MISCELLANEOUS.

Third Meeting of the Men of Science of Italy.—The men of science of Italy have selected Florence as the place of their third meeting, as well from its being the place which, after having given birth to the revival of literature and the arts, was the cradle of experimental philosophy, as from its being the royal seat where was first entertained the thought of this new and great institution, and in which a high-minded prince has raised to the divine Galileo a temple wherein his manuscripts and apparatus will be preserved as a large part of the glorious inheritance of Italy.

It occurred to every one that the friends of science assembled in Florence, in the midst of such numerous splendid monuments of art and science of past and present times, would feel incited by these recollections to pursue the course gloriously opened by our forefathers, and by so doing would pay the deserved tribute of their gratitude to the prince who encouraged the progress of the sciences, and promoted the honour of his country.

It is satisfactory to announce, that the Grand Duke, our sovereign, approving the selection of his capital for the place of the third meeting of the Italian Savans, and having promised to aid its objects in every manner with his royal bounty and patronage, permits that the meeting should commence the 15th of September, 1841, to continue to the end of that month.

The regulations determined on at the first meeting in Pisa have conferred the right of taking part in the scientific meeting on the Italians belonging to the principal academies or scientific societies for the advancement of natural knowledge; the professors of the physical and mathematical sciences; the directors of the higher branches of study, or of the scientific establishments of the various states of Italy; and the chief officers of the corps of engineers and artillery. Foreigners coming under any of the above descriptions will be also admitted to the meeting.

We feel sure that our brethren who enjoy the privilege of attending the meeting will gladly avail themselves of it, and thus contribute to the great advantages which it confers upon the whole body of speculative and practical sciences. It is hoped that the invitation to scientific foreigners will prove not less effectual, as the estimation in which they hold Italian science is a pledge that they will be anxious to witness all that Italy has done and is doing, and to afford their cooperation in the noble undertaking.

A future advertisement will announce the final and special arrangements for the meeting and for the accommodation of those who may attend it. In the mean time, it is satisfactory to state that there have been elected to the office of Assessors, Prof. Gaetano Georgini, Superintendent of the Studies of the Grand Duchy, and Cav. Giuseppe Gazzeri, Prof. in the University of Pisa.

Florence, Dec. 28, 1840.

The President General,
Marchese Cosimo Ridolfi.

The Secretary General,
Cav. Ferdinando Tarturi.

Dr. Lush on the Madi, or Chili Oil-seed, Madia sativa.—"We insert a paper by Dr. Lush, of the Medical Establishment of this Presidency, which brings to notice a new seed, called the 'Madi, or Chili Oil-seed,' which promises to be a valuable adjunct to the plants of that class in this country. It appears to flourish in a high and dry land, and will probably succeed in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country. Dr. Lush has presented it to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society in Bombay, by whom it will be tested and its uses fully developed.

"The demand which now exists for oil-seeds from British India has caused much attention to be drawn towards such products as may be raised in sufficient quantities, and at such a price, as may ensure them a permanent place among Indian exports to England. On the western side, or the districts under Bombay, we find, that for field produce as oil-seeds we must look out for such articles of cultivation as will not require irrigation, seeing that the sesamum, the kerdai, the linseed, and the castor-oil are all produced in different districts of our Presidency as dry crops. Besides those already mentioned, we find a quickly-growing plant in the Deccan, sown usually with the ordinary crops of bajree and pulse, viz. the *Verbesina sativa* (since called *Guizotia oleifera*), or Black Til. This plant is valuable to the natives from its quick and hardy growth in a dry climate and scanty monsoon; but from the small quantity of oil in proportion to the bulk, and the inferior quality of that oil, it is not a plant likely to attract attention beyond local wants.

"The Madi (*Madia sativa*) is a plant of the same habit, and allied in botanical characters to the *Verbesina*. It has lately been grown in England by one or two experimentalists, in the hope of obtaining an indigenous oil of a superior quality. Professor Lindley, who has grown a portion at the Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick, is of opinion that the climate of England is too damp and cold for the Madi; and on my requesting to be furnished with seed for trial in the dry parts of India, he kindly sent me a liberal supply (which I have brought here overland), and agrees with me in the opinion that it will stand a good chance in the high and dry lands of the Deccan and other similar districts of India. A plant requiring no more care in the cultivation than the black til of the Deccan, and producing an oil second only to that of the almond and olive, and superior to the sesamum (the common 'sweet oil' of Western India), must prove a valuable addition to the produce of the country, and as such I commit it to the care of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Bombay without further recommendation, merely subjoining a notice of what has already been mentioned by authors about this hitherto neglected plant.

"DeCandolle, in his 'Prodromus,' gives a full description of the plant, and notices shortly that the seed is used for making an oil. This oil, however, does not seem to have attracted the notice of commercial persons, and the only account of it I could procure in London was kindly pointed out to me by my friend Professor Don, in a work published in the year 1711 (in the library of the Linnean Society of

London), 'Histoire des Plantes Médicinales de Perou et de Chili,' by Mons. Feuillée. Of this account the following is a translation :

"An admirable oil is made from the seeds of this plant throughout all Chili. The natives make use of it not only as a local application to assuage pain, anointing with it the parts affected, but also as a condiment, and besides for burning in lamps. I found it,' says M. Feuillée, 'sweeter and of a more agreeable taste than the greater part of our olive oils; its colour is the same. There are no olives in Chili, and whatever olive oil is found there is brought from Peru, where a large quantity is made.'

"I beg to present the Society with an original coloured drawing of this plant, made for me in August last at Chiswick, by Mr. Hart, lately draughtsman to the Botanical Register.—CHARLES LUSH, M.D." *Bombay Gazette*, 26th November, 1840.

Diurnea Novembris, November Dagger.—Several specimens of both sexes of this insect I have taken in this neighbourhood; the males fly in quest of the females towards midday. I could only find them in copulation upon the blades of grass, although at other times they rest upon the balls of the oaks. The 11th of October was the time when they first appeared, and continue for three weeks.—ROBERT S. EDSETON.

11 Derby Street, Cheetham, Manchester.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MAY 1841.

Chiswick.—May 1. Fine: very hot: clear. 2. Very fine: cloudy. 3. Rain. 4. Foggy: cloudy and fine: very heavy fall of rain at night. 5. Rain: cloudy and fine: lightning at night. 6. Rain: cloudy. 7. Fine: rain. 8. Heavy showers. 9, 10. Very fine. 11. Overcast: slight rain at night. 12. Cloudy and fine. 13. Fine. 14—16. Very fine. 17. Cloudy and windy. 18. Fine. 19. Rain with strong wind. 20. Boisterous: showery: cold at night. 21. Dry haze: rain. 22. Showery and mild. 23. Slight haze: cloudy and fine. 24. Fine. 25. Very fine. 26. Hot and dry. 27. Sultry: much sheet-lightning at night, with occasionally some of the zigzag and forked kind, together with thunder, and abrupt showers falling in large drops. 28. Sultry: very fine. 29. Very fine: lightning at night. 30, 31. Overcast and very fine.

Boston.—May 1. Fine: therm. 66° half-past 2 P.M. 2. Cloudy: rain with thunder and lightning P.M. 3. Cloudy. 4. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 5. Rain. 6. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 7. Cloudy: rain P.M. 8. Rain. 9. Fine. 10. Cloudy. 11. Fine: therm. 72° 3 o'clock P.M.: rain P.M. 12. Cloudy. 13. Fine. 14. Cloudy. 15. Fine: therm. 69° 3 o'clock P.M. 16. Fine. 17. Cloudy: rain P.M. 18. Cloudy. 19. Rain: stormy P.M. 20. Stormy: rain A.M. and P.M. 21. Fine. 22. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 23. Cloudy. 24—27. Fine. 28. Cloudy: therm. 79° 3 o'clock P.M.: rain P.M. 29. Fine. 30. Cloudy. 31. Fine. N.B. This May month has been warmer than any preceding May month since 1834.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—May 1. Fair and fine: thunder. 2. Drizzling afternoon. 3. Fair: frosty: hail. 4. Rain all day. 5. Rain occasionally. 6. Fair and fine. 7. Rain for four hours. 8. Rain P.M.: thunder. 9. Fair till night: rain P.M. 10. Fair but cloudy. 11. Wet A.M.: cleared up. 12—15. Fair and fine. 16, 17. Wet nearly all day. 18, 19. Showers A.M., then fine. 20. Showers. 21. Fair and fine. 22. Wet A.M.: fine P.M. 23. Fair but gloomy. 24. Fine summer day. 25, 26. Bright and cool. 27. Parching wind and hot sun. 28. Fine: rained a little. 29. Fair and fine. 30. Soft rain from eleven to four. 31. Fine summer day.

Days of Month. 1841. May.	Barometer.				Thermometer.						Wind.				Rain.				Dew- point.	
	Chiswick.		Boston. 8½ a.m.	Dumfries-shire.		London : Roy. Soc.		Chiswick.		Dumfries-shire.		London: Roy.Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick.	Bost.	Dum- fries- shire.	London: Roy.Soc. 9 a.m.	Chiswick.	Boston.	Dumfries- shire.	Dew- point. London: Roy. Soc. 9 a.m.
	Max.	Min.		9 a.m.	8½ p.m.	Fahr. 9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	Self-register. Max. Min.	Max.	Min.									
1.	30.040	29.998	29.794	29.44	29.90	29.68	57.8	67.2	47.0	76	42	58	65	40	NE.	E.	calm	sw.	52	
2.	29.720	29.674	29.640	29.00	29.56	29.60	61.7	70.4	53.2	76	45	61	55½	45½	S.	sw.	calm	se.	57	
3.	29.772	29.780	29.716	29.18	29.66	29.66	47.7	71.5	47.2	50	43	49	51	32½	N.	NE.	calm	se.	52	
4.	29.628	29.609	29.480	29.13	29.48	29.25	53.7	54.8	45.3	69	50	46	51	40	E.	S.	se.	se.	49	
5.	29.464	29.571	29.399	28.85	29.15	29.25	55.4	66.0	52.0	62	46	53	59½	49½	SE.	sw.	calm	sw.	55	
6.	29.556	29.774	29.495	28.91	29.31	29.42	57.8	61.3	53.0	65	43	57.5	55½	45½	S.	sw.	W.	S.	55	
7.	29.746	29.708	29.528	29.18	29.50	29.38	59.2	64.6	49.7	66	47	53	58	45	S.	S.	calm	sw.	56	
8.	29.548	29.581	29.491	28.92	29.38	29.55	57.5	66.6	52.5	62	44	54	59	35	S.	sw.	W.	ssw.	54	
9.	30.094	30.097	30.008	29.44	29.75	29.80	56.3	72.2	47.3	65	50	56.5	55	37	S.	sw.	W.	sw.	52	
10.	30.180	30.153	30.117	29.50	29.73	29.80	60.2	63.3	53.0	65	46	59	56	46	S.	sw.	W.	WSW.	53	
11.	30.094	30.054	30.003	29.45	29.75	29.87	62.2	63.8	51.6	77	46	64	56½	50½	S.	S.	sw.	S.	55	
12.	30.190	30.247	30.128	29.55	30.06	30.19	57.0	70.7	53.0	62	39	55.5	57	40	NNW.	NE.	calm	WSW.	55	
13.	30.388	30.330	30.314	29.77	30.25	30.26	55.7	63.4	47.5	66	36	58	60½	39	N.	NE.	calm	sw.	56	
14.	30.424	30.364	30.262	29.83	30.23	30.11	53.7	63.6	46.3	65	40	55	62½	43½	NE.	NE.	calm	sw.	52	
15.	30.244	30.194	30.043	29.59	30.00	29.84	59.7	69.4	48.7	74	40	61	59	44	S.	W.	calm	S.	49	
16.	29.968	29.911	29.674	29.24	29.60	29.49	53.7	66.0	49.0	74	49	60	56½	46½	SSW.	sw.	W.	WSW.	52	
17.	29.664	29.632	29.518	28.93	29.20	29.10	58.3	70.0	52.3	68	45	55.5	56	46½	S.	sw.	sw.	sw.	50	
18.	29.610	29.553	29.531	28.90	29.15	29.26	57.8	63.0	49.4	66	46	57	56½	46	S.	sw.	W.	sw.	55	
19.	29.406	29.674	29.280	28.77	28.98	28.85	55.3	65.7	51.3	60	47	52	58	45	S.	S.	NW.	S.	54	
20.	29.328	29.578	29.253	28.65	28.83	29.20	58.2	59.6	50.7	61	39	54	56½	45	W.	sw.	sw.	W.	53	
21.	29.702	29.647	29.526	29.19	29.51	29.64	58.7	67.7	48.4	69	54	57.5	59	43½	ENE.	E.	calm	sw.	53	
22.	29.672	29.811	29.607	29.10	29.70	29.80	59.7	65.8	56.5	68	43	55	61	48	N.	S.	calm	sw.	52	
23.	30.040	30.159	29.994	29.45	29.90	30.05	58.3	64.2	53.7	75	46	56	61	49	S.	SE.	calm	E.	54	
24.	30.242	30.180	30.137	29.61	30.10	30.10	63.5	70.3	53.6	70	51	65	65½	49	NE.	E.	calm	sw.	54	
25.	30.220	30.165	30.133	29.69	30.25	30.27	63.5	70.6	55.8	73	54	65.5	64	43	N.	NE.	calm	E.	55	
26.	30.146	30.070	29.955	29.58	30.17	30.03	67.7	70.0	55.0	80	58	61	67	46½	NE.	E.	calm	E.	61	
27.	29.960	29.882	29.823	29.35	29.95	29.85	71.7	79.4	62.0	82	60	69	78	51	NE.	NE.	calm	NE.	62	
28.	30.000	30.038	29.893	29.20	29.80	29.90	70.3	79.0	64.8	80	51	68	72	50	SSE.	sw.	calm	sw.	66	
29.	30.186	30.096	30.061	29.48	30.00	30.00	65.7	78.3	57.7	72	54	67	63	52½	NW.	N.	calm	sw.	65	
30.	30.078	30.016	29.979	29.44	30.02	29.95	61.5	71.9	58.0	74	49	65.5	63	42	NW.	NW.	calm	sw.	55	
31.	30.086	30.042	29.995	29.43	29.78	29.90	66.7	78.6	57.3	78	49	66	68	42	S.	W.	W.	SE.	59	
Mean.	29.916	29.922	29.799	29.28	29.700	29.711	59.6	68.0	52.4	69.35	46.83	58.5	60.2	44.4		Sum. 1.987	1.42	3.24	Mean. 55

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