

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY,

OXFORD, 1836.

(No. XI.)

MARCH 4, 1836.

The President in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected members :

J. G. Morris, B. A. Ch. Ch. ; E. J. Randolph, B. A. Ch. Ch. ; C. Daman, B. A. Magdalen ; W. Dyke, B. A. Jesus ; Rev. W. J. Copleston, M. A. Oriel ; G. Massie, M. A. Wadham.

Mr. Twiss of University college read a paper on the amphitheatre at Pola in Istria. The object of this communication was to notice some peculiarities not observable in the remains of other ancient amphitheatres. The four buildings like towers, at the intermediate distances between the four cardinal points, pronounced by Serlio to be merely *contrafforti*, or supports to the building, but now decided to have been staircases, were most probably (it was stated) destined for the women to ascend by to the upper circles, to which they had been confined by a decree of Augustus. On a comparison of the proportions of the seats, only lately discovered, with the directions given by Vitruvius for their construction, they were found to correspond to them both in height and breadth. The lines which are

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quite equal in plausibility to those proposed by the supporters of that of central heat. Mons. Ampere, for example, has indulged in speculations of this kind, in a paper translated in the Edinburgh Philosophical Journal for last year.

With regard to the second objection alleged above, it was contended, that fissures would be the necessary results of any decrease in the temperature of the earth's crust, and hence may reasonably be supposed to take place, not only in consequence of the explosive violence of an eruption, but also when its effects have subsided, and when the heat caused by the process that occasioned it, had in course of time become dissipated.

MAY 20.

The President in the Chair.

A present was received from L. Horner, esq. F. R. S. of a nacreous substance found incrusting a wheel connected with the machinery of a cotton factory; together with the copy of a Memoir by the same gentleman, and by sir David Brewster, describing the optical and other qualities of this singular artificial production, published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1836.

A letter was also read from Lieut. Colonel Stacy, acknowledging the intelligence of his election as an honorary member of the society, and stating that he had despatched a person to search for fossil remains in the Himalaya mountains, with the intention of forwarding such as might be found to the Ashmolean Museum.

Dr. Buckland communicated to the Society a notice on some very curious recent discoveries of fossil footsteps of unknown quadrupeds in the new red sandstone of Saxony, and of fossil birds in sandstone of the same formation in the valley of the Connecticut.