

must come almost entirely from the space inclosed within the earth's orbit, otherwise the increased attraction towards the sun would be continually shortening the length of the year. Now, if the zodiacal light, which we know extends just to about the earth's orbit, represents these meteors in a more or less gaseous state circulating in a plane pretty nearly coinciding with the ecliptic, when these are drawn in towards the sun by the action of a resisting medium or of their mutual collisions, they must necessarily be turned into gas, which, diffusing itself uniformly round the whole surface of the sun, would afford the appearance of the corona. The objection to this notion of the corona is that a gaseous atmosphere of such an extent would by its weight cause a pressure at the surface of the sun very much greater than recent observations on the alterations of the hydrogen spectrum would lead us to believe can possibly exist there. Altogether, we are therefore inclined towards the view which Mr. Proctor advocates, that the corona is caused by an immense aggregation of meteoric perihelia. The same bright lines having been observed in the spectrum of the aurora and of the zodiacal light, and also apparently in that of the corona, would point to a similar origin of the light of these three objects; this, and the connexion of the aurora with increased solar activity, would seem to point to the aurora being caused by an additional rush towards the sun of external meteoric matter. However this may be, we can confidently assure the reader that he will find the latest information and much that is interesting and important with respect to these as well as other matters in the volume now before us.

THE ETHNOLOGICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

THE anniversary meeting of the Ethnological Society was chiefly remarkable for its bearing on the question of amalgamation with the Anthropological Society, one of considerable interest to the two societies and the scientific world. Prof. Huxley for the first time gave his statement of the failure of the negotiations in 1868, dealing very gently with the late Dr. Hunt, but showing by documentary evidence that the responsibility of breaking off, when all was arranged, lay with the latter. The death of Dr. Hunt gets rid of the personal question, and the Fellows of the Ethnological and of the Anthropological Societies at their anniversary meetings have expressed strong opinions in favour of amalgamation. The question of finance offers no difficulty, and there is now no antagonism about publications, and a joint Journal could be produced. The dispute about the name, if it cannot be conciliated, cannot be renewed. The Ethnological Fellows do not demand that their name be retained, but they positively refuse, and Prof. Huxley indorses this refusal, to accept the name of Anthropological after what has occurred; but they are ready to concur in any substituted name. As the negotiations were broken off by the Anthropological Society in 1868, the Ethnological Society have abstained from making overtures; but in consequence of the strong expressions at the Anthropological meeting, they have passed a formal resolution approving of their President's views as to amalgamation. Prof. Huxley's address will be published as a declaration on this subject. The present obstacles are supposed to be owing to a portion of the Council of the Anthropological Society; but on looking to the present state of opinion, it is likely that all will co-operate in promoting the desired object.

THE WATUTA.

Damascus, May 10, 1870.  
PERMIT me to make a remark or two upon the

letter published by Col. J. A. Grant in your issue of April 9, 1870 (No. 2215). I read in it, "The Watuta, a warlike race descended from the Zooloo Kafirs," and I can only hope that Capt. Speke's wonderful ethnology will not thus be assumed by other writers. Except in certain superficial points of life and habits, the "Watuta" are as little connected with the Zulus as are any of their neighbours. Nor are the Wahuma "descended from the Abyssinian stock, or Semi-Sheim-Hamitic (!!) of Ethiopia." Both speak Zangian dialects. As regards "Capt. Speke's Uruwa,"—the Warua of M. Echarid's map,—now identified with Dr. Livingstone's "Rua," allow me to observe that the habitat of the Waruwa race was laid down by me from Arab information in 1858. Mr. Cooley makes the name Warua "the Sawahili equivalent of Milia," another term for the Olunda people, ruled by the Mesator Cazembe.  
RICHARD F. BURTON, F.R.G.S.

SOCIETIES.

ASIATIC.—May 30.—*Anniversary Meeting.*—Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K.C.B., President, in the chair.—The Report of the Council, which treated chiefly of the literary and scientific state of India and the results of various researches and expeditions recently instituted by the local governments of India, and the Auditors' Report, were read and adopted.—The President then delivered an address, in which he surveyed the principal events connected with the East during the last twelvemonth, and dwelt at some length on what the Home Department has done during that period, and is doing at present, in supporting and encouraging Oriental studies and promoting the objects and interests of the Asiatic Society and of Oriental scholars in general.—The following officers and members of the Council for the ensuing year were then balloted for and elected:—*President and Director*, Major-General Sir H. C. Rawlinson; *Vice-Presidents*, The Right Hon. Sir E. Ryan, M. G. Grant-Duff, Sir T. E. Colebrooke and the Right Hon. H. Mackenzie; *Treasurer*, E. Thomas; *Hon. Secretary*, Prof. T. Cheney; *Hon. Librarian*, E. Norris; *Secretary*, J. Eggeling; *Council*, Prof. C. P. Brown, E. L. Brandreth, Dr. A. Campbell, General A. Cunningham, J. Dickinson, M. P. Edgeworth, C. J. Erskine, J. Fergusson, W. E. Frere, Sir H. Bartle E. Frere, A. Grose, C. Horne, The Right Hon. Lord Lawrence, Sir C. Nicholson, Bart. and O. de B. Priaux.

ZOOLOGICAL.—May 26.—G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—Communications were read from Mr. W. H. Hudson, 'On Birds observed in and around Buenos Ayres,' being this gentleman's fourth communication on this subject,—by Mr. R. B. Sharpe, 'On a Specimen of a rare Asiatic Bird, *Podiceps panderi*,'—by Prof. Owen, the sixteenth of a series of Memoirs on Dinornis, containing an account of the trachea and of some other internal organs of certain species of this genus, together with a description of the brain and some nerves and muscles of the head of *Apteryx australis*,—by Dr. J. Murie, 'On the Anatomy of the Prong-buck (*Antilocapra americana*),'—from Dr. A. B. Meyer, 'On the Poisonous Glands of the Snakes of the Genus *Collophis*,' being supplementary to his paper on this subject in the Monatsberichte of the Academy of Berlin,—from Surgeon F. Day, 'On some Fishes from the Western Coast of India,'—by Mr. H. Adams, 'On some New Species of Land and Fresh Water Shells obtained by Mr. E. Bartlett, in Eastern Peru, and by Mr. R. Swinhoe in China and Formosa; also on Two New Species of Land Shells from Africa.'

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—May 31.—Dr. R. S. Charnock, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. G. T. Ricketts, H.M. Consul at Manila, was elected a Fellow.—The following papers were read:—'Armenians of Southern India,' by Dr. J. Shortt,—'Races of Morocco,' by Mr. J. Stirling, M.A.,—and 'On the Paucity of Aboriginal Monuments in Canada,' by Sir D. Gibb, Bart.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon. Royal Institution, 2.—General Monthly Meeting.
- Entomological, 7.
- Victoria Institute, 8.—'Civilization, Moral and Material,' Mr. J. Reddie.
- United Service Institution, 8.—'Amount of Advantage the New Arms of Precision give to Defence over Attack,' Capt. H. Pshaw.
- Tues. Royal Institution, 3.—'Present English History,' Prof. Seeley.
- Ethnological, 3.
- Wed. Geological, 5.
- Microscopical, 5.—'Experiments on Fermentation and Parasitic Fungi,' Mr. J. Bell; 'New Form of Binocular Microscope,' Mr. J. W. Stephenson.
- Archæological Association, 5.—'British Auxiliary Troops in the Roman Service,' Mr. A. Sadler.
- Tues. Royal Institution, 6.—'Electricity,' Prof. Tyndall.
- Mathematical, 8.—'Intersection of Curves, and a Collinear Correspondence in certain Reseams,' Mr. T. Coleridge.
- Zoological, 8.—'New Birds from Madagascar,' Mr. R. B. Sharpe; 'Zoological Notes of a Journey from Canton to Peking and Kalkan,' Mr. R. Swinhoe; 'The Saiga Antelope (*Saiga Tartarica*),' Dr. J. Murie.
- Fri. Royal Institution, 8.—'Ammonia Compounds of Platinum,' Prof. Odling.
- Astronomical, 8.
- Sat. Royal Institution, 8.—'Comets,' Prof. Grant.

Science Gossip.

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the Institute of Actuaries will take place to-day (Saturday) at three o'clock.

THE members of the Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction and the Advancement of Science held their second meeting on the 31st ult., at Devonshire House. Present, the Duke of Devonshire, chairman; the Marquis of Lansdowne, Sir J. Lubbock, Bart., Sir J. P. Kay Shuttleworth, Bart., Mr. B. Samuelson, M.P., Dr. Sharpey, Prof. Huxley, Dr. W. A. Miller, Prof. Stokes, and the Secretary, J. Norman Lockyer.

ON April 22, 1873, the Académie des Sciences will make its first award of the newly-founded D'Ourches prizes. These prizes are worth, one 20,000 francs and the other 5,000 francs, and are for the discovery of some easy and accurate method of distinguishing apparent from real death.

DR. F. G. BERGMANN has, in his 'Résumé d'Études d'Ontologie Générale,' &c., projected, from his own consciousness, the beings from which the human race developed itself. Their name is "Anthropiskes," and they lived in Central Africa. They developed out of apes; and a certain number of them, finding themselves in favourable circumstances, developed into men—black men, and became the parents of the families whence the brown, copper, yellow, and white races branched off. Dr. Bergmann has some equally original ideas on language. He complains that his works have not yet been appreciated, or even discussed, but he looks to the science of the future to do him justice.

A PAPER communicated to the Agricultural Society of France describes the Maltese sheep, which it seems is a well marked and peculiar variety. Some of the breed has been introduced in Algeria, and M. de Bray, an agriculturist of that colony, is of opinion that this curious race has arisen from a cross between a ram and a she-goat.

DR. SCHUTZENBERGER has discovered three new substances: they are all compounds, in various proportions, of carbonic oxide and platinum chloride.

M. JOURDAIN has shown by some recent experiments that under the influence of chloroform the stamens of the barberry are violently inverted, as if in a tetanic condition, and that if the administration of chloroform is continued the plant dies.

M. PAUL BARBE is about to publish a work on Dynamite, its manufacture and employment in mining.

FROM a recently published summary of the volcanic manifestations of the past year in Germany it seems that no less than fourteen earthquake shocks occurred on German territory during 1869. February and May were the only months in which no shock was felt.

M. L'HOTE has published a memoir on the elevation of land and consequent retirement of the sea near Dunkirk.

M. LÉDILLOT is pursuing a series of investigations with regard to the use of electricity for anæsthetic purposes in surgical operations.

PROF. MORREN, of Marseilles, has published some interesting observations on the combustion of the diamond in various gases. A microscopic