

rotary motion being less as approaching or situated near the dead power points, but being as regards direction of force similar to that already specified and as illustrated by the intersecting lines, xz , and arrow.

More information may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. Furman as above.

Miscellaneous.

Special Correspondence of the Scientific American.
British Scientific Association, &c.

LONDON, July 11th 1851.

The British Association for the advancement of science, met on last Thursday (3rd) in the Corn Exchange, Ipswich. Sir David Brewster, the President, made an address on resigning the chair to his elected successor, Prof. Airy, the Astronomer Royal. He noticed in a tone of complaint the neglect shown by the Government to scientific pursuits, and to scientific men, and he alluded particularly to the refusal of the application of the association, backed as it was by the Royal Society, to have a powerful reflecting telescope stationed for the examination of the nebulae of the northern hemisphere. He consoled the meeting, however, with the reflection that Governments do not last forever, that rays of light will penetrate through darkness, and that even the hide of the rhinoceros is vulnerable in points. From these observations on the Government, Sir David launched forth in praise of Prince Albert, who had so prominently come forward as the patron of science and arts; and he spoke in an enthusiastic manner of the Crystal Palace and its contents, as the magnificent result of the Prince's patronage and active exertions in promoting the success of the exhibition.

Professor Airy read his presidential address rapidly but distinctly. He touched lightly on the progress of science in all branches during the last year, more particularly on those with which the British Association is more closely connected, and pointed out what the Association has done for furtherance of its great objects. He spoke of the persevering efforts of Lord Ross, to perfect the mechanical arrangements of his great reflecting telescope, in which considerable improvements had been made; also of the labors of Mr. Ross, in the improvement of chromatic instruments. As a consequence of the progress of optical glass manufacture, at the works of Mr. Chance, of Birmingham, Mr. Ross has succeeded in making an object glass, two feet in diameter, that of the large telescope at the Exhibition being fifteen inches. The admirable specimens of engineering skill, exhibited by Mr. Ransome, of Ipswich, in the construction of stands for some of the large instruments at the Royal Observatory, at Greenwich, were also dwelt upon by the president with much satisfaction. From astronomical instruments, he proceeded to notice the discoveries that have been made by their means, the dispersion of the nebulae into distinct systems of stars, the three new planets, and the ascertainment of the distance of the nearest star to our solar system.

With regard to the recent excitement regarding M. Foucault's experiments, rendering visible the rotation of the earth, the president stated that there were special adjustments to be made for different latitudes before any correct deductions could be drawn from the vibrations of the pendulum independently of the earth's rotation. In reference to investigations respecting terrestrial magnetism, he alluded particularly to Prof. Faraday's discovery of the magnetic property of oxygen, and the important bearing it might have in elucidating the mysterious phenomena of the magnetism of the earth, though as yet it had not been subjected to sufficient examination to have any practical value. Before leaving the subject of astronomy, the president adverted to some experiments recently made in America, from which it would appear electricity is transmitted through iron wires with the velocity of 15,000 miles per second, and to the applicability of the rapid transmission of electricity to noting corresponding celestial phenomena.

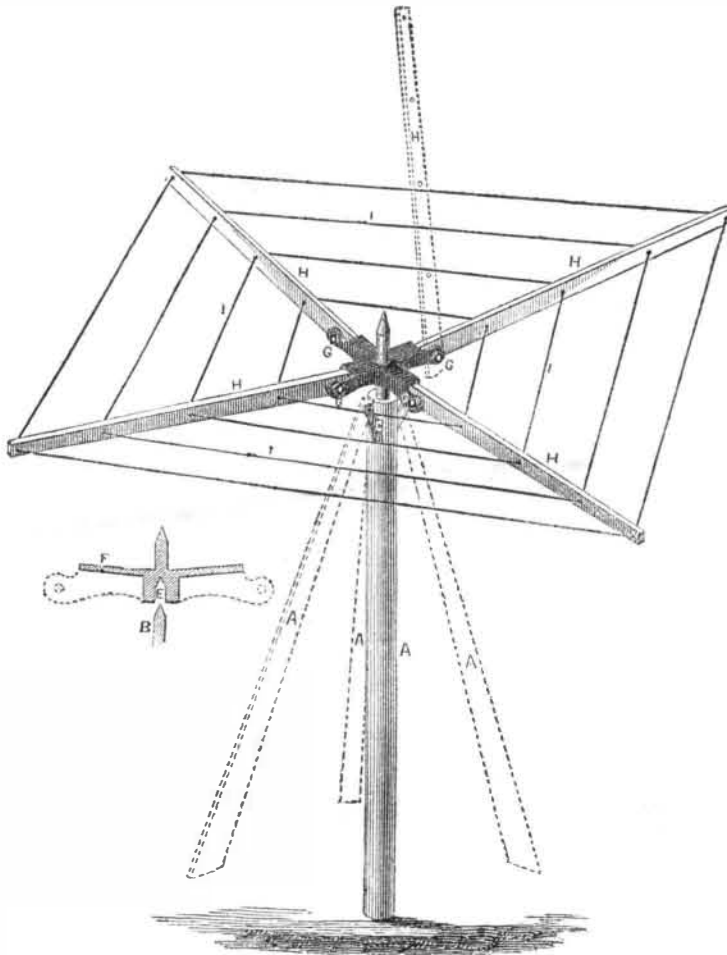
The other branches of science were noticed very briefly, and in none of them were there any remarkable advances to be recorded. In the improved appliances of mechanics a new construction of diving bell, consisting of an elongated tube, was mentioned, by means of which works at the bottom of the sea could be conducted with greater facility. The president observed that this country had no academy of sciences supported by the Government, and for his part, he thought it was better that scientific research should be left to the individual exertions of those who took interest in the subject, and could pursue their own modes of investigation independently.

Prof. Airy is a great man; when appointed

to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich some years ago, there were the observations of 80 years not reduced, and the herculean task of reducing this mass of valuable ore into practical form, so as to render it sterling metal had been assiduously accomplished by Professor Airy, with assistants acting under directions, and he had so far brought up the arrears, that the observations made at the observatory up to July were reduced to practical form.

Prince Albert was in attendance, and Professor Phillips, the assistant general secretary, stated that the members who had passed the treasurer's books during that day had been 478, of whom 111 were ladies, and 16 distinguished foreigners. EXCELSIOR.

DICKEY'S PATENT CLOTHES DRYING MACHINE.



The accompanying engraving is a perspective view with a small section of the spindle, B, centre tube, E, and the hollow arms, F F, of a clothes drying frame, the invention of Mr. J. C. Dickey, of Washington City, D. C., and for which improvement a patent was granted on the third day of last month (June, 1851).

A A are legs supporting the spindle, B, by the flanges, C C, and bolts. The legs can be moved freely—folding them inwards to remove the frame at pleasure. The spindle is conical and inserted in the tube, E, which revolves freely on it. It has four hollow arms, F F. They are open at the lower edge. The sides of these arms project beyond the top and are perforated to receive the bolts, G G, which pass through them and through the arms, H H, which may be raised as shown by the dotted line, H. The arms are brought together when not in use, and when they are spread, the lower ends strike the centre, E,

Curious Piece of Workmanship.

The Birmingham Journal says:—A singular illustration of the ductility and tenacity of iron, has been produced at the establishment of G. Downing, Esq., the Brown Iron Works, Smethwick. It is in the form of a book, the leaves of which are of iron, rolled so fine that they are no thicker than a piece of paper. The book is neatly bound in red morocco, and contains forty-four of these iron leaves, the whole being only the fifteenth of an inch thick. This curious book is the work of Charles Hood, who is in Mr. Downing's employment; it was rolled in the ordinary sheet iron rolls, and is a singular illustration of the tenacity of iron.

Mortality in our City.

On the week ending 12th July, there were 466 deaths in our city. Out of that number there were 205 below the age of one year.

which sustains them in a proper position. These arms are perforated, and a cord, I I, of proper size is threaded through them for the clothes to hang on.

This machine can be placed in any convenient position, and those who use it are relieved from re-adjusting the clothes. In winter, no person is required to wade through the snow to fix the clothes as it can be set on any walk. It is a frame convenient without being cumbersome, and labor-saving without being expensive. As it revolves with the wind, the clothes not only dry quicker, but escape the tear and wear of snapping so common to clothes on rigid lines.

Families may save the price of this machine in one year by the saving of the tear and wear of clothes. This frame is adapted for drying clothes, glue, fruits, &c. More information about State, county and other rights may be obtained by letter addressed to Mr. Dickey.

This shows that there must be something decidedly wrong either in the care or health of the parents.

Another Cure for Dysentery.

As this disease has been, and is very prevalent in many parts of our country, every thing which throws light upon the method of treating it is worthy of attention. We say this because there can be no universal cure, what will cure one will not another, but the number of suitable remedies may not be very numerous for all that. Along with the receipt of Dr. Reid, given last week, we present the following by a correspondent of the Baltimore Sun. The writer says:—

As the dysentery which is now prevailing is of a malignant type, it may be of some importance to call the attention of medical men

to the beneficial influence of sulphate of quinine in this disease. In 1847 the writer of this used it in African dysentery, and in the last year in dysentery bordering on the tropics.

Conceiving there was some analogy between intertropical fever and dysentery, he believed that quinine might be used with as much efficacy in the one as in the other; and the result, so far as his experience went, induced him to consider quinine a most important medicine in the treatment of dysentery.

It may act by destroying a morbid state of the blood, or it may produce its beneficial effects by its anti-febrile and anti-periodic power. Does it not act by decomposing the deleterious agency (whatever it may be) which, finding its way into the circulation engenders that combination of febrile action with intestinal inflammation, which is termed dysentery.

Of course, other remedies of known potency were not discarded. From 5 to 10 grains of quinine were given in solution of gum arabic thrice daily. Under its use there was a decided improvement."

For the Scientific American.

Astronomical Phenomena.

In No. 43 of the Scientific American, we find a notice of Humboldt's communication to the "Berlin Academy of Sciences," describing some eccentric movements of Sirius when near the horizon. One clear evening last winter I noticed, with several others, a similar phenomenon as exhibited by the star Betelgeuse in Orion. My attention was called to it by some one of the family, mistaking it for a fire balloon, and, indeed, after noticing its swaying movements and flickering light, I was really in doubt whether it was a balloon or not, although aware it was in the same place in the heavens in which Betelgeuse should appear. We continued watching it for some time, but the higher it rose the less it exhibited its vagaries until after rising some 15° above the horizon it looked down upon us with its small steady stare. The explanation of its eccentricities seemed so perfectly obvious, I hardly thought it worth while to bring it before the scientific world. Every day we behold similar appearances. Look just past a heated stove pipe at any fixed body, the bars of the window for instance, and they will appear to waver and tremble like a spider web in the wind. The continued motion of strata near the pipe differing in density, consequently in refractive power, must give a waving motion to all such bodies as send their rays to the eye through such moving strata. Now the earth is frequently of a different temperature than that of the surrounding air, and it will consequently throw it into vibrations precisely as the heated stove pipe does. The fact that stars never exhibit these anomalies except when near the horizon, is strongly in favor of the above explanation.

R. S. B.

Farmers College, July 17th.

New Observatory at Buffalo.

The Buffalo Commercial states that a new observatory is now in the process of erection near that city. It was projected by Dr. Van Duzee, of that city. The tower with its moveable dome is nearly finished. Henry Fitz, of this city, is now manufacturing the large refracting telescope, which will have a clear aperture of eight inches, and a focal distance of ten feet. Its motion will be regulated by clock work adjusted to sidereal time. The observatory will also contain a transit instrument, right ascension and declination circles, comet seeker, and other instruments necessary to carry on a complete set of astronomical observations, all constructed in as perfect a manner as the present advanced state of the art will admit.

American Flour.

A friend of the "American Miller" says, "our flour is put up in inferior order," and this is the reason why our best qualities do not sell so well in Europe.

The "Night Blooming Ceres," the most magnificent of all the floral beauties, is now in bloom in many of the gardens in Cincinnati.