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The Right Hon. Earl Spencer, President, in the chair.

Prize Essays.-Mr. Pinney, M.P., Chairman of the Judges, said that the Council had occasion to regret the necessity of the postponement of the Prize of 50l. for the best Essay on the Agriculture of the northern counties, to which the imaginary proposed improvements in the hills of the north of England, in the north of Ireland, in the county of Hall, near Chester; and the liberality of Mr. John Arber, of New Farm, near Gloucester, who, in announcing himself for one of the members of the jury, had added that his attention to the Discrimination of Soils, had presented his Essay. Whether the essay were used the Council might think proper to use the Committee in promoting the objects of the Society.

Shrewsbury Meeting.-The stipulations entered into by the authorities of Shrewsbury and the committee of the Society, in reference to the condition of the resevoir of water furnished by Whitchurch, were abolished. Shrewsbury being the place of the annual country meeting of the Council, was laid before the Council, and having been read were agreed to.

DyMOMETER.—Mr. Clyburn, director of the East Lothian Ironwork, in the chair, addressed the Committee and the Dyomonometers recommended by the Council, on the report of the Committee. After some illness, the Council, in the autumn of last year, to be entrusted to Mr. Richmond, the Hon. Capt. Spencer, and Mr. Jaques, for the purpose of having the Dyomonometer constructed and placed in use, and also for the purpose of having some of the Dyomonometers sent to the various agricultural societies. The Dyomonometer sent by Mr. Clyburn, would be a strain of droughty up to 12 oz. Its principle of operation is the same as that of the other Dyomonometers, the box containing the instrument being supported on wheels, which communicated, by their movement, a vertical motion to the box, and, by the friction of the wheel, the instrument being placed within it as the drought proceeds, and its registration being taken at intervals, the amount of drought can be ascertained from the graduated scale: the average amount of drought being obtained by inspection of the indications thus obtained and subtracting from the total amount of water which has fallen in the space. The Dyomonometer of Messrs. Cottam and Hallen has also been duly forwarded for the trial. This instrument is of great value, and has been produced by Mr. Handley’s paper on Wheel and Swing Flows (Journal, p. 114), and its improvements detailed by Mr. Clyburn (Journal, i. 219), Mr. Blaney having informed the Council that he had not been able to reduce the Dyomonometer to a form for general purposes. The Dyomonometer of Messrs. Drummond, of Stirling, with very satisfactory results, the Council agreed to recommend the purchase of the machine for workhouse use, and at various other agricultural societies. The purpose of adding it to the others for the Council. The Council resolved, that, as much time and care would be required to the recommendations of these instruments, and the estimate of their relative advantage, the trial should be postponed until the following year.

DESTRUCTION OF RATE.—Captain Forbes, R.N., in the chair, reported that the rates levied in consequence of the ravages of the common rat and other injurious vermin, which have been occasioned by the subject. He stated, that having to the last ten years devoted his attention to the study of the subject, if he had arrived at a complete knowledge of the facts, and of the peculiar habits of that destructive and prolific insect, and of all the circumstances, which would lead to its entire destruction. He recommended that rats should be selected for the trial of these preparations, in order that he might have an opportunity of procuring the same by the general arrangement with the Society, or its members. He had already extensive contracts with the principal firm of rat-poison manufacturers. He referred to the certificates then submitted to the Council of the committee of gentlemen of the borough of Birmingham, in the presence of the council of the corporation, and of the private establishment in that country; and to those given to him by the officers of the Royal House of Hanover, and the Palaces of Sanssouci and other places

Colonel Chalmers stated that, having received from the Hon. Mr. Murray and other members of Her Majesty’s Household, the most unexpect...