bility so to do, I then ask for a *modicum* of such proofs, and failing in this, and, in view of the fact that I am just completing the proof sheets for the second edition (since March) of my book, I should deem it in the light of a personal kindness as well if he would favor me with the evidence of one or more such errors, naming paragraph and page.

As to any further animadversion upon my work, I am willing to leave its merits to the just judgment of the reading public and my colaborers in the field of practical penology rather than to the dictum of the study and the essay of theorists at long range.

AUGUST DRÄHMS.

SAN QUENTIN, CAL.

At Mr. Drähms's request I have rapidly turned over the pages of his book and noted down a few of the liberties taken with the names of authors quoted or referred to :—Taylor (for Tylor), *passim;* Galt (for Gall) p. 22; Von Homel (for Van Hamel) p. 23; Ferrer, (for Ferrero) *passim;* Tamborini (for Tamburini) p. 46, Tyndale (for Tyndall) p. 51; Masso (for Mosso) p. 69; Gradinger (for Gradenigo) p. 78; Berdier (for Bordier) p. 87; Herman Schaafhausen (for Hermann Schaaffhausen) p. 95; Lelart (for Lélert) p. 105; Weissmann (for Weismann) *passim;* Thompson (for Thomson) p. 138; Delboef (for Delbœuf) p. 319; Frey (for Fry) p. 334. It would be easy, but is probably unnecessary, to enlarge this list very considerably. Some of the names are so changed that it is hazardous to identify them, more especially since Mr. Drähms seldom supplies definite references. When he does they are sometimes remarkable. Thus I find (p. 95) a reference to Ecker given as 'Crania Germanice,' *Merid. Occid.*, Freib. i. p.'; it may interest Mr. Drähms to know that this being interpreted, means '*Crania Germaniæ meridionalis occidentalis*, Freiburg, i/Br.'

Mr. Drähms will, I hope, believe me when I say that the other statements in my review may be as fully proved as that to which he takes special exception. He is mistaken in thinking that I wish to 'attack' his book; I have no desire whatever to judge him hastily. But he has chosen to challenge examination of his book as a 'scientific study,' and he must not feel aggrieved when it is submitted to very elementary tests of scientific precision.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

LELANT, CORNWALL.

NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

THE use of acetylene in the blast lamp has been tested by many experimenters, and it has been found possible to obtain easily a heat at which gold can be readily fused. In the October *Moniteur Scientifique*, G. L. Bourgerel has described experiments in replacing air in the acetylene blast lamp with oxygen. When pure oxygen is used the flame becomes highly luminous and deposits carbon in very compact form, much resembling gas carbon. When, however, a mixture of air and oxygen is used with acetylene, the gas is completely burned, and it was found possible to obtain a temperature high enough to fuse platinum. There would seem to be no particular practical advantage in the use of this flame over the commonly used oxygen-coal-gas blast lamp.

HYDROGEN tellurid was discovered by Davy, in 1810, by the action of hydrochloric acid on sodium tellurid, but the gas has never been obtained pure, and beyond its odor and its instability comparatively little has been known of its properties. The problem has been taken up by Dr. Edmund Ernyei, of Budapest, and his results are described in the last number of the *Zeitschrift für anorganische Chemie.* After testing several methods, the best was found to be the electrolysis of 50 per cent. sulfuric acid by a 220 volt current with a tellurium kathode. The apparatus was kept at a temperature of —15° to —20° and the evolved gas dried immediately over calcium chlorid and phosphorus pentoxid. It was then condensed by the use of liquid carbon dioxid, and formed orange-yellow crystals which melt at —54° to a greenish yellow liquid. This hydrogen tellurid proved to be practically pure. Its boiling point is slightly above 0°, but it decomposes quite rapidly below this temperature into tellurium and hydrogen. It is quite soluble in water, but its solution decomposes on contact with the air. In caustic alkalies it dissolves, forming alkaline tellurids, which decompose readily, and on standing these become dark

red from the formation of polytellurids. Its density was obtained by the Dumas method, and by rapid working the decomposition was so slight as to have no appreciable effect upon the result. The value found was 65.1 which corresponds to the formula H_2Te. From this the molecular weight would be 130.2. These properties of hydrogen tellurid correspond to the position of tellurium in the sulfur-selenium group, while the high molecular weight agrees well in confirming the best atomic weight determination of tellurium, which places it above and not below that of iodin.

In connection with the proposed formation of a new 'Society of Chemical Industry of Victoria,' a correspondent of the *Chemical News* takes exception to the term 'English Society' by the Honorable Secretary of the Victoria Society as applied to the Society of Chemical Industry, in the following language: "Our Society is not, I think, an 'English' Society merely; it is not merely a British Society; it is an Anglo-American Society. Its President of last session was an American, and I believe we are proud of both these facts. * * * It seems strange that Mr. Gepps in his circular should omit our most prosperous and rising section, next to that of London, viz., the New York Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. He probably would not have made the omission, however, had he been present at our annual general meeting this summer, and witnessed the enthusiastic reception accorded to our American President, and have heard his address, and especially his speech at the annual dinner of the Society. If there is one thing we of the Society of Chemical Industry are more proud of than another, it is of the fact that in the Society and its journal the hands of British and American technical chemists are united—spite of the broad Atlantic—in a brotherly grip." To all of which we say Amen.

J. L. H.

JESSE WILLIAM LAZEAR.

At a meeting of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Society on October 16th, Dr. W. S. Thayer, referring to the recent death from yellow fever of Dr. Jesse William Lazear, addressed the Society as follows: Before we proceed with the program this evening, I should like to say a few words about our dear friend Lazear, whose sad death at Quemados, Cuba, on September 25th, is so fresh in our minds. Lazear was born just outside of Baltimore thirty-four years ago. He graduated at the Academic Department of the Johns Hopkins University in 1889, and three years later obtained the degree of M.D. from Columbia University, New York. After this he was an interne in the Bellevue Hospital for two years. After spending the greater part of the year in studying abroad, particularly in Paris, he returned in 1895 and became one of the medical staff of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. In the summer of 1896, Dr. Lazear was married and began the practice of medicine in Baltimore. At the same time, however, he was an assistant in clinical microscopy in the University, and in the laryngological department in the Hospital dispensary. Last winter he obtained an appointment as assistant surgeon in the army with special laboratory duties, and was stationed in Havana. There he soon became interested in the study of yellow fever, and for several months he had been one of the commission appointed by the Surgeon General, for the study of this disease. He had been constantly exposed to infection, and finally, in the course of his duty, contracted his fatal illness.

Dr. Lazear was a man of few words but keen perception. He was an extremely careful and thorough worker. He kept his own counsel, asked few questions and little help of his associates, but he was a man who, when he started an undertaking, had the ability and enthusiasm to keep quietly at work until he accomplished his end. It was through his excellent work that we were able several years ago to make our first positive *intra vitam* diagnosis of septicæmia due to the diplococcus of Neisser. His valuable studies upon the internal structure of the malarial parasite, which I had the pleasure of bringing before this Society last winter, are remembered by all.

Personally, he was an exceptionally simple, high-minded and lovable man. He could not have failed to find in a short time a public position in which his unusual merits would have become more generally known.