

arrangement of the gizzard in birds.—Jacques **Pellegrin**: The distribution of the soft-water fishes in Africa.—Paul **Marchal**: Spanandria and the obliteration of sexual reproduction in Chermes.—M. **Bordas**: Considerations on the reagents employed for the determination of blood stains in legal medicine. Remarks in confirmation of the views put forward in a recent paper by A. Sartory on the unsatisfactory nature of various colour reactions in use for the detection of blood stains.—Y. **Manouelian**: Researches on the pathology of arterio-sclerous lesions.—L. **Launoy** and C. **Levaditi**: Mercurial treatment of experimental syphilis of the rabbit and of Brazilian spirillosis.—Albert **Berthelot**: Researches on the intestinal flora. Isolation of the micro-organisms which specially attack the ultimate products of the digestion of proteids.—Em. **de Martonne**: The principles of morphological analysis of erosion levels applied to the Alpine valleys.

CALCUTTA.

Asiatic Society of Bengal, July 5.—R. C. **Mazumdar**: The Stambhesvari. Mr. Mazumdar identifies the goddess Stambhesvari, whose name is to be found in the copper-plate inscriptions of Kulastambhadeva and Ranastambhadeva, with a goddess still worshipped by some aboriginal tribes.—D. **Hooper**: Phosphorus in Indian foodstuffs. This paper is the result of an inquiry, made in collaboration with Major E. D. W. Greig, into the diet of patients suffering from epidemic dropsy in Calcutta in 1909-10. The amount of phosphorus in the form of phosphoric anhydride is given in several samples of rice, wheat, and other cereal grains, as well as in animal foods, farinaceous foods, vegetables, nuts, and fruits consumed in India.—W. **Kirkpatrick**: Folk songs and folk lore of the Gehara (Kanjars).

CAPE TOWN.

Royal Society of South Africa, June 21.—Dr. Marius Wilson in the chair.—E. P. **Phillips**: A note on the principal systematic work and publications dealing with the South African Proteaceæ. The first recorded publication of a member of this order was by Clusius in 1605. In 1720 Boerhaave attempted a systematic study of the order, but it was not until 1809 that a really scientific monograph was published by Salisbury; in the following year appeared the classic work of Robert Brown. The standard work on the order is a monograph by Dr. Meisner, which appeared in De Candolle's "Prodromus" in 1856, where 279 species are described. The writer undertook to revise the order, and has recorded between 300 and 400 species of the genera *Diastella*, *Salisb.*, and *Orothamnus*. *Pappe*, sunk by Meisner, have been re-established, and one new genus, *Spatalopsis*, Phillips, founded.—J. **Moir**: The spectrum of the ruby, part ii., and the artificial ruby. By examination of the ruby with better instruments, the complete spectrum of eight hair lines has been discovered; they are best seen in the artificial ruby, which is identical with the natural ruby in all respects, and when free from flaws is actually superior to the natural gem.—J. **Moir**: Notes on the spectrum of the precious emerald, and other gem stones. The emerald spectrum contains three very distinct hair lines in the red. Sapphires have no hair lines in their spectrum. Artificial emeralds are green sapphires, and have an indefinite spectrum, as is also the case with the following:—rubellite, spinel, amethyst, fluor, aquamarine, rose-quartz, lepidolite, and topaz. The almandine spectrum has been re-examined.—J. R. **Sutton**: A note on the land and sea breezes of South Africa.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES.

AUGUST.—Centenary of the Foundation of the University of Breslau.
AUGUST 12-18.—First International Congress of Pedology. Brussels. President: M. Alexis Sluys. Secretary: M. Vital Plas, 35 Avenue Paul de Jaer, Brussels.
AUGUST 13-20.—Prehistoric Society of France. Nîmes.
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 6.—British Association. Portsmouth. President: Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., F.R.S. Address for inquiries: General Secretaries, Burlington House, W.

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SEPTEMBER 4-6.—Centenary of the University of Christiania. President of Festival Committee: Prof. Brøgger.

SEPTEMBER 9-20.—International Congress of the Applications of Electricity. Turin. President of the Committee of Honour: H.R.H. the Duke of the Abruzzi. Honorary Secretary of the Committee: Signor Guido Semenza, Via S. Paolo 10, Milano. International Secretary: Col. R. E. Crompton, C.B., R.E., Crompton Laboratory, Kensington Court, W.

SEPTEMBER 12-15.—Celebration of the Five-hundredth Anniversary of the University of St. Andrews.

SEPTEMBER 18-23.—International Conference of Genetics. Paris. President: Dr. Viger. Secretary: M. Philippe de Vilmorin.

OCTOBER 2-7.—Third International Congress of Hygiene. Dresden. General Secretary: Dr. Hopf, Reichsstrasse 4, Dresden.

OCTOBER 12-18.—Italian Society for the Advancement of Science. Rome. President: Prof. G. Ciamician. General Secretary: Prof. V. Reina, Via del Collegio Romano 26, Roma.

OCTOBER 15-22.—Tenth International Geographical Congress. Rome. President: Marquis Raffaele Cappelli. General Secretary: Commander Giovanni Roncaqli, Italian Geographical Society, Rome.

DECEMBER 27.—American Association for the Advancement of Science. President: Dr. C. E. Bessey, University of Nebraska. Permanent Secretary: Dr. L. O. Howard, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

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