

pendently of education, from the parent to its offspring, several facts which have fallen under his observation in the course of various experiments commenced by him nearly sixty years ago and continued to the present time. He relates that a young terrier, whose parents had been trained to destroy pole-cats, and a young springing spaniel, whose ancestors through many generations had been employed in finding woodcocks, were reared together as companions; and that each of them, immediately on seeing, and for the first time in its life, the particular prey to which it was guided by hereditary instinct, pursued it with intense eagerness, while it did not appear to notice that which attracted its companion. In several instances he found that young springing spaniels, wholly inexperienced, were very nearly as expert in finding woodcocks as their well-trained parents. The habits of the woodcock have in the course of the last sixty years undergone considerable change, the fear of man having during that period become much stronger by transmission through many successive generations. The author believes that by continued education these hereditary propensities might be suppressed and others substituted: thus the habits of the springing spaniel would never have been acquired, if shooting on the wing had not been practised by man. A young dog, of the variety usually called *retrievers*, on account of their being trained to find and recover wounded game, performed this office, although wholly untaught, quite as well as the best-instructed dog. The male and the female parents appear to possess similar powers of transmitting to their offspring these hereditary feelings and propensities; excepting in the case of hybrid progeny, in which the author thinks he has witnessed a decided prevalence of the character of the male parent. With regard to dogs, the influence of one or other of the parents, and sometimes of both, may occasionally be traced, but without any constancy as to the particular predominance of either sex.

A paper was read "On Meteorological deductions from Observations made at the Observatory at Port Louis in the Mauritius, during the years 1833, 1834, and 1835." By John Augustus Lloyd, Esq., Surveyor-General of that Island, F.R.S. Communicated by Captain Beaufort, R.N., Hydrographer to the Admiralty, F.R.S.

The observations, from which the results recorded in the present paper were made, are nearly 50,000 in number, and were taken four times each day, at the hours of 8 A.M. noon, 4 and 8 P.M. The details of the observations themselves are about to be forwarded to the Royal Society; they relate to the states of the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer, rain gauge, and the appearance of the atmosphere with regard to clearness or cloudiness.

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June 1, 1837.

FRANCIS BAILY, Esq., V.P. and Treasurer, in the Chair.

William Ayrton, Esq., James Carson, M.D., William Hopkins, Esq., M.A., and Captain John Thomas Smith, were severally elected Fellows of the Society.