sionary about 1770 ('Luces del Otomi,' pp. 303). We have others, but it is one of the most valuable, and is carefully edited.

The assertion has been several times advanced by Mexican writers that there is a relationship between the Otomi and the Apache, that is, the Athapascan stock. I made a careful comparison of one hundred test words between the two groups, and sent the results to the Congress of Americanists at Stockholm, but I am informed that the paper has been lost. It showed that a sufficient number of verbal similarities exist to render either linguistic relationship or admixture probable.

D. G. BRINTON.
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

IN a recent number of the *Comptes Rendues* P. de Wateville describes a method of growing crystals with a transparency and luster analogous to those of cut and polished stones. The small crystal is so mounted that while growing in a saturated solution it can be continuously rotated on itself with a speed of several rotations a second. In alum crystals thus grown at 50°, dodecahedron and cube faces progressively disappear, those of the octahedron alone finally remaining. Potassium and ammonium alums, copper sulfate and sodium chlorate are said by the author to give particularly fine results.

IN the *American Chemical Journal* for April Professors Jackson and Comey, of Harvard, describe a peculiar hydrogel formed by the action of nitric acid on potassium cobalticyanid. When a strong solution of the latter salt is boiled with an equal volume of concentrated nitric acid for two hours it suddenly changes into a dark red semi solid gelatinous mass. This jelly is insoluble in acid or salt solutions, but somewhat soluble in cold or boiling water, and more so in water at 60°. This solution can be evaporated without gelatinizing, and the residue from evaporation when moistened with water decrepitates with a series of insignificant explosions to a red powder, almost insoluble in cold water, but somewhat soluble in water at 60°. The formula from analysis is $KH_2Co_3(CN)_{11},H_2O$, provisionally called monopotassium cobaltocobalticyanid. Several other salts (barium, silver and copper) of the acid were made. A similar jelly has been formed by the authors by the action of nitric acid on potassium ferricyanid. On boiling potassium ruthenium nitrosochlorid, K_2RuCl_5NO with potassium cyanid in quantity insufficient to convert it into the ruthenocyanid, the writer has obtained a similar hydrogel with almost identical properties.

ACCORDING to the recently published report of the Russian Department of Mines for 1895, the production of platinum for that year was 9,700 pounds, a decrease of 1,700 pounds from that of the year preceding. The production of all other mineral products showed a decided increase, except that of gold, which decreased slightly. The largest relative increase was in mercury, the production of which, 500 tons, was more than twice that of the previous year.

J. L. H.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT a meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, held the 13th inst., the following was unanimously adopted: The Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, has received, with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Professor Edward Drinker Cope. It is fitting that this meeting should place on record a minute expressive of its sense of the loss sustained. The Academy witnessed the beginning and the end of his long labors. It was to its halls he came as a student in 1859 and it was to them he paid his last visit before his final illness. The lustre thrown upon the society by his researches is but a reflex of the spirit of this remarkable man, who exibited,