

The last conclusion (No. 4) was deemed desirable from the frequent confusion in the statement of the iron salts and of the carbon oxides.

The committee is unanimously of the opinion that analyses in the form recommended will prove quite as acceptable to boards of health and to the public in general, for whom such analyses are often made, as if presented in the mixed and irregular forms commonly adopted.

The committee also feels sure that the people in general are better able to form a definite idea of the character of a water from a report stated in parts per 100, parts per 1,000,000, etc., than from one expressed as grains per gallon, the latter being a ratio wholly unfamiliar to any but those in the medical or pharmaceutical professions.

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WM. H. SEAMAN, M.D.

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PARIS LETTER.

MANY interesting scientific events have lately attracted attention here. The limits of my present letter will not permit me to speak of them all, and I will therefore confine myself to the most important ones.

The appointment of Mr. Mathias Duval to the professorship of histology in the medical school is one that does not meet entire approval. Mr. Duval is certainly an able man, and one much liked by his students; but it cannot be said that he is well fitted for the task he has assumed. He is much more proficient in anatomy and physiology than in histology. It had been hoped that the faculty of medicine would appoint to this professorship an histologist of known reputation, such as Mr. Malassez. There will be, however, one good result of Mr. Duval's appointment: histology will undoubtedly be taught in a clear and precise manner, which had never been the case under C. Robin's instruction. Mr. Duval is an excellent *vulgarisateur*, and thoroughly understands teaching. His students will certainly learn histology much better than they have hitherto.

With this accession to the faculty, however, the resignation by Mr. Vulpian, of his appointment as *médecin des hôpitaux*, is much regretted by his pupils. His reasons are not very well known. It has been stated that he did so in order to devote more attention to his patients; but the truth is, he has not much practice, and the greater part of his time is given to laboratory work. He has recently been asked to accept the appointment as *secrétaire perpétuel* of the Academy of sciences, in the event of Mr. Jamin's death (which occurred yesterday), and it may be that he has thus sought

opportunity to devote himself to this very absorbing task by resigning his other arduous occupations.

Mr. Paul Bert took his departure from Paris for Tonquin yesterday evening. Monday last he made a speech at the meeting of the Academy of sciences, bidding adieu in rather pathetic tones. The academy, however, reciprocated neither his real or assumed feelings nor his speech. One cannot but wonder at the general approval of Mr. Bert's mission to Tonquin. He himself is overflowing with happiness. His friends are sure he will do well, and be of use in Tonquin. His enemies — and they are not few — are convinced that he will commit some great blunder, and kill himself politically. They, however, feel a great relief in the fact that they will be rid of him for some time. Everybody is satisfied, even the Academy of sciences, who listened to his last speech with much coldness, as though to impress upon him their lack of interest in politicians. It certainly is a strange and unusual occurrence, in France at least, for a scientific man to become a politician, though it must in justice be said that Mr. Bert is a man of much intelligence; and, should he fail, it will be due rather to his temper than to his lack of ability.

A new French scientific periodical, the *Archives Slaves de biologie*, has recently made its appearance. It is published by Messrs. Richet & Mendelssohn, and will be devoted to the more important scientific works that are published in Russian, Tchèque, and other kindred languages. It will comprise original communications in French, or translations from the Russian, with reviews of the latest works on biological sciences in general. The first number contains more than three hundred pages of large octavo size, including original memoirs by Fritsch, on recently discovered human crania; of Godlewski, on Poeta and Wierzejski on fossil and living sponges; of Danilewsky and Kowalewsky, on Nawalichin and Botkine; and of many others, on various medical and physiological subjects. The remaining pages are filled with reviews and critical notes on the recent biological work in the Russian and kindred languages, from such writers as Mendelssohn, de Varigny, Danysz, Halperine, and others. The project is certainly a very commendable one, to thus gather up in a single journal all the scientific work of a country; and in this particular case the idea is all the better, from the fact that Slavonic *savants* do not all write in the same language, and that their scientific papers are not commonly met with. It is very likely that the periodical will be successful, filling as it does such a useful field. The example of the

Archives Italiennes de biologie is certainly encouraging, and we doubt not that the present journal will be as favorably received.

The unveiling of Claude Bernard's statue, erected in front of the College de France, took place some days ago. The ceremony was attended by very few persons, owing to the inclemency of the weather. Addresses were made by Mr. Berthelot, Mr. Renan, Paul Bert, and Mr. Dastre. Mr. Renan is of a very humorous turn of mind, and has a way of causing amusement at the expense of others,—a way that is very pleasant when it does not concern one's self. Speaking of P. Bert as one of the pupils of Claude Bernard, he said that Mr. Bert would also have his statue, some day or other, near that of Bernard. Mr. Bert took this in all seriousness, and with much thankfulness, thinking that he certainly deserved this honor. All except himself, however, perceived the point of Mr. Renan's remarks. Jokes should not be too refined; otherwise they may miss their mark, as did the present one. The best addresses were those of P. Bert and Mr. Renan. That of Mr. Berthelot was rather long, and Mr. Dastre did not say any thing new or interesting.

A month or so ago I had the opportunity of seeing Mr. Chevreul at the meeting of the French academy, where Bertrand was pronouncing his *discours de réception*, which was answered by Pasteur. Mr. Chevreul is very well preserved, and does not appear as old as he really is. He had an inclination twice or thrice during the meeting to take a little nap, but he struggled successfully against it. One or two allusions to his old age, and to his long, fruitful career as a chemist, received much applause. A person who has known him well for a long time says that he is certainly not weaker in intellect than he was eight or ten years ago; but, contrary to the general fact that old people recollect better, events that have transpired during their youth than later ones, Mr. Chevreul speaks only of his experiments on colors, not caring to talk at all of his very important and useful discoveries on the *corps gras*, on soap, candles, etc., which he seems to forget. V.

Paris, Feb. 13.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. PASTEUR, according to a telegram to the New York *Herald*, read on Monday last a paper before the French academy of sciences, giving the results of his methods of treatment for hydrophobia. Three hundred and fifty persons have been treated, including twelve Americans, all of them successfully, except one, who was not brought to the laboratory till thirty-seven days

after having been bitten. During the six years preceding 1885, in the department of the Seine, 517 persons had been bitten by mad dogs, from which there resulted 81 deaths, or about one out of every six bitten. It is proposed to open an international establishment at Paris for the inoculation treatment, and already funds are being largely subscribed.

—The dog by which the Newark children, who were sent to Paris for treatment, were bitten, was evidently not mad. The dog, it will be remembered, was killed at the time; but seven others which were bitten by it have been kept under the closest surveillance, and have shown no indications whatever of hydrophobia. They have been released.

—In our issue of Feb. 19, in mentioning Miss Crocker's 'Methods of teaching geography,' an unfortunate slip of the pen made us give Miss Hale the credit of its authorship. It was written by Miss Lucretia Crocker, and is in every way a most creditable piece of work.

—The 'Forum' (New York, *Forum publishing Co.*) is the title of a new monthly magazine, edited by Loretta S. Metcalf, the former managing editor of the *North American review*. The magazine will address itself to the mass of intelligent people, and will discuss subjects that concern all classes alike,—in morals, in education, in government, in religion. The first number, for March, contains articles by Prof. Alexander Winchell (on Science and the state), James Parton, E. P. Whipple, Drs. R. H. Newton, E. E. Hale, A. Cleveland Cox, W. A. Hammond, M. J. Savage, and Howard Crosby.

—A new polar expedition, says *Das Ausland*, under the leadership of Dr. Bunge and Baron Toll, has been organized for the zoölogical and topographical investigation of the islands of New Siberia. The expedition will reach its destination the coming spring.

—The American economic association held a business-meeting in New York, Feb. 27, President A. Walker in the chair. The next meeting will be next autumn, at a date not yet fixed upon.

—A bill limiting the hunting of deer or the sale of venison in the state of New York to the period between Aug. 15 and Nov. 1, has been passed by the assembly. The bill also prohibits the transportation of dead deer by railroad companies, except that the bodies of two deer killed by a sportsman may be taken to his home by him in the limited period stated.

—The *Naturwissenschaftliche rundschau* (Braunschweig, *Vieweg & Sohn*) is a new eight-paged