CONTENTS
OF VOL. 167.

PART I.


II. The Calculus of Chemical Operations; being a Method for the Investigation, by means of Symbols, of the Laws of the Distribution of Weight in Chemical Change. —Part II. On the Analysis of Chemical Events. By Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., F.R.S., late Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford page 35


IV. A Contribution to Terrestrial Magnetism; being the Record of Observations of the Magnetic Inclination, or Dip, made during the Voyage of H.M.S. 'Iron Duke' to China and Japan, &c., 1871–75. By Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Shadwell, K.C.B., F.R.S. page 137


VII. On the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the Coal-measures.—Part VIII. Ferns (continued) and Gymnosperous Stems and Seeds. By W. C. Williamson, F.R.S., Professor of Natural History in the Owens College, Manchester 213


PART II.


XI. On a new Form of Tangential Equation. By John Casey, LL.D., F.R.S., M.R.I.A., Professor of Mathematics in the Catholic University of Ireland 367

XII. On the Bicircular Quartic.—Addition to Professor Casey's Memoir "On a new Form of Tangential Equation." By A. Cayley, LL.D., F.R.S., Sadlerian Professor of Pure Mathematics in the University of Cambridge 441


XIV. On Friction between Surfaces moving at Low Speeds. By Fleeming Jenkin, F.R.S.S.L. & E., Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh, and J. A. Ewing 509

XV. On the Structure and Development of the Skull in the Urodelous Amphibia.—Part I. By William Kitchen Parker, F.R.S. 529

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plate 1.—Mr. J. E. H. Gordon on the Determination of Verdet’s Constant in Absolute Units.

Plates 2 & 3.—Mr. H. N. Moseley on the Structure of a Species of Millepora.

Plate 4.—Messrs. Roscoe and Thorpe on the Absorption-Spectra of Bromine and of Iodine Monochloride.

Plates 5 to 16.—Professor W. C. Williamson on the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the Coal-measures.

Plates 17 to 19.—General Sir Edward Sabine on Terrestrial Magnetism.

Plate 20.—Messrs. Fleeming Jenkin and J. A. Ewing on Friction between Surfaces moving at Low Speeds.

Plates 21 to 29.—Mr. W. K. Parker on the Structure and Development of the Skull in the Urodelous Amphibia.

Plates 30 and 31.—Mr. G. J. Romanes on the Locomotor System of Meduse.
ADVERTISEMENT.

The Committee appointed by the Royal Society to direct the publication of the Philosophical Transactions, take this opportunity to acquaint the Public, that it fully appears, as well from the Council-books and Journals of the Society, as from repeated declarations which have been made in several former Transactions, that the printing of them was always, from time to time, the single act of the respective Secretaries till the Forty-seventh Volume; the Society, as a Body, never interested themselves any further in their publication than by occasionally recommending the revival of them to some of their Secretaries, when, from the particular circumstances of their affairs, the Transactions had happened for any length of time to be intermitted. And this seems principally to have been done with a view to satisfy the Public that their usual meetings were then continued, for the improvement of knowledge and benefit of mankind, the great ends of their first institution by the Royal Charters, and which they have ever since steadily pursued.

But the Society being of late years greatly enlarged, and their communications more numerous, it was thought advisable that a Committee of their members should be appointed, to reconsider the papers read before them, and select out of them such as they should judge most proper for publication in the future Transactions; which was accordingly done upon the 26th of March 1752. And the grounds of their choice are, and will continue to be, the importance and singularity of the subjects, or the advantageous manner of treating them; without pretending to answer for the certainty of the facts, or propriety of the reasonings, contained in the several papers so published, which must still rest on the credit or judgment of their respective authors.

It is likewise necessary on this occasion to remark, that it is an established rule of the Society, to which they will always adhere, never to give their opinion, as a Body, upon any subject, either of Nature or Art, that comes before them. And therefore the
thanks, which are frequently proposed from the Chair, to be given to the authors of such papers as are read at their accustomed meetings, or to the persons through whose hands they received them, are to be considered in no other light than as a matter of civility, in return for the respect shown to the Society by those communications. The like also is to be said with regard to the several projects, inventions, and curiosities of various kinds, which are often exhibited to the Society; the authors whereof, or those who exhibit them, frequently take the liberty to report, and even to certify in the public newspapers, that they have met with the highest applause and approbation. And therefore it is hoped that no regard will hereafter be paid to such reports and public notices; which in some instances have been too lightly credited, to the dishonour of the Society.
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Costa, Cavalier Achille .. Naples.
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Wartmann, Professor Elie .. Geneva.
Wiedemann, Professor ... Leipzig.
Wolf, Professor R. ....... Zurich.
CONTENTS.

PART I.


II. The Calculus of Chemical Operations; being a Method for the Investigation, by means of Symbols, of the Laws of the Distribution of Weight in Chemical Change. —Part II. On the Analysis of Chemical Events. By Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart., F.R.S., late Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford .......... 35


VII. On the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the Coal-measures.—Part VIII. Ferns (continued) and Gymnospermous Stems and Seeds. By W. C. Williamson, F.R.S., Professor of Natural History in the Owens College, Manchester .... 213


LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plate 1.—Mr. J. E. H. Gordon on the Determination of Verdet's Constant in Absolute Units.

Plates 2 & 3.—Mr. H. N. Moseley on the Structure of a Species of Millepora.

Plate 4.—Messrs. Roscoe and Thorpe on the Absorption-Spectra of Bromine and of Iodine Monochloride.

Plates 5 to 16.—Professor W. C. Williamson on the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the Coal-measures.
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MDCCCLXXVIII.
CONTENTS.

PART II.


XI. On a new Form of Tangential Equation. By John Casey, LL.D., F.R.S., M.R.I.A., Professor of Mathematics in the Catholic University of Ireland 367

XII. On the Bicircular Quartic.—Addition to Professor Casey's Memoir "On a new Form of Tangential Equation." By A. Cayley, LL.D., F.R.S., Sadlerian Professor of Pure Mathematics in the University of Cambridge ........ 441


XIV. On Friction between Surfaces moving at Low Speeds. By Fleeming Jenkin, F.R.S.S.L. & E., Professor of Engineering in the University of Edinburgh, and J. A. Ewing ............................ 509


XVII. On the Physiological Action of the Bark of Erythrophleum Guinense, generally called Casca, Cassa, or Sassy Bark. By T. Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S., and Walter Pye, Esq. ............................... 627


Index .............................................................. 753
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plates 17 to 19.—General Sir Edward Sabine on Terrestrial Magnetism.

Plate 20.—Messrs. Fleeming Jenkin and J. A. Ewing on Friction between Surfaces moving at Low Speeds.

Plates 21 to 29.—Mr. W. K. Parker on the Structure and Development of the Skull in the Urodelous Amphibia.

Plates 30 and 31.—Mr. G. J. Romanes on the Locomotor System of Medusae.
ADJUDICATION OF THE MEDALS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1877 BY THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

The Copley Medal to Professor James Dwight Dana, for his Biological, Geological, and Mineralogical Investigations, carried on through half a century, and for the valuable works in which his conclusions and Discoveries have been published.

A Royal Medal to Mr. Frederick Augustus Abel, F.R.S., for his Physico-Chemical Researches on Gun-Cotton and Explosive Agents.

A Royal Medal to Professor Oswald Heer, for his numerous Researches and Writings on the Tertiary Plants of Europe, of the North Atlantic, North Asia, and North America, and for his able generalizations respecting their affinities and their geological and climatic relations.


The Bakerian Lecture was delivered by Professor W. C. Williamson, F.R.S.: it was entitled “On the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the Coal-measures.—Part IX. The latest Researches into the Organization of the Fossil Plants of the British Coal-measures, especially of the Calamites and Lepidodendra.”

The Paper “On the Mechanical Effects and on the Electrical Disturbance consequent on Excitation of the Leaf of Dionaea muscipula,” by Dr. J. B. Sanderson, F.R.S., and F. J. M. Page, was appointed as the Croonian Lecture.