FOREIGN LITERATURE.

RECENT FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

M. HUGO'S NEW VOLUME—M. OLLIVIER'S DEFENSE OF HIS CONDUCT AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR—BOOKS IN REGARD TO AMERICA.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

PARIS, June 16.—*Actes et Paroles; Avant l'Exile*, is the title with sub-title of the new volume by Victor Hugo. It is made up of all his publicly spoken words, many of which had the force of valiant deeds—from his reception discourse at the Academy in 1841 to his last protest before quitting France against the *coup d'état* of 1851. It includes his parliamentary speeches in Louis Philippe's Chamber of Peers and in the Assemblies of the Second Republic, his magnificent discourse on Capital Punishment in the Assize Court in 1851, together with various brief funeral orations and other addresses. Whatever may be fairly objected to some of the opinions here set forth or to certain peculiarities in the manner of their setting forth, it needs the dullness or spite of party prejudice not to feel the noble spirit or see the gorgeous brilliance that inspires and irradiates this remarkable "body of eloquence."

Excepting an occasional editorial note, marking the causes and occasions of this or that speech, the only new matter of this new volume is an introduction entitled *Le Droit et la Loi*. This piece of only 50 pages, serving in some sort as preface to the eventful life of the author, and to the discourses of the orator, is notably characteristic of the writer and the man. It presents sample ends, so to speak, of his most generous sentiments, of lofty and broad humanity, and his curiously narrow Chauvinism; and with these a little biographical episode of his childhood, in which a beautiful scene of idyllic repose and the truest spirit of large charity are combined by the harmony of touch with Hugo's unique master hand.

"All human eloquence, with all nations in all times," Hugo tells us, "is but the expression of the quarrel between Right and Law. When this conflict, which tends ever more and more to decrease in violence, is ended, civilization will reach its culmination; wars, surprises, catastrophies, dissensions will be no more. In the sequent development of society under the reign of peace and good will, laws will not have to be made; the laws existing in nature will only have to be recognized. The guiding people on this onward road to the millennium is, as it always has been, the French people, and will be the first to arrive—France will become Europe. Some peoples end by subjugation, like Hercules, or by ascension, like Jesus Christ. It might be said that, at a given moment, a nation enters into the state of constellation; other nations, stars of secondary greatness, group themselves about it; and it is thus that Athens, Rome, and Paris are pleiades. Greece, transformed, became the pagan world; Rome, transfigured, became the Christian world; France will be transfigured, and will become the human world. The French revolution will be called the evolution of the nations. Why? Because France deserves this; because she has no selfishness!"

In the conflict between right and written law Hugo has always been on the side of right, embarring not for the violation, but for the abrogation and in protest against the application of bad law in the name of justice. In his discourse of reception at the French Academy 34 years ago this month, he made a lively variation from the classical, polished rebech of commonplace in made on such occasions. Instead of eulogizing his predecessor, he eulogized the earlier resistance to the first Empire. His speech entered 28 years ago this month in Louis Philippe's Chamber of Peers demanded for the legally banished Bonapartes their right of return to France. In July, 1851, from the tribune of the Legislative Assembly, he denounced Louis Napoleon as a conspirator against the life of the Republic. An indignant fellow-member hurled out: "You are an infamous calumniator." That same indignant voice grew presently gentle, and softly uttered his oath of fidelity to the oath-breaker on becoming one of his Senators at $9,000 per annum. It was in the same speech that the orator uttered the phrase *Napoleon le Petit*, which so theaying word then raised so noisy a tempest of furious protests as to reach the ears listening ear of a crowd gathered in the Place de la Concorde that day.

It is customary with persons of common sense to mock at poet Hugo as a politician. In the narrower, immediately "practical" bearing of the epithet, he surely offers small claim to it. But, considering the confirmatory gloss which practical events of the last twenty years have given to his provision of this pitiful littleness of the third Napoleon, it might become the shrewd, practical persons of shortsighted common sense to moderate their mockery.

In this introductory essay, the writer frankly acknowledges and apologizes for some ill-advised excesses of the orator, adding (what should go a long way toward excuse of them, and what will surprise most readers of the volume) that all the parliamentary speeches were improvised. I think that the general impression, encouraged surely by their rhetorical force, has been that Hugo spoke from the tribune, after written compositions, learned by heart. His word that they were not so, is enough. His explanation why they were not is interesting. Of the prominent idea of every one of them and of the supporting arguments, his mind, supported by his feeling, had long been studiously full. The writer's practiced dealing with verbal forms furnished him readily with apt expression as fast as called for. Here is another point, in a different order of ideas, finely and strongly urged against the vulgar sneerers and their misrepresentations of Hugo as an extravagant dreamer: "Are we to attain then the final stage of progress? No. Death must not be made useless. Man will be complete only in another life. Approach, never arrive; that is the law. Civilization is an asymptote." Nor is this statement of promise to be omitted, for assuming that Hugo is an impractical idiot, as certain lesser men would have him, the inner life of him touches us closely. He says: "The man who to-day publishes this collection *Actes et Paroles*, and who, in these volumes, *Avant l'Exile* the present published one), *Pendant l'Exile*, *Depuis l'Exile* (titles of the two volumes to come), freely lays open his life to his cotemporaries, this man has passed through many errors. He means, if God grants him time, to relate the varied incidents of his life under this title: "History of the Interior. Revolutions of an Honest Conscience."

In *Principes et Conduite*, Emile Ollivier presents us with the fruit of his studies and reflections on the higher order of political questions. The work belongs to a class—a good way down—of which *L'Esprit des Lois* stands at the head. But though no Montesquieu, Ollivier is easily at the head of all living Bonapartist publicists (many of whom, however, repudiate him and his works), and has set forth here the ablest extant argument for Imperialism. The more curious portion of the volume is a long preface, in which the writer offers—apparently with no doubt of its acceptance—a formal apology of his own political conduct. As to his relation to the late disastrous war, the ex-Minister is more light-hearted, if possible, than he declared himself to be on the fatal 15th of July, 1870. And this memory, which he might have corrected by looking over a file of the *Journal Officiel* for that month, seems as light. He now asserts that he was in no sort responsible for the words, acts, and inaction of his fellow-ministers, nor for the consequences of the same. The Duke de Gramont was to blame; Lebœuf was to blame—as much as you will. M. Ollivier, Minister of Justice, had no control over them, and nothing to do with foreign affairs or military affairs; he was and is blameless. He is in no sort accountable for the declaration of war: that was the act of the Assembly.

Among other recent publications deserving mention I can only catalogue *Histoire de la Rivalité de François I. et de Charles V.*, by the aged historian Mignet, 2 vols., 8vo; *Lettres, Journal et Documents pour servir à l'histoire du Canal de Suez*, 1854, 1855 1856, 1 vol., 8vo, by Ferdinand de Lesseps; the first of the four volumes of *Mémoires d'Hector Berlioz*, a most entertaining as well as seriously valuable contribution to cotemporary French political history. *Boileau, sa Vie, ses Ouvrages, son Caractère*, by Arthur Pougin. It is a little singular that this last-named eminent and eminently French composer, whose centennial birthday his townsmen of Rouen have been celebrating this week with pompous festivities and whose *Dame Blanche* was performed two nights ago at the *Opéra Comique* for the 1,346th time, should have waited till now for a fit biography. Happily neither he nor its readers have lost by waiting for this pleasant book of carefully collected facts, abundant anecdotes and musical criticism, the fruit of ten years' labor. *L'Amérique* by Fortunio (the *nom de plume*, I think, of a French consul long resident in our country) is a bright sketch by an acute observer of men (especially women) and manners in our country. Written since the Franco-Prussian war, the traits of our adopted German citizen run somewhat to unjust caricature; *par contre*, the picture of the type of American woman is a likeness rather flattering to all her sisters, brothers, and lovers. *A travers les Etats Unis* is a collection of descriptive and critical studies by M. Simonin, an intelligent French engineer, whose repeated visits to our country, with some exceptional occasions for observation, go far to relieve him from the foreigner's proverbial inability to understand our institutions. His chapters offer a certain interest even to the well-informed American reader; M. Simonin is writing new chapters of his American experience for the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, where the chapters of the present volume originally appeared, and where the treatment of American themes and translations from American authors are beginning to hold a large place. Within two years, M. Buloz has introduced to the *élite* of the French public Bret Harte, Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Eggleston, and other of our latest generation of authors, by critical essays on these writers, illustrated by extracts from their writings, or by full translation of one or another of their works. This reminds me to note *Grandes Figures Historiques*, by Auguste Laugel. The subjects of this collection of biographical essays in political philosophy are William of Orange, John van Barneveldt, Josiah Quincy, and Charles Sumner.

W. H. H.

BOSTON LITERARY NOTES.

MRS. DIAZ'S "A DOMESTIC PROBLEM."—LACK OF TRAINING OF MOTHERS—RESULT OF THE NEGLECT—METHODS OF REFORMATION—THE "ORIGIN OF ENGRAVING."

[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BOSTON, July 3.—J. R. Osgood & Co. have nearly ready "A Domestic Problem: Work and Culture in the Household," by Mrs. A. M. Diaz, author of "The Schoolmaster's Trunk," &c. Mrs. Diaz is the high priestess of common sense. This series of articles has been published in the SEMI-WEEKLY and WEEKLY TRIBUNE. There is nothing of special originality in this book—not much of the quaint humor of the "William Henry Letters"—it is the serious and sincere presentation of one of the difficulties in the way of the progress of the race, namely, the want of culture in mothers, and particularly the want of special training for the office of motherhood. Mrs. Diaz thinks that the great, underlying cause of the state of things which now prevails, not concerning what woman's mission is, but concerning the ways and means by which she is to accomplish it. We say, often enough, that the true mission of woman is to train up her children rightly, and to make home happy. But who considers in what manner she should be fitted for these duties? To illustrate the folly of the direct and of special training, Mrs. Diaz resorts to the familiar supposition of a visit to this world by a philosopher from some other planet. It is observable that all these philosophers, who come to us from sun, moon, or stars, speak the English language, and so have no difficulty in interchanging ideas with the learned or the unlearned of us.

In this instance the philosopher from other spheres observes the little children drawn along in their little chaises, and inquires whether these beautiful creatures are of any use. Oh yes, they are the hope of the country—the material from which our future men and women are to be made. Ah, then there is no danger of their growing up anything but the right kind of men and women? Certainly there is great danger. In fact, some of them grow up treacherous, numerous, revengeful. Our drunkards, murderers, and thieves were once such innocent babies as these. And it's only a chance, cries out the philosopher, whether any child turns out valid or slunk? No, not quite that. It depends largely on training. Children are ways to receive impressions, and mortals to retain them. Ah, but at least they are all pretty much alike; you can easily the matter had made some general rules? Not at all. They differ widely in temperament, even in the same family, and each child requires separate and conscientious study. Who, then, dare make these early and long-enduring impressions, of such infinite importance? Who? Oh, that is left to the mothers. Oh yes; now it is clear. You have a specially trained class adapted to this work? No, not exactly. But here is one of them; she can tell you. So the puzzled philosopher is left alone with the pretty young mother, who, in answer to his inquiries about her attainments, begins to mume over all that she learned at the "Institute."

"And the training of children—moral, intellectual and physical—was no doubt made a prominent subject of consideration?"

"Training of children! Oh, no! That would have been a curious kind of study."

"Where, then, were you prepared for the duties of your mission?"

"What mission do you mean?"

"Your mission of child-training."

"I had no preparation!"

"No preparation! But are you acquainted with the different temperaments a child may have, and the different combinations of them? Are you competent to the direction and culture of the intellectual and moral nature? Have you skill to touch the hidden springs of action? Have you, this instructed, the power, the knowledge, the wisdom, requisite for guiding that mighty force, a child's soul?"

"Alas! There is hardly a day that I do not feel my ignorance on all these points."

"Are there no sources from which knowledge may be obtained? There must be books written on these subjects."

"Possibly; but I have no time to read them."

"No time! no time to prepare for your chief mission?"

"It is our mission only in prose. In real life it plays an extremely subordinate part."

"What, then, is real life, to your mission?"

"Chiefly cooking and sewing."

"Your husband, then, does not share the common belief in regard to woman's chief duty."

"Oh, yes. I have heard him express it many a time, though I don't think he comprehends what a woman needs in order to do her duty by her children. But he loves them dearly. If one should die he would be heart-broken."

"Is it a common thing here for children to die?"

"I am grieved to say that nearly one-fourth die in infancy."

"And those who live, do they grow up in full health and vigor?"

"Oh, indeed, they do not! Why, look at our crowded hospitals! Look at the apothecaries' shops at almost every corner. Look at the advertisements of medicines. Don't you think there's meaning in these, and a meaning in the long rows of livery-stable-front houses occupied by physicians, and a meaning in the people themselves? There's scarcely one of them but has some ailment."

"But is this matter of health subject to no law?"

"The phrase, 'laws of health,' is a familiar one, but I don't know what these laws are."

"Mothers, then, are not in the habit of teaching them to their children?"

"They are not themselves acquainted with them."

"Perhaps this extraordinary ignorance has something to do with the fearful mortality among infants. Do not husbands provide their wives with books and other means of information on this subject?"

"Generally speaking, they do nothing of the kind."

"And does not the subject of hygienic laws, as applied to the rearing of children, come into the courses of study followed for young women?"

"No, indeed. Oh, how I wish it had!—and those other matters you mentioned. I would give up everything else I ever learned for the sake of knowing how to bring up my children, and how to keep them in health."

"The presidents and professors of your educational institutions—do they share the common belief as to woman's mission?"

"Oh, yes! They all say that the chief business of woman is to train up her children."

Mrs. Diaz thinks the philosopher's surprise at the result of his investigations would be greatly increased if he had pursued them further, and discovered that for every other occupation than the training of children special preparation was required. She considers the causes of the great lack of intelligent cultivation among ordinary women, and she seems to find them chiefly in plea and ruffles. Housework, as it goes on at present, is never-ending, and fashion demands that all the spare odds and ends of time should be spent in making trimmings for the much ridiculed gowns of the period. The great step would be gained, she thinks, if men could be persuaded to prefer that their wives should give them less pies and more intelligent companionship, and women would be ready to wear plain garments, and so gain time for study. There is much sound sense in this, and our author paints in strong colors the endless labors of the model housekeeper—the endless stitches of the mother, who is determined that her children shall ruffle it with the best. But this is not all the trouble, Mrs. Diaz. A deeper one lies in the fact that so few women really desire culture. Among those who, like the lilies of the field, toil not, nor yet spin, I have not found the standard of intellectual acquirement very much higher than among those whose busy fingers fill the shining hours with ceaseless labor. The truth is, for one who has no taste for music the symphonies of Beethoven were written in vain; and the world of literature, however its paths are made easy, offers no allurement to those who do not care to enter in and possess them.

A book both instructive and entertaining is "Baker's Origin and Antiquity of Engraving," published by J. R. Osgood & Co. Mr. Baker has treated his subject so carefully that he deserves to be read by all who would like to understand the history of the fine art of engraving.

L. C. M.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS: NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY: May 18.—The evening was occupied with a lecture by Capt. D. P. Parkhurst, upon certain collections of plants and minerals made by him during the past Winter in Jamaica.

NEWARK, N. J.: NEW-JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: May 20.—A memorial was read by Mr. Joseph P. Bradley upon the late William L. Dayton, in which his personal history was sketched, and the services enumerated that he had rendered to his country in various public or official capacities.

SAN FRANCISCO: ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: May 3.—A paper was read by Mr. Charles W. Brooks, Japanese Consul, on the origin of the Chinese race, involving an inquiry into the evidence of their American origin, and suggesting the greater antiquity of the races indigenous to the American Continent. In this he took the ground that America was, geologically, the oldest continent, and as such, in all probability, had been first peopled; and that from America had proceeded the various nations that inhabit the Old World as well as the New.

DETROIT: SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION: May 7.—A Special Committee, appointed to remodel the Association so as to allow of its incorporation under the State laws, reported a constitution and by-laws which were adopted. The Treasurer announced that the receipts for the year were $2,763, and that there was a considerable balance on hand. Reports were presented by the Secretary, Librarian and Curator on the condition of the Association. The officers elected for the ensuing year were: J. M. B. Sill, President; A. B. Lyons, Corresponding Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA: ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES: May 18.—Prof. Cope spoke of the fossil deer of the Loup Fork tertiary beds, of which three genera were described by Dr. Leidy from specimens obtained by Dr. Hayden. Prof. Cope considered these as belonging to one genus, which he adopts the name *Dicrocerus*. Specimens of the horns of the three species were exhibited, some of them showing traces over the sort of old fashioned. The frequent fracture of the horns in these fossil species was probably the origin of the periodical shedding of the horns in the existing true deer. These watch were not so evident to the accident of fracture probably held some ancestral relation into to the Antelopes. Prof. Cope also spoke of the genus *Amphiceras* and its relation to the genus *Cervus*. From the evidence of specimens of the remains of this genus exhibited, the Loup Fork epoch was pronounced upper miocene and not pliocene as generally held.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, PHILADELPHIA: May 21.—Prof. Lesley described the changes made in the theoretical geology of the country south of Lake Erie, as revealed by the work of the New Geological Survey of Pennsylvania; the most important of these changes—namely, the substitution of an east and west strike for a northeast and southwest strike—being necessitated by the probability that most of the exposures of coal, conglomerate throughout Warren, Venango, and Crawford Counties in Pennsylvania, and Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties in New-York, belong to a horizon 200 feet below that of the great conglomerate No. 12, the base of the productive coal measures. Dr. Cresson referred to the phenomena of the electric currents at the last meeting, to state his own opinion that it is not essential to have two metals, or an electromotive source of one metal, for the exhibition of such currents. He had found that mere water could be a medium for the production and exhibition of the phenomena under discussion.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS: ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE OFFICERS: May 6.—First annual meeting. Mr. Robison stated that a bill had passed the Senate of Illinois providing suitable legislation for the propagation of the fish in the inland streams of the state, but that it failed in the House partly in consequence of the strong opposition from southern Illinois. He expressed the hope that the next Legislature would pass such a bill as was desired. An address was made by Dr. W. A. Pratt upon the "Full-spawning Fish and upon Hybridization." Resolutions were adopted requesting that the proposition of young fish and spawn due from the United States to the State of Illinois be delivered to Dr. W. A. Pratt at Elgin for hatching and distribution; and that for the purpose of paying the expense incurred, Dr. Pratt be authorized to sell to local associations or individuals any of the spawn or fry thus hatched by the United States Commission, at a price sufficient to pay the same, provided that the spawn or fry so supplied should be deposited in streams of the state. The officers elected for the year were: Dr. W. A. Pratt of Elgin, President; Mr. Z. Beatty of Galesburg, Corresponding Secretary.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: Boston, April 13.—Prof. Wolcott Gibbs read papers on a new optical concave; on a mode of determining indices of refraction without the use of divided instruments; and on a new optical instrument. Prof. Trowbridge described his new form of induction coil. He also communicated papers from his laboratory pupils, B. O. Peirce and E. E. Jackson, on the effects of armatures upon electro-magnets; and from W. C. Roberts and J. H. Jennings, on the time of demagnetization of soft iron. Prof. E. C. Pickering read a paper on the light transmitted through one or more plates of glass.

May 11.—This being the last meeting of the Academic year, the report of the Council was made, containing biographical notices of the fellows deceased during the past year, viz.: for Hon. B. R. Curtis, Dr. Geo. Derby, the Hon. Francis C. Lowell, Dr. C. C. Putnam, N. B. Shurtleff, James Walker, and Jeffries Wyman; also of Foreign Honorary Members, Agassiz, Airy, Elie de Beaumont, Sir Wm. R. Hamilton, Owen, and Sir Charles Lyell. Papers were read by Prof. Cooke on a new mineral, Melanolite, and on the new varieties of Vermiculite; by Wm. A. Rogers, a probable explanation of the mode of ruling Robert's gratings, deduced from Mr. Rogers's own experiments; by Prof. E. C. Pickering, the results of several series of physical investigations, chiefly photometric and magnetic, conducted during the past season in his laboratory at the Institute of Technology; by Prof. S. Cord, on solar motion and its use as a means of estimating solar distances.

PHILADELPHIA: UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMISSION: May 10.—Regular annual meeting of the Commission. In view of the importance of this meeting, from the fact that it was the only one to take place before the opening of the Centennial Exposition in 1876, there was a very full attendance on this occasion, nearly every State and Territory being represented. The annual reports of the Board of Finance and of the Executive Committee were read and carefully considered, and many suggestions were made looking toward the increase in the interest in the proposed international display. An elaborate report was read by Mr. McCoy of Nevada upon Mines and Mining, in which he was solicited from the display of mining, especially of the precious metals from the Western States, would probably publish exhibit those who should be thereby familiar with the mineral resources of the United States. The most important business of the meeting was that of the third day, resulting in the election of the following officers: Gen. Joseph R. Hawley of Connecticut, President; Messrs. Gideon Cleveland of New-Jersey, John B. Crocker of California, Robert Lucas of Iowa, Thomas H. Caldwell of Tennessee, John Merrell of Missouri, Wm. Carraway of South Carolina, Vice-Presidents; Prof. John L. Campbell, secretary; John L. Shoemaker, Solicitor; and Messrs. Hugh McCulloch of Indiana, Alfred Cope of Ohio, A. M. Beckwith of New-York, Alex. R. Boteler of West Virginia, Richard C. McCormick of Arizona, John Lynch of Louisiana, Chas. P. Stimson of Maine, Samuel E. Pulliam of North Carolina, Frederick L. Mathews of Illinois, William Phipps Blair of Connecticut, James E. Dexter of District of Columbia, J. Bernard Walker of Florida, Geo. B. Loring of Massachusetts, Executive Committee.

A special programme was presented for the opening day, May 10, 1876, and was as follows:

President of the day—The President of the United States.

Chaplain—The Chaplain of the United States Senate.

Orations—Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts, and Lucius G. C. Lamar of Mississippi.

Poem—Henry W. Longfellow of Massachusetts.

Reader of the Declaration of Independence—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Grand Marshal—Gen. W. T. Sherman, U. S. Army.

Master of Ceremonies—Gen. Jos. E. Johnston of Georgia.

Civic and military displays of the general, state and foreign governments invited and expected, to be provided. Appropriate music, vocal and instrumental, to be provided. The Committee also recommend that the President and Secretary of the Commission at once notify the publication so noted.

Other business of greater or less importance was transacted, for an account of which reference may be made to the very full reports of THE DAILY TRIBUNE.

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, New-Haven, June 16: Prof. Norton resumed a discussion on the subject of Molecular Physics. Prof. Norton's late studies have embraced an extended and rigid series of experimental tests of his theoretical deductions. While Maxwell, Tyndall and others make the vibratory motions of the ultimate particles the origin of molecular forces, Prof. Norton considers these forces as originating in the ethereal envelopes by which he conceives the ultimate atoms to be surrounded. The molecule he regards as a primitive atom with an envelope of electric ether which is itself surrounded by a second envelope of luminiferous ether. The "atomettes" of this ether mutually repel each other, and from this fundamental property of repulsion may be deduced all other forms of physical force and all classes of physical phenomena. The luminiferous ether is concerned more directly in the phenomena of heat, light, and perhaps gravitation; while the electric ether seems more easy to explain electricity and magnetism. Following out his hypothesis Prof. Norton has discussed the molecular constitution and mechanical properties of bodies, heat, light, electricity, magnetism, gravitation, chemical action, and molecular forces, and finally has established the deductions by experiment. While this class of studies is too abstruse to be of general interest the results are of the highest importance.

Prof. Mayer of Stevens Institute favored the Academy with an account of his very recent and brilliant discovery in Solar Physics. He had observed that a paper redyed with the double iodide of mercury and copper, and finally turned black when exposed to a temperature of 700° C. By placing a very thin paper, sensitized in this manner, behind the objective of a telescope and receiving on it the solar image, he has ascertained many new and interesting facts relating to the temperature of different parts of the solar disk. In the first place the unexpected revelation was made that the point of maximum temperature is not the center of the disk but nearer the south pole. By using suitable screens he admitted just enough light to give a distinct, blackened, elliptical spot on the paper. Then admitting more light, this ellipse was successively enlarged, but the center in each case remained very distinct, marking the limit where the temperature of 700 had been reached. This indicated the existence and location of isothermal lines on the sun's disk, and as these have been observed from day to day, their position changes and fluctuates, but the observations have not yet determined any apparent law governing these changes. These facts are wholly new and unexpected; and the simple and direct method of experiment is no small element in the value of a discovery which may revolutionize the science of solar physics.

Prof. Brewer presented a statement respecting the sands of Salt Lake, very curious little rounded and polished granules, which he finds to be crystallizations of carbonate of lime around a nucleus of pumice-stone or organic particles from some form of animal life. These sand grains are in other words incipient oolites, and the question of their formation is interesting. He also exhibited specimens of the drifting sands from various points, and showed how the different varieties are separated by action of the winds. Finally, he spoke of the frozen spray of the Yosemite Falls, giving a synopsis of a paper recently presented by him before the California Academy. These frozen pellets he considers due to evaporation acting in that exceedingly dry atmosphere upon the spray formed from the ice cold water of melting snows.

APPLIED SCIENCE.

GROUNDWORT AS A FEBRIFUGE.—Glocenor of Hainault announces that he has discovered in the groundwort (*Senecio arvensis*) virtues as a febrifuge superior to those of cinchona and its derivatives. Fifty grammes of the fresh plant, excluding the root, are to be boiled for ten minutes in 500 grammes of water, and the solution strained. This is to be taken in three doses, at intervals of two hours, after the attack. In nearly every case positive relief, if not a cure, is claimed as the result.

TREATMENT OF NEW WOODEN UTENSILS, &c.—Wooden vessels for containing articles of food, wine, &c., also wooden vessels for culinary purposes, can be rendered fit for immediate use, by the removal of the unpleasant extractive matters, by treatment with a solution of washing soda. Thus, an ordinary barrel should be filled half-full of water, and a solution of about two pounds of soda in as much water as will dissolve it, then heated, and the liquids thoroughly mixed by shaking the barrel, which should then be filled to the bung with water, and allowed to remain for twelve to fourteen days; then after withdrawing the discolored liquid, it should be well rinsed and filled with pure water and allowed to remain several days, when it will be fit for use. Other wooden utensils may be treated with a similar solution of soda.

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