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- Des Essais de la Santé. Conférences d'Hygiène (à la Sorbonne) algériennes. Tome III (de l'Alger). Par M. D. Villeneuve, Algiers. Bône.
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## Correspondence.

It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not, by these letters, convey any opinion favourable to their contents. We give our opinions to all, without leaving to yourself; and thus supply a channel for the free interchange of opinions of all shades.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous communications.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

## A SCIENTIFIC CLUB.

SIR,—You propose for discussion the advisability of establishing a club for the working man of science, and I beg to offer a few remarks on the subject. There can be no doubt that such a club would be most valuable for scientific men, and would also greatly aid to the popularity of scientific meetings by making them more accessible. A member of a society who lives a few miles from the centre of London, and who may be engaged during the day in the City or the West End, has now to choose between a journey home and back again, or going to some hotel or coffee-house to dine and see the list from 4 or 5 till 8 p.m. Many go home and do not feel inclined to come out again, and thus the meetings of the societies miss the presence of many valuable members.

Your suggestion of an arrangement with some hotel seems to me excellent. Any large hotel proprietor would probably give up at a moderate rent the exclusive use of two large rooms (for coffee-room and library) and supply the members with all they required at a rate not higher in price as the less expensive clubs. It seems probable that several hundred members would soon be obtained, and the annual subscription need not be high to cover rent and leave a handsome surplus for scientific periodicals and books of reference, stationary, bookcases, &c.

You seem to think the name a difficulty, but what so simple, expressive, and unpretentious as "The Scientific Club"? The qualification being membership of some recognized scientific society, not including in that term artisan or professional societies. The locality chosen should be determined by that of Burlington House, the focus of scientific gatherings, and Charing Cross, the most central London railway-station. Anywhere between these points would be convenient, and I feel sure that such a club, by means of scientific information, would be eminently successful.

I remain, &c.,

ALFRED B. WALLACE.

lately happened, or which may be expected, and of the progress of invention, when especially affecting the public interest.

Your readers will call to mind many other papers, periodicals, publications, pamphlets, etc. but now, I ask, how can I become acquainted with the news of each which interests me unless I procure, by purchase or otherwise, all these papers? And it will, I think, be readily perceived that nearly every paper contains something which the others do not.

Herein, it seems to me, lies one of the great benefits which a club will confer on us.

Suppose, for instance, that "Rusticus Ignotus" undertakes attending a lecture on some scientific subject on which a discussion may have lately arisen; well, he goes to the club, and looks up the correspondence on the subject. Or perhaps he wants a good account of some remarkable occurrence; then he hunts up the accounts given by the papers which the club is supplied with, and buys that paper which contains the best account.

I would, moreover, strongly urge the purchase, not only of such standard scientific works as members may often wish to consult, but also of such new scientific work as is published, so that a rusticus ignotus may keep abreast of the contents of a book before he orders a copy. Notices of scientific gatherings and of experiments about to be tried could also be found at the club, for many would doubtless frequent it for the purpose of finding what was going on and what to do. Doubtless it would be a great convenience to country members to know where to rest their weary bodies in comfort after their journey, but it would be a great convenience also to the members to have a centre from which they might at any time get all the information public on any subject.

I remain, &c.,

MONITOR.

## ON THE PROBABLE DISCOVERY OF A SPECIES OF HYLOMYRMES IN THE NORTH COAL-SHALE.

SIR,—In the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, vol. 18, pp. 233-244, Professor Owen describes three species of *Hylomyrmex*, one upon specimens from the coal-measures of the South of America, from the coal-measures of the South of Joggins, Nova Scotia. The specimens were sent in boxes or packets, numbered respectively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6; or if the parcels bearing intermediate numbers were sent, no reference is made to them in the paper. Box No. 1 contained various fragments of *Hylomyrmex lignitici*, box No. 2, *H. antillarum*, box No. 3, *H. pygmaeus*, parcel No. 4, *Hylomyrmex Dawsoni*, No. 5 skin, and several plates of *Hylomyrmex*, No. 6 a nearly complete specimen of *Desmodonitum Antillarum*. The whole of the specimens contained in the boxes and parcels are described and named by Professor Owen, and excellent figures of the various specimens are published together with the letter-press description.