SCIENCE.

INDIUM.—This rare metal was first discovered about three years ago by Messrs. Richter and Reich of the Freiberg Mining Academy, in the zinc blende, in the vicinity of Freiberg. It has lately been found by M. M. Kuchler and Schlotter, in the blende at Schlaggenwald, near Schlagenwa. M. Wheeler confirms it beyond a doubt, in extracting indium, to treat the roasted blende by hydrochloric acid, to precipitate by an excess of zinc the indium, copper, lead, cadmium, arsenic, and to separate these metals by sulphuretted hydrogen and carbonate of barytes. M. Schrotter modifies the method by treating the blende, after roasting, with sulphuric instead of hydrochloric acid, precipitating the indium by zinc and fractionating the precipitates; the purification of indium is then easier in consequence of this division. Indium may be ranked among the heavier metals, its specific gravity, being from 7.11 in the granular state, to 7.38 after hammering. Its color resembles that of platinum. Its water is not tarnished by exposure to air or even to boiling water. It is softer and more malleable than lead, and is as volatile as magnesium or zinc. It forms but one oxide. Its salts are colorless, but when exposed to the flame of a Bunsen burner, impart to it a blue or violet tinge. In its electric properties indium resembles cadmium, but is more electro-negative.

A TEST FOR GLUE.—Weber states that a solution of protoxide chloride of copper will not affect articles covered with gelatine, but will leave a brown stain on those covered with glue-colored alloys.

FOOD FOR PLANTS.—Illenkof, a Russian chemist, recommends the use of 40 parts of ground bones, 40 parts of wood-ashes, and 6 parts of newly-made lime, with water enough to thoroughly mix the whole.

PERCHLORIDE OF IRON FOR CANCER.—At the Medical Congress of Bordeaux a paper was read by M. Ritter upon the treatment of cancer. The author considers that perchloride of iron is a specific for cancerous affections; its action being like iodine in cases of scrofula; the perchloride should be employed both internally and externally in order to affect both the tissues and the diseased parts.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COLORS.—A correspondent of the *French Dépositaire de Photographie*, writing from South America, says: "Some time since, I took a positive portrait of myself on glass. The weather was very fine, but on coming out of my dark room I observed that the light appeared very yellow as it seemed but obscured, and I then remembered that there was a total eclipse on that day. After developing and fixing my positive I found all the colors of my wife's dress faithfully portrayed on the film. The dress was of blue flowers on a black ground; the cap trimmed with blue and yellow ribbons, and all these colors were accurately reproduced, even the fresh tint of the face and hands were perfect. Unfortunately, all these colors disappeared after a lapse of ten minutes." The writer does not say whether any beside himself ever this portrait of his wife. This is, however, only one of many cases of evanescent coloring reported within a few years.

DEVILLE'S FURNACE.—M. DEVILLE of France has constructed a furnace of great heating power. It consists of a flame of coal gas, inclosed in a chamber of non-conductors, into which a jet of oxygen gas is blown. In this way only the material required for perfect combustion is admitted, thus obviating the objection to the use of common air which involves the necessity of introducing into the furnace with every volume of oxygen four volumes of inert nitrogen. When cold air is used, part of the heat generated by oxygen is wasted in heating the nitrogen; it has therefore been found highly advantageous to apply the waste heat of the furnace in raising the temperature of the air which feeds the flame, thus forming what is technically called the *hot-blast*. The use of pure oxygen is noteconomical, but where a very high temperature is required, it is indispensable. In Deville's furnace, platinum, the most refractory of the elements, when placed upon a bed of limestone subjected to the flame is easily melted. About one cubic foot of coal gas and one of oxygen will reduce one pound of platinum. The temperature generated in the Deville furnace has been estimated to be over 14,000 degrees Fahrenheit, or about five times higher than that required to melt cast iron.

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