

SCIENCE

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CONTENTS:

<i>The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew:</i> PROFESSOR LUCIEN MARCUS UNDERWOOD.....	65
<i>Absorption in Vertebrate Intestinal Cells:</i> DR. HOWARD CRAWLEY.....	75
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Wiley's Zoological Results:</i> G. H. P. DUHEM's <i>Traité élémentaire de mécanique chimique:</i> PROFESSOR WILDER D. BANCROFT. <i>Guignet and Garnier on la céramique ancienne et moderne:</i> DR. THOMAS WILSON. <i>Robertson's History of Freethought:</i> PROFESSOR R. M. WENLEY.....	80
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles.....</i>	84
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The Geological Conference and Students' Club of Harvard University:</i> J. M. BOUTWELL.....	85
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Body Blight of Pear Trees:</i> W. PADDOCK. <i>Formation of Cumulus Clouds over a Fire:</i> S. P. FERGUSSON. <i>A Reply to Mr. Marlatt's Article on Sources of Error in Recent Work on Coccidæ:</i> PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKERELL. <i>Pot-hole vs. Remolino:</i> F. F. HILDER.....	85
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry:</i> J. L. H.....	88
<i>Current Notes on Meteorology:—</i>	
<i>Foehn Winds; Lightning and the Electricity of the Air; Heavy Rainfall in the Cameroon Mountains; Vertical Temperature Gradient Used on Weather Maps; Recent Publication:</i> R. DE C. WARD	89
<i>Sir William Flower.....</i>	90
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	91
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	95

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKEEN Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson N. Y.

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AT KEW

THE recent establishment of the New York Botanical Garden, following so closely the development of the Missouri Botanical Garden, through the private munificence of Henry Shaw, and the evident tendency in American cities to establish each its own garden as a means of public pleasure and education, leads one to turn to the Old World, where such institutions are no longer a novelty. There is certain to be in the near future in America an awakening of interest in this feature of popular education, and we predict that the next quarter of a century will see them organized as a part of the park system of every city of importance and as a part of the equipment of every university that merits the name and rank.

Passing by the botanical gardens of the Italian cities, some of which are the oldest establishments of the kind in the world, dating back to the fifteenth century, and the less considerable establishments at Berlin and Paris, it is natural to turn to the largest and in many respects the most important of them all, because of its wide reaching influence, coextensive with British colonization itself. Of English botanical gardens those at Oxford and Cambridge, while smaller than Kew, are much older, and yet their influence largely pertains to the university towns and the universities that foster them, while Kew Garden, far from being local or simply national, is in-