

for traces of parasitic fungi and malformation caused by insects, but with negative results. The provisional inference is drawn that this malformation was caused more or less directly through malnutrition of the plant, which was growing in droughty country.—**E. W. Skeats**: The age of the alkali rocks of Port Cygnet and the D'Entrecasteaux Channel in the south-east of Tasmania. The previous evidence of the age of the alkali rocks of this district pointed to the Permo-Carboniferous or Trias, since they did not appear to intrude the diabase. Fresh evidence is now recorded which shows, at Kettering, that these rocks cut the diabase, and are therefore referred to a Cainozoic age.—**A. D. Hardy**: Teratological notes on Victorian plants. The author described a number of abnormal occurrences as affecting root, stem, branch, and fruit of indigenous flora, chiefly of the genus *Eucalyptus*. Fasciation in *Exocarpus gracilis* and spiral torsion in *Casuarina stricta* were noted.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

La Réforme Rationnelle de l'Heure. By E. Désortiaux. Pp. 14. (Paris: Gauthier-Villars.)

Seven Doubts of a Biologist. By S. A. McDowell. Pp. 64. (London: Longmans and Co.) 1s. net.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia. Vol. xxxix. Pp. 892+70 plates +50 figures. (Adelaide: The Society.) 21s.

British Antarctic Expedition, 1907-9. Reports on the Scientific Investigations. Geology. Vol. ii., Contributions to the Palæontology and Petrology of South Victoria Land. By W. N. Benson and others. Pp. vii+269+38 plates+18 figures; also index to vols. i. and ii. (London: W. Heinemann.) 3 guineas net.

The Causation of Sex in Man. By E. R. Dawson. Second edition. Pp. xiv+226+illustrations. (London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd.) 7s. 6d. net.

Bacon's New Series of Physical Wall Atlases. British Isles. (London: G. W. Bacon and Co., Ltd.) 26s.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Industrial Finance after the War: Prof. H. S. Foxwell.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 6.—High-tension Overhead Transmission Lines: G. V. Twiss.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—A New Series of Economic Maps: G. Philip.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.30.—The Organs of Hearing in relation to the War: Dr. Dundas Grant.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Principles of Aerial Navigation: Prof. G. H. Bryan.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—Note on the General Equation for Wave Motion in an Elastic Medium: Prof. J. A. Fleming.—The Effect of Stretching on the Thermal Conductivity of Wires: A. Johnstone.—Cohesion: Prof. H. Chatley.

MONDAY, APRIL 30.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 4.30.—The National Shortage of Iron Ore Supplies. I.: Available Home Supplies of Iron Ore: Prof. W. G. Fearnside.

TUESDAY, MAY 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Tetanus: Prof. C. S. Sherrington.

FARADAY SOCIETY, at 8.—Discussion: Osmotic Pressure: Opener: Prof. A. W. Porter.—Papers: The Colloidal Membrane: Its Properties and its Function in the Osmotic System: Dr. F. Tinker.—Osmotic Pressure in Relation to the Constitution of Water and the Hydrates of the Solute: W. R. Bousfield.

RÖNTGEN SOCIETY, at 8.15.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.

ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, at 5.—Some Human and Animal Bones, Flint Implements, etc., discovered in Two Ancient Occupation-levels in a Small Valley near Ipswich: J. Reid Moir.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.—Supplementary Notes on *Acilina*, *De Koninck*, and *Aciloides*, Donald, with Descriptions of New Species: J. Longstaff.—The Microscopic Material of the Bunter Pebble Beds of Nottinghamshire, and its probable Source of Origin: T. H. Burton.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 4.30.—Herb-growing in the British Empire: Its Past, Present, and Future: J. C. Shenstone.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.

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INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, at 5.30.—James Forrest Lecture: The Standardisation of Engineering Materials, and its Influence on the Prosperity of the Country: Sir J. Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS, at 8.—The Estimation of Phenacetin and Allied Compounds by means of Hypochlorous Acid: A. D. Powell.—A Rapid Method for the Determination of Nickel and Cobalt in Ores and Alloys: Dr. W. R. Schoeller and A. R. Powell.—Note on Opium Poisoning Cases: J. Webster.

THURSDAY, MAY 3.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—Croonian Lecture: The Excitation Wave in the Heart: Dr. Thomas Lewis.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Pagan Religion at the Time of Coming of Christianity: Prof. Gilbert Murray.

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.

IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, at 10.30 a.m.—Steel Ingot Defects: J. N. Kilby.—Influence of Surface Tension on the Properties of Metals, especially of Iron and Steel: F. C. Thompson.

INSTITUTE OF METALS, at 8.30.—Seventh May Lecture: Researches made Possible by the Autographic Load-Extension Optical Indicator: Prof. W. E. Dalby.

FRIDAY, MAY 4.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.30.—Some Guarantees of Liberty: H. Wickham Steed.

IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, at 10 a.m.—The Penetration of the Hardening Effect in Chromium and Copper Steels: L. Grenet.—Cementation by Gas under Pressure: F. C. Langenberg.—Origin and Development of the Railway Rail: G. P. Raidabaugh.—Case Hardening of Iron by Boron: N. Tschischewsky.—Determination of the Line S.E. in the Iron-Carbon Diagram by Etching Sections at High Temperatures *in vacuo*: N. Tschischewsky and N. Schulgin.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION, at 7.30.—The Correlation of the Ingletonian States: J. F. N. Green.—The Landslips of Folkestone Warren and the Thickness of the Lower Chalk and Gault near Dover: C. W. Osman.

SATURDAY, MAY 5.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Electrical Properties of Gases: Sir J. J. Thomson.

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