

At Oxford, the theological section of the Examination Statute has been rejected, and will, therefore, have to be considerably modified before it can become law.

MR. NEWBY has in preparation three new novels, 'Langley Manor,' by Mrs. C. J. Newby; 'The Bridal Bar,' by J. Pantou Hain; and 'Sweet Bells Jangled.'

THE Welsh Liberals have resolved to start a daily paper. At present Wales has only one daily paper, the *Western Mail*, and that is Conservative in politics.

DR. E. MALL has just published, at Breslau, his new critical edition of his short thirteenth-century mystery, 'The Harrowing of Hell,' from the Digby and other MSS. In a careful description of its forms, he determines the dialect to be East Midland, and he has appended full notes on the text, the history of the subject, &c.

IN our "Literary Gossip," page 82, col. 1, the name of "M. Théophile" was by an oversight put for that of M. Léon Gautier.

MR. H. VAN LAUN'S translation of M. Taine's 'History of English Literature,' which we noticed a fortnight since, took him nearly four years to make, as he verified every quotation, and corrected such errors as there were in the original. We hope that M. van Laun will publish a carefully considered abridgment of M. Taine's work.

M. G. KØRTING has just published an old French translation of Ovid's 'Remedia Amoris,' from the Dresden MS. of it. M. Joly has, by the publication of the second volume, completed his edition of 'Benoit de Sainte-More and the Romance of Troy.'

THE first number of the new French anti-quarian Quarterly, the *Romania*, is now ready.

FIFTY madrigals, hitherto unpublished, addressed by Torquato Tasso to Bianca Capello, Grand-Duchess of Tuscany, of romantic celebrity, have been printed at Florence. The edition, however, is limited to 250 copies, and is not for sale.

IN Rome, the foundation is projected of a kind of International Literary Club, at the head of which Count Terenzio Mamiani's name appears.

AMONGST new French publications we note — 'Moralistes et Philosophes,' by M. Adolphe Franck, of the Paris Institut; 'Mirabeau et la Constitution,' written by M. H. Reynald; 'La Femme Grecque,' by Mdlle. Clarisse Bader; the 'Études d'Archéologie Celtique,' by the historian, M. Henri Martin; and M. Littré's interesting volume, entitled 'Médecine et Médecins.'

GENERAL D'AURELLE DE PALADINES has finished his work, entitled 'La Première Armée de la Loire,' and it has been published by Henri Plon, in Paris, in a large volume, illustrated by four maps.

SIGNOR CASTELLI, the director of the principal printing-office at Cairo, has presented a complete set of Arabic publications to the National Library at Florence. As his establishment is entirely a private enterprise, his selection of books is a fair criterion of the taste of the Egyptian literary public. From the list in the official *Gazette*, it would appear to consist chiefly of works of sterling value, comprising numerous treatises of Mussul-

man divinity, philosophy, and jurisprudence. One of the latter is of especial interest to Englishmen, being a collection of legal decisions in Indian Courts, compiled by order of the Emperor Aurungzebe. There are also several historical and grammatical works, and some volumes of classical Arabic poetry. We do not observe any translations from European languages.

IT is curious to observe that some of the simplest institutions make slow progress. The journals of a large and intelligent community, the citizens of Santiago, in Chile, are describing in strong terms the new plan of a Valparaiso bookseller to let out books for reading. His terms are to be four shillings per month, and books may be kept out for two months. It may, however, be noted that for some time public libraries have been encouraged by the State, and these are now becoming common in the great towns of Chile.

THE Indian papers report that the Rev. M. A. Sherring is about to publish a work, 'On the Hindoo Tribes and Castes of India, as Represented at Benares.'

A NEW illustrated periodical is preparing for Madrid, to be named *El Americano*, and to advocate South American interests, and represent Spanish American literature and civilization. The capital of 5,000*l.* has just been subscribed in 100 shares, 60 in Chile, and 40 in Peru. The managers are Mr. Hector Varela and Mr. Castelar. It is stated the illustrations are to be made in Paris, and, if we understand rightly, the printing is also to be carried on there.

SCIENCE

DR. BAIRD.

BY the death of Dr. William Baird, F.R.S., which took place on the 27th of January, after a long and painful illness, an excellent naturalist has been lost to the world of science. Born at Eccles, in Berwickshire, in the year 1803, educated at Edinburgh, he received in 1823 an appointment as surgeon from the East India Company. This led to his visiting India, China, and many other countries, the natural history of which he carefully studied, having been an enthusiastic naturalist from his youth upwards. In 1831 he published a paper 'On the Luminosity of the Sea,' in *Loudon's Magazine of Natural History*, and from that time became a frequent contributor to the scientific journals, more especially to the *Transactions* of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. In 1838 he compiled a 'Cyclopædia of the Natural Sciences.' In September, 1841, he was appointed an Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum, in which capacity he remained till his death. In 1851 his monograph on the British Entomostracous Crustacea, a work of great ability and research, was published by the Ray Society. Between the years 1838 and 1863 he contributed a number of papers on the Entomostraca to the 'Annals of Natural History,' and the *Proceedings* of the Zoological Society. During the latter years of his life his attention was principally given to the Entozoa, of the then known species of which he had as early as 1843 drawn up a catalogue, which was published by the Trustees of the British Museum. Numerous papers on the same subject were also contributed by him to the *Proceedings* of the Zoological Society, the *Transactions* of the Linnean Society, &c. Latterly he was engaged in preparing a general catalogue of the Entozoa, for which he had accumulated a vast amount of material, and which, if he had been able to bring his undertaking to a close, would have been a most

valuable contribution to science. But it is not merely by his publications that his great attainments must be judged. His knowledge of all the branches of natural history was equally extensive and profound, and his readiness in imparting it to other students will long be remembered by those who were in the habit of studying at the British Museum. As a man of science, he was as highly esteemed by scientific men as he was prized for his genial and kindly nature by all who knew him.

MOABITE STONES.

READERS of the *Times* were startled last week by a letter, signed Henry Lumley, and dated Jerusalem, November 30, which appeared in that paper in large type and in the most prominent place. The announcement it contained must have taken many persons' breath away. There had been found at Medeba, in Moab, a stone, probably set up by no less a person than Moses himself (who figured in it), to celebrate a triumph over that godless people, the Moabites. A M. Shapira, of Jerusalem, had read the document from end to end, and made out the thrilling manifesto which was destined to stand henceforth at the head of all and any inscriptions. Mr. Lumley, happening to be at Jerusalem, was prevailed upon to communicate this discovery, without a moment's delay, to the British public, and was further furnished with copies and "declarations of people who knew the history of the stone." On the following day, however, there appeared another letter from Mr. Lumley in the *Times*, though in a rather less prominent place, and in small type, which proved at least that, having become aware of the trick played upon him and the British public, that gentleman was anxious to set the matter straight at once. Having arrived in London, he stated in the second letter, he without delay submitted his precious copy to Mr. Deutsch, who, equally without delay, seems to have informed him that the tracing, bad as it was, left absolutely no doubt as to the inscription being a Nabatean one, a thing neither very old nor very rare, and of corresponding value. But, as if that were not enough humiliation for Mr. Lumley, and in order to check at once all morbid curiosity about this brand-new find, Mr. Deutsch informed him further that it had been published twice already, in the Statements of the Palestine Exploration Fund for March-June, 1870, and in the *Transactions* of the German Oriental Society for 1872; so that by this time a good many people were provided with this precious "autograph of Moses." "After this information," Mr. Lumley winds up his second letter to the *Times*, "I need hardly say that I took immediate steps to withdraw my letter to you, written under very different impressions, but, unluckily, it seems to have crept into your columns, after all." Unluckily, indeed! However, we have escaped a great danger, for we were by no means sure that a certain section of the public would so easily forego the chance of making new capital out of this hoax, and flooding the papers with grotesque imbecilities. As far as we learn, only the *Record* appears to have taken kindly to Mr. Lumley's first announcement. The rest of the press seem to have been as anxious as the persons immediately concerned to have this absurdity forgotten at once.

Meanwhile, may we ask, what has become of the real Moabite Stone? We hear the wild rumours about it. At all events M. Ganneau, in spite of having promised photographs of his materials just about two years ago, has not yet redeemed his pledge. He may, indeed, plead that the army of decipherers that fell upon his text, duly grateful for each new edition of which it pleased him to issue "with emendations," seem in this case to have altogether foregone the primary condition of decipherment — the sight of the original, or at least, a genuine rubbing or a photograph. Yet if we are not very much mistaken, even the most enthusiastic have become somewhat restive by this time. While the public at large have got some vague idea that, after all, the Moabite Stone may have been only a myth, the exhaustive labours of the

learned on Moab and all that concerns it (together with a few new readings and suggestions), have ceased, and, worst of all, M. Ganneau's staunchest defender and upholder against those few who preferred the text *an naturel* to that periodically furnished forth, with the latest corrections, by M. Ganneau,—even Prof. Schlottmann has, at the end of his very last treatise (against Hitzig) on the subject, come to the somewhat humiliating conclusion that it would be well if some competent person were to examine the document or documents in question independently.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Jan. 25.—Sir J. Paget, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Absolute Direction and Intensity of the Earth's Magnetic Force at Bombay and its Secular and Annual Variations,' by Mr. C. Chambers,—'On the Elimination of Alcohol,' by Dr. Dupré,—and 'On the Action of Low Temperatures on Super-saturated Solutions of Glauber's Salt,' by Mr. C. Tomlinson.

GEOLOGICAL.—Jan. 24.—J. Prestwich, Esq., President, in the chair.—Messrs. H. Ludlam and C. Whitehead were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read: 'On the Foraminifera of the Family Rotalinæ (Carpenter), found in the Cretaceous Formations, with Notes on their Tertiary and Recent Representatives,' by Prof. T. Rupert Jones and Mr. W. K. Parker,—and 'On the Infraalias in Yorkshire,' by the Rev. J. F. Blake.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Jan. 25.—Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were nominated Auditors for the current year:—Lieut.-Col. J. F. Lennard, T. Lewin, Esq., the Lord Henniker, and J. Winter Jones, Esq.—Mr. M. C. Jones exhibited a small spur found in the Van Mine, Montgomeryshire. The spur was of bronze, and bore traces of ornamentation in gold.—The Ven. Archdeacon Trollope exhibited a steel and silver spur found near Stoke-upon-Trent.—Mr. W. M. Wylie exhibited various Scotch Deeds, on which remarks were made by Dr. C. S. Perceval.—Mr. S. R. Pattison exhibited a fine specimen of the Roman bronze saucapan which had been found in a Spanish mine, known as the Bintron Mine, which in former years had been worked by the Romans. In general character it closely resembled the bronze vessels discovered on the Castle Howard Estate, Yorkshire, and described by Mr. Oldfield in his 'Archæologia,' Vol. xli. 325—332. On the handle is stamped the name COCCORVM, which was no doubt the name of the maker, whether a family or a sort of gild.—The Ven. Archdeacon Trollope exhibited an impression of a seal of Richard Duke of Gloucester, as Admiral. This seal had been already before the Society as far back as the year 1781, and the impression of it then laid on the table by Dr. Milles was re-exhibited this evening.—The Director called attention to the fact that both Dr. Milles, and, much more recently, Dr. Pettigrew, in his 'Collectanea Archæologica,' published by the Archæological Association, had misread the inscription on the seal, and had thus been led to speculations, more ingenious than sound, on the existence of certain Earldoms of Dorset and Somerset, which were wholly unknown to genealogists. This error the Director was the first to point out. The inscription runs: "S. Ric'i Duc' Glouc' Adm'ralli Angliæ in Com: Dors' et Soms'." The contracted *s*, which Dr. Milles and Mr. Pettigrew read as *et*, Dr. Perceval read as *in*, and so got rid of the difficulty about the Earldom, by simply showing that Richard Duke of Gloucester was styled "Admiral of England in the counties of Dorset and Somerset."—The Rev. T. Salvey exhibited an ivory seal of the Peculiar Jurisdiction of the Prebendary of Leighton. In connexion with this seal, Dr. Perceval entered into full particulars of the history and nature of Peculiar Jurisdictions, which he illustrated by specimens of other impressions of such seals, gathered both from the Society's and from his own collections.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Jan. 30.—J. Cubitt, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The paper read was, 'On the Value of Water, and its Storage and Distribution in Southern India,' by Mr. G. Gordon.

- MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
- Mon. Royal Institution, 9.—General Monthly.
 - Asiatic, 3.—Method of Disposal of the Dead at Liassa in Tibet, Mr. C. Horne; The Ishmaelites, and the Arab Tribes who Conquered their Country, Dr. Sprenger.
 - London Institution, 4.—'Elementary Chemistry,' IV., Prof. Odling.
 - Entomological, 7.
 - Society of Arts, 8.—'On Mechanism,' Lecture I., Rev. A. Rigg (Lecturer Lecturer).
 - Victoria Institute, 8.—'Natural Philosophy Considered with Respect to Modern Philosophy,' Rev. G. Henslow.
 - British Architects, 8.
 - Anthropological Institute, 8.—'On Hereditary Transmission,' Mr. G. Harris; 'Strictures on Darwinism,' Mr. H. H. Howorth; 'The Wallons,' Dr. Charneck and Dr. C. C. Blake.
 - United Service Institution, 8.—'The Control Service,' with Practical Suggestions for its Improvement, Mr. E. B. De Fontblanque.
 - Tues. Royal Institution, 3.—'Circulatory and Nervous Systems,' Dr. Rutherford.
 - Civil Engineers, 8.—'Value of Water in India.' (Discussion).
 - Biblical Archæology, 8.—'Inscription in Hebrew or Ancient Phœnician Characters, discovered at Siloam, of the Age of the Kings of Juda,' M. Ch. Clermont Ganneau.
 - Zoological, 9.—'Contributions to a General History of the Spongiada, Part I., Dr. Bowerbank; 'Notes on *Rhinoceros Sumatranus*, with a Photograph from Life,' Dr. J. Anderson.
 - Wed. Literature, 4.—Council.
 - Society of Arts, 8.—'Forests of England, their Restoration and Scientific Management,' Mr. S. W. Webber.
 - Geological, 8.—'Notes on the Geology of the Neighbourhood of Malaga,' M. D. M. Ormets; 'River Courses of England and Wales,' Prof. A. C. Ramsay; 'Migrations of the Graptolites,' Mr. H. A. Nicholson.
 - Microscopical, 8.—Anniversary.
 - Tuans. Royal Institution, 3.—'Chemistry of Alkalies and Alkali Manufacture,' Prof. Odling.
 - London Institution, 7.
 - Royal Academy, 8.—'Painting,' Mr. C. W. Cope.
 - Antiquaries, 8.—'The Hunnebedden of Holland,' Mr. A. W. Franks; 'Saxon Knife, bearing an Inscription,' Mr. J. Evans.
 - Mathematical, 8.—'Factors of the Differences of Powers, with Special Reference to a Theorem of Fermat's,' Mr. W. B. Davis; 'Algebraical Form, and the Geometry of its Dual Connection with a Polygon, Plane or Spherical,' Mr. T. Cotterill.
 - Royal, 9.—'Experiments concerning the Evolution of Life from Lifeless Matter,' W. N. Hartley; 'Experiments on the Directive Power of Large Steel Magnets, of Bars of Magnetized Soft Iron, and of Galvanic Coils in their Action on External Small Magnets,' the Astronomer Royal.
 - Fri. Royal Institution, 9.—'On Sleep,' Prof. Humphry.
 - Sat. Royal Institution, 3.—'The Theatre in Shakespeare's Time,' Mr. W. L. Donne.

Science Gossip.

A SHORT time since we stated that a Commission, appointed by the Iron and Steel Institute, had visited America, for the purpose of examining into the merits of Danks's Rotary Puddling Furnace. The gentlemen forming that commission have returned to England and made their report. Their experiments have been made on a large scale, and repeated under several variations in the conditions. They appear to have demonstrated that mechanical puddling is successfully carried out, and that it gives much better results than ordinary hand puddling. The quality of the iron is improved, and the produce increased.

On the 29th ult. the Liverpool Polytechnic Society held its Annual Meeting, J. Taylor, Esq. being elected President for the ensuing year. This Society now numbers 210 members, and is in a state of great activity. During the past year several very valuable papers have been read, especially, 'On the Prevention of Steam-Boiler Explosions and of Railway Accidents,' 'On Technical Education,' and 'On Scientific Investigation in relation to the Public Health.'

The South Staffordshire and East Worcester Institute of Mining Engineers held its Annual Meeting, in Dudley, on Monday, the 22nd ult., when Mr. Henry Johnson was elected President. After the ordinary business, Mr. Tom Parton read an instructive paper 'On Science in the Mine,' in which he showed the importance of scientific knowledge as a means of preserving life in our collieries.

MR. PUNSON claims the merit of having produced a gun-cotton in which he can secure any required explosive property. At the same time, he states that the tendency to decomposition, and consequently of spontaneous combustion, is removed. This is effected by covering the fibres of gun-cotton with sugar, and by impregnating the cotton with chlorate of potash, or some similar salt.

It is proposed to employ the money obtained by the friends of the late Mr. Alder, of Newcastle, for the purpose of some memorial to that distinguished naturalist, in founding a chair of Biology, bearing Mr. Alder's name, in the new College of Science at Newcastle.

At the meeting of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, on the 9th of January, Mr. Henry Wilde read a paper, 'On the Influence of Gas and Water Pipes in Determining the Direction of a Discharge of Lightning.' Some instructive cases were given of the ignition of the gas in the lead and pewter pipes within buildings fitted with lightning conductors, by the disruptive discharge between the conductor and the pipes. Mr. Wilde endeavours to impress upon all having charge of public buildings, that the lightning conductors should be bound in good metallic contact with the gas or water pipes outside the building; by thus passing the lightning along continuous metallic conductors, no harm can possibly arise.

THE death of General Chesney, the leader of the Euphrates Expedition, is announced.

THE *Mineral Statistics* for 1870 are now issued. The total value of the metals, coals, and other minerals raised in the United Kingdom is given at 47,946,300. Of coal we produced 110,431,192 tons, an increase of 3,003,635 tons upon the production of 1869. Of pig-iron we smelted 5,963,515 tons, being an increase of 517,758 tons; and our exports of coal in 1870 also increased by 742,933 tons.

NEW experiments are being tried in Paris with the combination of oxygen gas with hydrocarbon gases rich in carbon, on the principle of M. Tessié du Motay, with, it is reported, great success. Everything must depend upon the economy with which oxygen can be produced. According to *Les Mondes*, of January 11, *cclairage oxydrique* is an established fact.

THE death of M. Combes, Director of the School of Mines of Paris, is announced. M. Combes was a member of the Institute of France, the Inspector-General of Mines, and is well known to the world by his works on Mining.

THE *American Journal of Science and Art*, for January, is unusually rich in geological papers of a high class. 'Alpine Geology,' by Dr. Sterry Hunt, is nominally a review of a work by M. Alphonse Favre; but it is, in fact, an original essay on the geology of the Swiss Alps. This is followed by an article, by Mr. J. H. Kloos, 'On a Cretaceous Basin in the Sauk Valley, Minnesota'; 'Glacial Action on Mount Katahdin,' by John De Laski, and other papers, by Profs. C. H. Hitchcock and E. S. Dana, are respectively of considerable interest.

In the *Journal fur Praktische Chemie*, No. 19, Dr. H. Kolbe has two important chemical papers: one, 'On the Decomposition of the Soluble Sulphurets in Water,' and the other, 'On the Reducing Action of the Hydrogen absorbed by Palladium.' The latter, especially, records some exceedingly curious facts.

M. PASTEUR has, in the *Comptes Rendus* for December 18, 1871, a memoir, of high scientific interest, 'On Fermentation,' in reply to an essay by Dr. J. von Liebig on the same subject.

FINE ARTS

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE SIXTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES, &c. NOW OPEN, from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. Gallery, 53, Pall Mall. JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES IS NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

GUSTAVE DORÉ—DORÉ GALLERY, 25, New Bond Street.—EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, including 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Monastery,' 'Triumph of Christianity,' 'Francesca de Rimini,' at the New Gallery.—OPEN from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s.

ELIJAH WALTON'S ENTIRE COLLECTION OF OIL and WATER-COLOUR PAINTINGS, NOW ON VIEW, at his Gallery, 4, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster.—Admission, One Shilling. Open daily from Ten till Five.

THE GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, DUDLEY GALLERY.

THE general average of merit in this Exhibition is rather high, but there are few striking works. It will be convenient to take the pictures in their numerical order, grouping each artist's productions. Mr. E. R. Hughes's *Susan Farrer* (No. 7), a child