frines of definite proportion, and to the atomic theory. *Hire Kass* a sulphate of iron, in extensive use, occurs massive, of a greenish hue and acid taste. Its specific gravity is 1. 7, and affords on analysis 20 per cent. oxyd of iron, 35 of water, and 45 of sulphuric acid. The appellation *Soorma* is given indiscriminately to the sulphurets of lead and antimony, but they are easily distinguished by their christallization. Both sulphurets appear to be free from the admixture of other metals. The antimonial ore afforded 73 per cent. of antimony and 27 of sulphur. The lead ore afforded 50 per cent. of lead, the remainder being sulphur and carbonate of lime.

5. *An account of a Meteoric stone from Bitoura* by Mr. Cracroft, is interesting from the description of the Meteoric appearances—which preceded its fall. The specimen, transmitted to the society, is one of many, which fell in the neighbourhood of Shahpoore, 70 miles N. W. of Allahabad, and were scattered over several miles of country. The meteor was seen about the same time in its passage through the air, at Hazeerabag and Allahabad, holding a north westerly course. It was also seen distinctly from Benares and Ghazeepore, moving quickly and falling to the west. The particles of this stone, when separated by a magnet, gave on analysis iron 75, nicket 5, and silex with oxide of chrome 20 per cent.

After the examination of the foregoing communications the following contributions were read.

Remarks on the procreation of the Rhinoceros by B. H. Hodgson, Esq. —The gestation of the Elephant and Rhinoceros has been long a subject of interesting enquiry to naturalists; but notwithstanding the ready access to these animals in this country, nothing beyond a probable conjecture respecting it, appears to have been formed, until Mr. Hodgson made the observations, which are the subject of the present communication. The gestation of the Rhinoceros was supposed by Buffon, not to exceed nine months, and its corresponding life not to pass that of man, and this remark has been repeated by Desmarets, one of the latest writers on the subject. Mr. Hodgson however has set the former part of this question at rest, by his observations on the habits of a male and female Rhinoceros, kept in the Managerie of the Raja of Nipal. Mr. H. states "that about 18 months prior to May last a male and female Rhinoceros voluntarily associated, and that the result after an interval from 17 to 18 months, was a fine male cub."

Mr. H. further observes, that the correctness of this period was doubted by the late lamented M. Duvaucel, on the grounds of its being opposed to the general symmetry of those laws, which regulate the brute creation; and who in reference to this point objected the asserted gestation of the Elephant at eleven months. This objection led Mr. Hodgson to collect more evidence on both these questions; but he found no reason to doubt the accuracy of his first statement respecting the Rhinoceros, and learned that the time usually given to the gestation of the Elephant by the natives, varied from 22 to 24 months, which agrees with the period mentioned by Buffon, Bhumenbach, Shaw, Desmarets, and other naturalists who have mentioned the subject. Mr. Hodgson first saw the Rhinoceros when 3 days old, and found that it was at this time chiefly distinguished in exterior character from its mother, by a bright pink suffusion, which pervaded its hide, and by the absence of the nasal horn. Mr. Hodgson saw the animal, a second time, when a month old, and found the pink tinge gradually subsiding into an uniform dark colour, whilst the incipient horn was beginning to raise the frontal skin