

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1901.

FRANÇOIS MARIE RAOULT.

CONTENTS:

<i>François Marie Raoult</i> : PROFESSOR H. C. JONES.	881
<i>Charles Hermite</i> : JUAN J. DURÁN-LORIGA.....	883
<i>The Extra-Nuptial Nectaries in the Common Brake, Pteridium aquilinum</i> : PROFESSOR FRANCIS E. LLOYD.....	885
<i>The British National Antarctic Expedition</i> : PROFESSOR EDWARD B. POULTON.....	890
<i>First Report of the Limnological Commission of the American Microscopical Society</i> : PROFESSOR A. E. BIRGE, PROFESSOR C. H. EIGENMANN, PROFESSOR C. A. KOFOID, DR. G. C. WHIPPLE, PROFESSOR H. B. WARD.....	897
<i>North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society</i> : DR. C. B. WILLIAMS.....	899
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	902
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Ward on the Mesozoic Flora of the United States</i> : PROFESSOR D. P. PENHALLOW. <i>Kent's Steam-boiler Economy</i> : PROFESSOR R. H. THURSTON. <i>Dodge's Reader in Physical Geography</i> : DR. J. PAUL GOODE. <i>Air, Water and Food</i> : PROFESSOR WILLIAM P. MASON. <i>Books Received</i>	904
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i>	908
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>Biological Society of Washington</i> : F. A. LUCAS. <i>Chemical Society of Washington</i> : DR. L. S. MUNSON. <i>Torrey Botanical Club</i> : PROFESSOR E. S. BURGESS. <i>The Onondaga Academy of Sciences</i> : DR. PHILIP F. SCHNEIDER.....	909
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>The Larynx as an Instrument of Music</i> : PROFESSOR E. W. SCRIPTURE. <i>Physiology in the Schools</i> : PROFESSOR THEODORE HOUGH.....	913
<i>Shorter Articles</i> :—	
<i>The General Equations of Rotation of a Rigid Body</i> : PROFESSOR C. BARUS. <i>On a Crinoidal Horizon in the Upper Carboniferous</i> : DR. CHARLES R. KEYES. <i>The Process of Freezing in Plants</i> : JAMES B. DANDENO.....	914
<i>The American Mathematical Society</i>	917
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	917
<i>University and Educational News</i>	920

THE death of Raoult, on April 1, 1901, removes from France one of her most brilliant investigators. Raoult was born at Fournes (Nord) on May 10, 1830, and was, therefore, nearly seventy-one years old when he died. After finishing his academic training in Paris, he began his career as a teacher in the Lycée at Reims at the age of twenty-three. In 1870 he was called to the chair of chemistry at Grenoble. In 1889 he was elected dean of the Faculty of Sciences in Grenoble—a position which he held until his death.

The earlier work of Raoult was devoted to problems of a purely physical nature. His thesis, presented for the degree of Doctor of Science was on 'The Electromotive Force of Voltaic Cells,' and much of his earlier work had to do with the phenomena connected with electrolysis.

His most important work, however, and that with which his name will always be connected, was done after 1870, while at Grenoble. When Raoult took up the study of the lowering of the freezing-point and of the vapor-tension of solvents by dissolved substances, our knowledge of these phenomena was hardly more than qualitative. A few regularities had been pointed out by Blagden, Coppet, Wüllner, Emden, Rüdorff and others, but scarcely any generalization worthy of the name had been reached.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.