

of the Franklin-Adams charts, was erroneous, and that the older estimate of Mr. Cooke was nearer the truth. The author concluded that the galactic condensation obtained by Chapman and Melotte does not in the least represent the actual distribution in the Perth zone, -32° . In one section of a recent paper Dr. Halm had dealt with the corrections to the scale of the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung, and Prof. Sampson's paper concluded with a discussion of Dr. Halm's methods and results.

EDINBURGH.

Royal Society, May 7.—Dr. J. Horne, president, in the chair.—Prof. L. Becker: The arithmetical mean and the "middle" value of certain meteorological observations. This was a discussion of a large number of temperature observations in Glasgow, in which it was shown that the "middle" value did not agree with the arithmetical mean.—Dr. D. Ellis: Phycomycetous fungi from the Lower Coal Measures. Three organisms had been found which could be placed in the Phycomycetes. The first was identical with the organism found by Renault in the French Carboniferous rocks, and named by him *Palaeomyces gracilis*. But there was evidence that the genus was the same as Peronosporites, and it was proposed to re-name the organism *Peronosporites gracilis*. The second was identified as *Peronosporites anti-quarius*, previously discovered by earlier investigators. The new material obtained from the Lancashire rocks, taken along with the rock sections in the British Museum, enabled Dr. Ellis to sketch the probable life-history of this fungus. The third organism was new, and was named *Saprolegnites bacilloides*. A full account was given of the characteristic structure of this fungus.—Dr. J. Tait: Experiments and observations on Crustacea. Parts iv. and v. In part iv. the author dealt with the structure of Glyptonotus, a large Antarctic isopod taken by the *Scotia* Expedition under Dr. W. S. Bruce. The exceptional size of the animal made it possible to settle certain disputed problems relating to isopod anatomy. The paper also brought out a number of relations between structure conformation and functional use. In part v. it was experimentally shown that the joints in the tail of a lobster or other similar crustacean are so arranged as to obviate change of internal volume during the flapping of the tail.

CALCUTTA.

Asiatic Society of Bengal, May 2.—Dr. A. Oka: Zoological results of a tour in the Far East. Hirudinea. Fourteen species of leeches are represented in the collection made by Dr. Annandale in Japan, China, and Siam. Of these, three are described as new. Two of the new species are forms of general interest and have been made the types of new genera. One, which was obtained from considerable depths in Lake Biwa, belongs to the family Glossisiphonidae, and is remarkable for the curious processes on its proboscis, while the other, which was collected in a small stream on the Peak at Hong-Kong, belongs to the family Hirudinidae, and is distinguished by the unique character that the furrows separating the somites are deeper and more conspicuous than those separating the annuli.—Dr. N. Annandale: Weighing apparatus from the Shan States. The collection described was made in February and March, 1917, in the markets of villages round the Inlé Lake, in the southern Shan States. The weighing apparatus used in these markets is remarkably diverse in construction and at the same time generally primitive in character. The three types to which most simple weighing apparatus conforms are all represented, viz. the scales, the steel-yard, and the bismar, or weightless beam.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

Reform in Scottish Education. Pp. 158. (Edinburgh: Scottish Education Reform Committee.) 1s. net.

Baillière's Popular Atlas of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Female Human Body. With descriptive text by H. E. J. Biss. Third edition. Plates by Dr. G. M. Dupuy. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox.) 4s. net.

Friendly Intercourse with the Arch Fiend Pp. 72. (Letchworth: The Cloisters.) 6d.

British Insects and How to Know Them. By H. Bastin. Pp. ix+129+12 plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.) 1s. 6d. net.

Food Gardening for Beginners and Experts. By H. V. Davis. Pp. vii+44. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd.) 6d. net.

W. and A. K. Johnston's War Map of Palestine. (Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd.; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) 6d. net.

Shell Shock and its Lessons. By Prof. G. Elliot Smith and T. H. Pear. Pp. xi+135. (Manchester: University Press; London: Longmans and Co.) 2s. 6d. net.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—Revolving Fluid in the Atmosphere: Sir Napier Shaw.—Absorption Bands of Atmospheric Ozone in the Spectra of Sun and Stars: Prof. A. Fowler and Hon. R. J. Strutt.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY, at 5.—The Determination of Coma from a Central Ray: T. Smith.—Chromatic Parallax and its Influence on Optical Measurements: J. Guild.

MONDAY, JULY 2.

ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY, at 8.—Relation and Coherence: Miss L. S. Stebbing.

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