Society, in which I have every confidence, takes any action in this matter, I have no wish to participate in the controversy, and have but little doubt that the simple publication in your columns of the enclosed correspondence, without any comment from me, will be quite sufficient to enable the readers of NATURE to form a correct opinion as to the manner in which my book has been made to serve the purposes of the Victoria Street Anti-Vivisection Society.

PERCY F. FRANKLAND.

University College, Dundee, July 15.

"The committee of the Victoria Street Anti-Vivisection Society have issued the following protest to the members of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge against a work recently published by that Society, and concerning which the Lord Chief Justice has written the letter appended :—

20, *Victoria Street, London, S.W., July* 1893.

Sir (or Madam),—The attention of the Committee of the above society has lately been drawn to a book issued by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge entitled "Our Secret Friends and Foes," the author of which, Dr. Percy Faraday Frankland, held a license last year as a practical vivisector.

My committee consider that the following extracts sufficiently show that the book is calculated to encourage the unjustifiable and demoralising practice of experimenting on living animals :—

"Nicolaier was the first to discover that certain bacilli, widely distributed in the superficial layers of soil, were capable when subcutaneously inoculated into mice, guinea-pigs, and rabbits, of setting up symptons typical of tetanus from which they subsequently died." (Page 123.)

"Rabbits and guinea-pigs inoculated with some (spider's) web . . . . died under particularly well-defined symptoms of tetanus." (Page 126).

Again, with regard to the Pasteur methods, which, from their nature, must involve great torture of animals, we read :—

"Numerous investigators have succeeded in calling forth many of the symptoms of a disease by injecting the products of these organisms" (Page 140.)

On page 148 there is the following passage referring to the establishment of Pasteur Institutes :—

"Such institutions have been established in Russia, Hungary, Italy, Sicily, Brazil, Mexico, Turkey, the United States, and Roumania, whilst in Great Britain, to our unutterable disgrace, we are in this respect behind the unspeakable Turk, and the semi-barbarous subjects of the Czar."

That a Pasteur Institute has not yet been established in England, in spite of repeated efforts on the part of the vivisecting school, is greatly to the credit of this country, for such an institution would result in an enormous increase in the number of painful experiments on God's innocent creatures.

My committee are of opinion that the teaching of this book is opposed to the objects of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and I am directed earnestly to urge you, if you consider the objections to the book are valid, to write the Secretary, Editorial Department, S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C., and protest against the continued publication of it.—I am, Sir (or Madam), your obedient servant,

BENJN. BRYAN, Secretary.

The following is the letter from the Lord Chief Justice of England :—

1, *Sussex Square, W., June* 27.

Madam,—I have signed this paper, not exactly with pleasure, for the whole subject is utterly odious to me, but with great willingness. I have never seen any reason to change or qualify the opinions I expressed many years ago in an article on vivisection which your society reprinted. Should the book in question not be withdrawn by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, I shall at once withdraw myself from it, as it will, in my judgment, become a Society for the Promotion of Unchristian Knowledge. Very good men, I am quite aware, take a different view, and will continue to support the society ; but a man, however obscure, must act upon his convictions, especially when they have not been hastily taken up and are not quite ignorantly maintained.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant (Signed) COLERIDGE. Miss Monro."

Oyster-Culture and Temperature.

IT may interest some of your readers to know that there has been an unusually heavy deposit of oyster spat just now on the collectors (tiles) along this west coast of France. Some of the tiles I have seen during the last few days have been very densely crowded over with the little amber-coloured scales. The oyster breeders both at Arcachon and at Point de Chapus, men of long experience, attribute the special abundance of the spat this season to the continuous hot weather.

The calmness of the sea at the time when the embryos were set free may also have had something to do with an unusually large number passing safely through the critical larval stages.

The temperature of the sea on various parts of the oyster "parcs" at Arcachon last Monday was from 80° to 90° F., and out in the open to-day, half-way between the islands of Oleron and Ré, I find it is 72° F. However, it may be hoped that although temperatures like these may be favourable, they are not necessary for successful oyster breeding.

W. A. HERDMAN.

St. Pierre Ile d'Oleron, France, July 7.

The Diffusion Photometer.

IN the discussion before the Physical Society of June 9, a photometer made of paraffin blocks is mentioned as "The Jolly Photometer." I think, however, that this is the photometer described by me in the *Philosophical Magazine* some two or three years ago ; also in the proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society, and exhibited before the British Association on the occasion of their meeting at Bath. I cannot now give exact references, but I must be pardoned for calling attention to the mistake, as it has been made before by a high authority, and seems likely to be perpetuated in England.

It is correctly described in Wiedemann and Ebert's "Physikalisches Praktikum," recently published (p. 217).

Bonn, July 12. J. JOLY.

P.S.—I have no objection to the prefix if written with a small letter.

[We followed the spelling of the word contained in the official report of the Physical Society.—ED.]

ALPHONSE DE CANDOLLE.

THOUGH this notice is somewhat belated, the passing away of a figure so conspicuous as De Candolle in the European world of science cannot be permitted to receive no more sympathetic notice than a bare record of the fact.

Alphonse Louis Pierre Pyramus de Candolle, to give him his full name, died on April 4 at his house in the Cour de St. Pierre at Geneva, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. If his bodily vigour had of late somewhat failed, he preserved his scientific interests and mental activity up to the last. Only the week before his death I received a letter from him, in which there was no indication of failing vitality, and in which he wrote without anxiety of the work that he had in hand.

So many of us have grown up under the shadow of De Candolle, that it seems almost a kind of impiety to sit down and coldly measure his stature. To me it seems that in a manner his death closes an epoch. With him passes away the last great representative of the French School of Botanical Taxonomy—to which, through Bentham, the English was in a great measure affiliated—and which had its root in Lamarck, whom the world in general scarcely realises as a botanist.

Geneva has long been remarkable as the home of a number of families whose members have cultivated science with distinction. These are for the most part descendants of French Protestants who have emigrated from the south of France. Amongst these the De Candolles stand out in pre-eminence ; the third generation still sees them in the front rank of the scientific world.

Alphonse de Candolle's father, Augustin Pyramus, was a man who would have been remarkable in any age. Gifted with astonishing energy and enthusiasm, a singular power of grasping and co-ordinating large masses of detail, and indefatigable industry, his buoyant charm of manner inspired even the citizens of Geneva with interest and conviction in the supreme importance of taxonomic studies.