

The President stated, that the remittance of 1000 Rs. for the purchase of English fruit trees during the past year, had been replaced in the hands of the Treasurer by the sale of the trees, besides the affording a number of trees for the Society's garden.

The President stated, that a remittance had been made to England in December 1827, for a supply of garden seeds for distribution during this present season, but that they had not yet arrived.

The President read a short paper recommending the raising of garden and other seeds, for transplanting, in shallow earthen porous pans filled with sand, which pans are to be kept moist by being set on a stand half immersed in water. He stated, that the plan had been very successful with himself, and proposed it for the adoption of others. Three such pans, with different kinds of seeds in a state of beautiful vegetation, were exhibited to the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned to the 2d Wednesday of January; when the matters contained in Mr. Robison's motion will be taken into consideration, as well as the other subjects which were deferred.

3. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was held in the apartments of the Asiatic Society, on the 6th December, which was very numerously attended. H. H. Wilson, Esq. in the Chair.

Dr. Haldid was elected a member of the Society, and several candidates were proposed for admission.

A letter was read from Dr. Traill of Liverpool, President of the Royal Institution of that place, acknowledging the receipt of the Society's three first vols. of Transactions.

The following papers, received since the last meeting, were then laid before the Society:—

1st. Observations on the quantity and quality of food necessary for man, by Mr. R. M. Martin.

2d. On the use of the Chloride of Lime in India as a disinfectant, by Dr. R. Voss.

Several books were presented for the Library by individual members. Six copies of a work on the diseases of Europeans in the country, drawn up by the Medical Board of Madras, were transmitted by that Board, and a printed oration read before the Medico-Botanical Society of London, was presented by that body.

The papers of the evening were then read and discussed, viz. Dr. Voss on the Chloride of Lime, and Dr. Wise on the Pathology of the Blood-vessels. In the course of the discussion on the first of these, it was suggested by a member, that the internal exhibition of Chloride of Lime or of Soda might prove a valuable addition to the remedial means of the profession. A case was adduced of severe dysentery, in which the gentleman in question had used the Chloride of Soda with success, on the previous failure of every other remedy. The dose was 36 minims every six hours. Two doses produced a decided effect, and the patient ultimately recovered.

Previously to the breaking up of the Meeting, it was intimated from the chair, that agreeably to the laws of the Society, the election of the Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Members of the Committee of Papers would take place at the next ensuing meeting, being the first of 1829.

III.—Scientific Intelligence, Notices, Memoranda, Desiderata, &c.

1. Sanpu and Irawadi Rivers.

Our readers will remember the discussions which have appeared from time to time in the Government Gazette on the subject of the identity of the Sanpu river of Thibet with the Brahmaputra of Bengal. A very good abstract of the question was published in the Oriental Quarterly Magazine, which appears to us on the spot to leave little further to be wished for, except the actually tracing either of the two rivers to such point as shall set the question entirely at rest. The principal antagonist the advocates of the above opinion have had to contend with, is M. Klaproth, the Editor of the Journal Asiatique, who, on the authority of some Chinese works, insists that the Sanpu of Thibet is the Irawadi. To this opinion

the writer in the Government Gazette satisfactorily objected the journey of Lieutenants Wilcox and Burlton, in which they visited the Irawadi in latitude $27^{\circ} 31'$, and found it of so moderate a volume as not to warrant more than a comparatively short course from its origin. M. Klaproth, obliged to admit this objection, yet unwilling to abandon his Chinese authorities, turns to one of the eastern branches of the Irawadi, which he now thinks must be the Sarnpu. This new view of the case is set forth in a pamphlet which has been transmitted to the Asiatic Society by the author.

We notice the subject for the purpose of making our readers acquainted with the progress of the discussion, and the fact that nothing which has been yet advanced has carried conviction to M. Klaproth's mind. His advantage in being the only one engaged in the controversy who has access to the authorities he lays so much stress on, is great; for it may be that the sharp-sightedness of an opponent might detect a flaw in those documents, which is overlooked by the complacency of the party to whose views they are subservient.

There are some particulars yet to be brought forward, which will strengthen considerably the opinion of our Calcutta Geographers; and we expect even occasion some degree of scepticism to M. Klaproth as to the value of Chinese authorities.

2. Circular Instrument for observing double Altitudes.

Those of our readers who receive the Transactions of the Astronomical Society will remember a plan of a new circle proposed by Dolland in the 2d vol. The object of it is to combine the direct and reflected observation of any heavenly body by means of two parallel circles, each furnished with a telescope, and thus prevent the possibility of any derangement of the instrument while being moved from the direct to the reflected object. It is sufficiently well known that the method of observing by reflection which renders us independent of plumb line or level is, particularly when thus facilitated, greatly superior to the old one. Were any authority wanting to recommend the instrument, the approbation of the Astronomer Royal ought to be sufficient.

The use of the instrument is obvious. While one telescope and circle is addressed to the direct object, the other is employed with the reflected; thus are obtained 2 readings, multiplied into 8 by 4 verniers. The telescopes being then respectively changed, 8 new readings are obtained, making in all 16. By turning it half round in azimuth, the number is doubled, so that the errors of division must be greatly diminished in a mean of 32 readings*. Such an instrument is particularly adapted to Delambre's method of C. M. altitudes.

The expectations excited by Mr. Dolland's description have been fully gratified by the sight of one of these instruments, which we had an opportunity of viewing about two months ago, the property of Captain Fisher, Surveyor in Sylhet. In symmetry of appearance, a feature, as observed by Troughton, by no means unconnected with the good performance of an instrument, it is hardly inferior to the works of that great artist. The two vertical circles are divided on their edges very beautifully on silver, and instead of the four verniers proposed in his paper, he has given two micrometers†, which subdivide to $2''$; a severe test, as the maker observes, of an engine divided instrument‡. The horizontal circle is furnished with five verniers,—a preferable arrangement to six, as in reversing the telescope the verniers do not come on the same set of divisions. In verniers which lie on the extremities of a diameter, as in the case of 2, 4, 6, 8, &c. reversing the telescope, of course merely occasions them to interchange places, and the measure has therefore no tendency to reduce the errors of division.

* It appears to us that the verniers in the case would only change places, and no new readings be obtained.

† We doubt if the maker has improved the instrument by this change. In his description he mentions four fixed verniers which apply to both circles, so that in using the instrument for meridian altitudes in the method practised at the Greenwich observatory, there could be no uncertainty in what Mr. Pond calls the index error. But in the instrument as constructed, the two micrometers are in some measure independent; and though there be no great probability of such a thing happening, yet it is possible that unequal changes may occur in them, the tendency of which would be to alter the index error.

‡ Though this remark be perfectly just, we would have preferred three verniers.