F. Blau.—Note on the preparation of mono- and dibromo-pyridin, by the same.—On dry distillation of picolinate of copper, by the same.—On a new test for albuminous bodies, by C. Reichel.—Monograph on the fossorial wasps allied with Nysson and *Bembex*, by A. Handlirsch.—Embryological researches on Ascomycetes, by H. Zukal.

AMSTERDAM.

Royal Academy of Sciences, June 29.—Prof. v. d. Waals, Vice-President, in the chair.—M. Franchimont stated that, as early as the beginning of this year, he prepared the pentamethylene glycol, its oxide, and an unsaturated alcohol of five C-atoms, by boiling pentamethylene dinitramine with diluted sulphuric acid, as also the bromide agreeing with the glycol; and that M. Dekkers had treated the tetramethylene-dinitramine in the same manner. The properties of the pentamethylene glycol agree with those published a few days ago by M. Gustavson, who obtained this compound by another method. He spoke further of the action of nitric acid on carbonic and nitrogenic compounds, and of the influence exercised upon them by certain atomic groups. As instances of carbonic compounds he cited malonic acid esters and their derivatives; of nitrogenic compounds, all kinds of amides, urethanes, &c., so that the extraordinary strong influence of the group COOCH_3 appears most clearly, even in the derivatives of piperidine.—M. Pekelharing treated of the destruction of the virus of anthrax in the subcutaneous tissues of rabbits. Small pieces of gelose with a culture of anthrax bacilli, whether containing spores or not, packed in parchment-paper, introduced under the skin in rabbits, not only do not superinduce anthrax in the inoculated animals, but are themselves deprived of virulence. This is the case even when the wound remains perfectly aseptic, of course without application of any antiseptic matter. Leucocytes penetrate into the packets, but the bacilli or spores are not materially affected thereby. Therefore, next to the phagocytose, whose existence is nowise denied, the action of a dissolved substance for the destruction of bacilli must be taken into account.—M. de Vries read a paper on the spiral torsion in wild teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*). In opposition to the prevalent opinion, which regards the cases of spiral torsion (called by Alex. Braun *Zwangsdrehung*) as accidents, the speaker deemed himself justified in regarding this phenomenon as an hereditary variation; and this in consequence of an experiment begun by him in 1885 with two twisted individuals. From the seed of the same about 1650 plants were reared in 1887, among which were again two twisted specimens. The seed of these gave in 1889 above 1500 plants, among which were found a little more than 4 per cent. of twisted individuals. The torsion is, therefore, not only hereditary, but will gradually become fixed by the customary method of artificial selection. From the 4 per cent. twisted specimens the best have been selected for seed bearers further to improve the race.—M. van Bemmelen mentioned the results obtained by M. Bakhuijs Roozeboom in the pursuit of his researches concerning the behaviour of salts with regard to water. The normal course of the solubility may be disturbed by the appearance of a second layer of fluid when the salt and water are not mixed in all proportions. Mr. Bakhuijs Roozeboom succeeded in illustrating the peculiarities of the behaviour in such cases in two examples: AsBr_3 , and a salt recently detected by M. van Romburgh—



BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED

Names and Synonyms of British Plants; G. Egerton-Warburton (Bell).—Swiss Travel and Swiss Guide Books; W. A. B. Coolidge (Longmans).—The Human Foot; T. S. Ellis (Churchill).—The Railways of England; W. M. Acworth (Murray).—Farm Live-Stock of Great Britain; R. Wallace (Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd).—La Lutte pour l'Existence; L. Ferrero (Paris, Baillière).—Modern Views of Electricity; O. J. Lodge (Macmillan).—Traité Pratique de la Thermométrie de Précision; C. E. Guillaumet (Paris, Gauthier-Villars).—An Elementary Class-book of General Geography; H. R. Mill (Macmillan).—The Micro-organisms of Fermentation practically considered; A. Jürgensen; edited from the German by G. H. Morris (Lyon).—Useful Rules and Tables, 7th edition; by W. J. M. Rankine; revised by W. J. Millar, with Electrical Engineering Tables, &c., by A. Jamieson (Griffin).—Dianthus; F. N. Williams (West).—Psycho-Physiologische Proctisten-Studien; Dr. Max Verworn (Jena, Fischer).—Œuvres Complètes de Christian Huygens, tome deuxième (La Haye, M. Nijhoff).—British Rainfall, 1888; G. J. Symons (Stanford).—Solutions of the Examples in Higher Algebra; H. S. Hall and S. R. Knight (Macmillan).—Timber and Some of its Diseases; H. M. Ward (Macmillan).—Index of Spectra, revised edition; W. M. Watts (Manchester, A. Heywood).—Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales, vol. xxii, Part 2 (Trübner).—Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, June (Stanford).

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