

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

weekly periodical, devoted to the 'gesammtgebiete der naturwissenschaften.' The first numbers are mostly filled with abstracts and reviews.

—The London *Daily telegraph* states that an effort is at last being made to disinter the Sphinx. The work of exhumation is intrusted to Brugsch Bey, brother of the distinguished archeologist, who will carry out a plan formed by Signor Maspero. About 20,000 cubic metres of sand must be cleared away. To expedite this task a little tramway has been constructed, and 150 laborers are engaged for the more mechanical portion of the toil. About Easter the work is expected to be completed. Then, when the rock out of which the statue has been hewn is laid bare, a broad circular walk will be constructed around it, and a high wall built to guard against future encroachments of desert sands.

—A correspondent of the New York *Herald* says that it is very probable that Mr. Rousseau, who was sent by the French government to inspect the Panama canal, must report that the present enterprise is inevitably to be changed from a sea-level canal to a canal with locks, if it is ever to be finished by the present company, thereby not merely falsifying M. de Lesseps's assurances a hundred times reiterated, but also the very basis of the preference given to the Panama route over that of Nicaragua. Regular subscriptions to the funds are exhausted, and it is proposed to raise a hundred or more million dollars by a national lottery.

—It is expected that the Grecian canal, connecting the gulfs of Corinth and Aegina, will be completed by the end of the present year. The canal will be less than three miles in length, but the deepest cuttings are nearly two hundred and fifty feet in depth. The canal will admit the passage of the largest ships, and will shorten the sea distance between the Adriatic and the Levant a hundred and thirty miles.

—In a recent paper the eminent French *savant*, Alphonse de Candolle, reproduces with approving comments the arguments of Prof. A. Graham Bell upon the production of a race of deaf-mutes in the United States. In commenting upon the methods proposed to prevent this result, he adds that the English language is the least favorable of all for spoken use among deaf-mutes, as the movements of the lips are more often replaced by an accentuation or intonation that does not produce any visible effect. The vowels are articulated less clearly than, and are not so sharply differentiated from each other as, in the other chief European languages. The French has very few words, such as *de* and

crac, in which the lips do not take part in the pronunciation, while in English numerous sounds, as of *n*, *th*, and *h*, are formed almost wholly by the action of the tongue. This is confirmed by the experience of intelligent deaf-mutes. Mr. Candolle suggests, in addition to the views of Professor Bell, that, independently of deaf-mutism, marriage between first-cousins should be wholly prohibited. He also asks whether greater care given to new-born infants would not materially diminish the number of deaf persons.

—A new edition of 'Berghaus' physikalischer atlas' is announced, to be completed in twenty-five *lieferungen*, the first of which will appear about the middle of the present month. The work is prepared wholly anew, by the co-operation of Drs. Drude, Gerland, Hann, Hartlaub, Neumayer, and Zittel.

—The bird-destroying 'slung-shot' boy is not an eastern innovation. A writer in the Santa Barbara, Cal., *Press* deplors the evil that he has grown to be in the west, in the destruction of the native birds for millinery purposes.

—The following works are announced by the Smithsonian institution to be now in press: 'Scientific writings of Joseph Henry;' 'Flora of North America,' by Asa Gray; 'Guesde collections of antiquities,' by O. T. Mason; 'Annual report for 1884;' 'Paleontological bibliographies,' by J. B. Marcou; 'Bulletin of the Washington philosophical society,' vol. vii., for 1885; and the different reports of progress in 1885: viz., in chemistry, by H. C. Bolton; in geography, by J. K. Goodrich; in seismology and vulcanology, by C. G. Rockwood.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Oil on troubled waters.

ONE of the most curious things in connection with the use of oil on troubled waters is the frequency with which it appears as a new discovery. Those who would dismiss the subject with a contemptuous sneer at the credulity of people imposed upon by sailors' yarns know little of the prolonged attention the matter has received in the past, and of the honored scientific men who have studied the problem. There is no room here to quote the many observations at hand, but only to sum them up, and to present the explanation that has met with most favor.

The earliest reference at hand in English is found in Cavallo's 'Philosophy' (fourth American edition, 1879, p. 209). The author points out that oil spreads 'instantly' over water; that the wind has little effect in raising waves on the surface of oil, or of water covered with a film of oil; and that from early times this fact has been utilized in stilling the waves of the sea. The experiments of Franklin and others are cited.

In Gehler's 'Physikalisches wörterbuch' (Berlin,