

express. As a Professor, we have been assured that his value was great:—as a man he was gentle and accomplished. His decease creates a vacancy in the Royal Academy.

Among other deaths of the week we observe that of M. Gauci announced. He was "formerly Miniature-Painter Extraordinary to the Emperor Napoleon the First,"—but will be better remembered in England by the lithographic publications with which he was connected some years ago. M. Gauci died at an advanced age.

The name of M. Loewe-Weimar, who some years ago was known in the literary world of Paris as a translator and essayist on foreign literatures,—and who lately has been occupying a consulship in South America, must be added to the obituary of the year 1854.

The discourse which was the other day delivered by M. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, on his reception in the *Académie* of France, having for its text the *éloge* of his predecessor M. Tissot, has created a sensation in Paris; and by the tolerant catholicism of its tone has recalled (so they say) the spirit of Fénelon, which of late has been "at a discount."—Another vacancy in the *Académie* has just been made by the death of M. le Comte de St.-Aulaire.—Having spoken of Fénelon, it is natural here to mention a search that has just been made in the crypts of the Cathedral at Meaux for the remains of Fénelon's adversary—the grandiose and eloquent Bossuet. Inquiry had been stirred by M. Poujoulat in his "Lettres sur Bossuet." "A leaden coffin was found, well closed, authenticated by a plate of copper, on which are engraved the arms of Bossuet (three wheels), and an inscription, corresponding with that on the marble slab, in the church above, behind the high altar." Has it ever occurred to any one—and is the fact as we state it—that England has few forgotten or disputed graves in comparison with the Continent? The speculation is curious, and one full of suggestion.

The French Academy of Sciences have received some interesting observations on the effects of the lightning stroke upon human beings. The following facts are the result of patient observations made by M. Boudin, chief surgeon to the Hôpital du Roule:—The number of people yearly struck by lightning in France averages 200. The number of people killed by lightning between the years 1835 and 1852 is no less than 1,308; the number struck, but not fatally, is about three to one of the number killed. Of the number struck, there were nearly three men to one woman. The region where the lightning had been most fatal is the central plateau of France, comprising the departments of Cantal, Puy-de-Dôme, and other departments which are mountainous or present elevated ground. The months during which people are the least exposed to the fatal effects of lightning are the coldest months of the year, viz., November, December, January, and February. Out of 103 people struck, 4 were struck in March, 6 in April, 8 in May, 22 in June, 13 in July, 19 in August, 14 in September, and 15 in October. One-fourth of the people who have been struck may trace the misfortune to their own imprudence, in taking shelter under trees, which attract the electric fluid. The greatest number of people killed by a single flash of lightning does not exceed eight or nine. M. Boudin called attention to two curious facts in connexion with this subject. The first was, that dead men, struck by lightning, had been found in exactly the upright position they held when killed; the second was, that other bodies bore upon them faint impressions of outward objects, probably somewhat resembling photographic shadows. Animals, however, are much more exposed to the influences of lightning than men, and suffer more by its destructive properties. More than once a single flash of lightning has destroyed an entire flock of sheep, and, according to M. D'Abbadie, flocks of 2,000 in Ethiopia. The fires occasioned by lightning have amounted to eight in one week in the departments of La Meuse, Moselle, Meurthe, and Vosges. The little kingdom of Wurtemberg suffered by 117 fires in nine years, so caused. Before the application of lightning-conductors, English ships

experienced losses annually by the electric fluid estimated at from 1,000*l.* to 1,400*l.*—but since their application, such losses are no longer heard of, although some pretend to deny the efficacy of the lightning-rod.

A Correspondent places a suggestion at the service of Mr. Bonomi.—"On p. 197 of the second edition of Bonomi's 'Nineveh and its Palaces,' the author in describing fig. 95 seems to have met with a difficulty more apparent than real. I noticed the passage in the first edition, and finding that the mystery still remains unsolved, I beg to trouble you with the following suggestion:—'Among the besiegers there are two archers.....The sword is attached to a narrow baldric, passing over the right shoulder and traversing the breast, which is besides crossed by a cord, of which it is impossible to divine the use.' Is not this cord a spare bowstring, or a twist of spare bowstrings?"

"I am, &c.

J. B. M'CAUL."

"Library, British Museum."

"Who goes there?" asked the French sentinel, as he saw some figures moving near the trenches at Sebastopol. *Inglist! Inglist!* answered the foremost. Our ally took the *Inglist* for good English of London, passed on, and in a few minutes a Muscovite battalion was in the French position, teaching the French gunners a sharp lesson in pronunciation. Does the incident suggest the necessity for our neighbours learning "to spike the English" better? Such teaching is severe;—and the Rev. Dr. Emerton, Principal of Hanwell College, comes before us with a scheme for completing the union of France and England,—one part of which proposes "to give facilities for the acquisition of the French language even to the adult population, more particularly those who may be disposed or induced to visit the Exposition in Paris during the coming year; and thus enable them to assist in forming that national union of sentiment and good feeling which we may hope will be perpetual." We have no word to say against this proposal in itself;—we only doubt the success. Dr. Emerton's minor suggestions are somewhat more practicable, perhaps, as the reader shall see. Here they follow.—

1. That committees be formed in every large town, in both countries, with sub-committees in the country districts, and central committees in London and Paris, having for their object the promotion of the *international union* of England and France.—2. That advantage be taken of the good feeling that now exists between the two countries to abolish, as far as possible,—more particularly during the period of the Exposition—those various *differential duties* which, whilst they impede commerce, necessarily prevent the complete amalgamation of the two people.—3. That, in deference to the prejudices of the English people, and as a proof of his entire confidence in the rectitude of his own intentions, and the respect and admiration of his own subjects, the Emperor of the French be petitioned to dispense with the use of *passports* during the period of the Exposition.—4. That, during the Exposition, and as a memorial in all future ages of the good feeling the English Government, as well as people, are desirous of cultivating, and in conformity with the customs in France, all *public institutions* in England should be thrown open *gratuitously*, and in other respects every endeavour be made to render agreeable the visits of the French to England, or their residence therein.—5. That a series of educational works be prepared, with the English and French, or French and English, in parallel columns, as closely translated as the idioms of the languages will allow; whereby, from the earliest age, the children of the two countries may be gradually enabled to hold intercourse with each other.

—The intercourse of next year, even in spite of the probabilities of war, is likely to give rise to a thousand other suggestions, more or less profitable. Meanwhile here is a beginning:—and we are glad to find that the Rev. Dr. Emerton has abandoned his old plan of offering money for a prize essay on the subject of his idea.

As the Aquarium is now almost a domestic institution, some of our readers will be glad to hear that they can make their own salt water artificially. Mr. Lloyd makes the following report on his experiments, in a letter to Mr. Bolton, which has been kindly placed in our hands for publication.—

164, St. John Street Road, Sept. 26.

Sir,—I have on two occasions purchased at your shop certain chemicals for the manufacture of a solution capable of sustaining marine animal and vegetable life in an "Aquarium," and I promised that when I had given the matter a fair trial, I would send you a written report of my success or

otherwise. I have now much pleasure in informing you that the preparation in question answers admirably, for I possess a glass jar stocked according to the list given below, everything in which is apparently in high health, and in the performance of its natural functions. You will observe, that I do not claim this preparation as my own; it belongs to Mr. P. H. Gosse, and I only give evidence as to its efficacy from actual experience, that you may, if you please, use my statements in the same manner as you and others have used the evidence of photographers, for I am sanguine enough to think that when the history and management, in a domesticated state, of marine animals become better known, the subject will be pursued as eagerly as any other popular and attractive science. I have only to add, that the same simple rules, by which are regulated Aquaria supplied with actual sea-water, apply to its imitation; and that, at present, I may be considered as merely experimenting. After awhile, I hope to practise on a larger scale, and to maintain a variety of zoophytes (microscopic and other), together with fish, mollusks, &c. &c.

I am, &c. WILLIAM ALFORD LLOYD.

CONTENTS OF AQUARIUM.

Solution.—15 pints New River or other good water; 7 ounces Table Salt; $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce Epsom Salt; 400 grains Chloride Magnesium; 80 grains Chloride Potassium. *Vegetation*.—*Ulva Latissima*. *Animals*.—1 *Actinia Mysmenbranthemum*; 1 *Actinia Crassicornis*; 1 *Actinia Parasitica*; 1 (group) *Serpula Contortuplicata*; 12 *Littorina Littorea*.

P. S.—Sept. 30.—Since the foregoing was written I have used the solution for such of the marine mollusks (oysters, scallops, mussels, and cockles) as are to be had alive at the shops of the London fishmongers, and I have met with nothing but *uniform success* in every case. These Conchifers furnish a most decisive and interesting test, for, if *fresh water* be applied to their delicately organized ciliated branchiae, *instant death* is produced, as microscopic observers well know; whereas, with the preparation, the discharging and entering orifices, together with the tentacles surrounding the latter, are in full and healthful action. *Crystals*, obtained by separately evaporating portions of the solution and of actual sea-water, are, under the microscope, identical in form and number.

COLOSSEUM, Regent's Park.—Admission, 1*s.*—The original PANORAMA of LONDON BY DAY is exhibited daily, from half-past Ten till half-past Four. Museum of Sculpture, Conservatories, Swiss Cottage, &c. The extraordinary PANORAMA of LONDON BY NIGHT, every Evening from Seven till Ten. Music from Two till half-past Four, and during the Evening.

CYCLOPAMA, Albany Street.—NOW OPEN, with a Colossal Moving Diorama of the City and Bay of NAPLES, MOUNT VESUVIUS, and the PALMERSHURTON, Museum of 7000, and present state of the Excavated City. Painted by Mr. J. M'NEVIN, from Sketches taken by himself in 1852. Daily at Three and Eight o'clock, with appropriate Music and Description.—Admission, 1*s.*; Children and Schools, half-price.

PATRON.—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Miss GLYN will resume her SHAKESPEARIAN READINGS on THURSDAY EVENING, the 23rd inst. at Eight o'clock, with KING JOHN.—MONDAY EVENING LECTURE to the INDUSTRIAL CLASSES: On FRICTIONAL ELECTRICITY, by Dr. BACHHOFFNER.—Dr. EDWARDS'S PHOTOGRAPHS of the MOON, manifested by the OXY-HYDROGEN MICROSCOPE.—LECTURES by J. H. PERKINS, Esq. on CHEMISTRY.—LECTURE by Dr. BACHHOFFNER, on the PATENT POLYTECHNIC GAS FIRE.—A splendid series of 30 COSMORAMIC VIEWS of ST. PETERSBURGH, MOSCOW, &c. and the COSTUMES of the RUSSIANS is now open daily, and in the Evening.—DISSOLVING VIEWS of the SEAT of WAR, SEBASTOPOL, &c.—Admission, 1*s.*; Stalls, 2*s.*; Pit Stalls, 3*s.*—Open on SATURDAY EVENINGS from half-past Seven till Ten, with an Entertainment descriptive of the RISE and PROGRESS of AMERICAN SCENERY, by G. HARVEY, Esq.—Madame KRAMER and party, the celebrated TYROLESE MINSTRELS, will appear on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd, FRIDAY, the 24th, and SATURDAY, the 25th inst., at Eight o'clock in the Evening, and sing a selection of their NATIONAL MELODIES.

SCIENTIFIC

SOCIETIES.

HORTICULTURAL.—Nov. 7.—E. Brande, Esq. in the chair.—N. Malcolm, Esq. was elected a Fellow.—Messrs. Veitch contributed *Blue Vanda* (*cærulea*), one of the most useful early winter flowering Orchids. A Silver Knightian Medal was awarded. The same firm also sent two plants of *Fuchsia Dominiana*, a hybrid raised between *F. serratifolia* and *spectabilis*: nothing could possibly be handsomer at this season than this variety. A Certificate of Merit was awarded. A similar award was also made for *Sonerila margaritacea*, a new species. From the same firm also came cut specimens of a variety of *Pernettya mucronata*, called *speciosa*.