

This plate carries the divisions, which are fine dots upon gold discs let into the brass; the scale is divided into inches, and there is one inch to the left of zero, which is subdivided into tenths. The scale is the work of Mr. Dollond. The paper is concluded by an account of the precautions which were taken to ensure the accuracy of the plane surface on which the bar rested, while the comparisons were made with the microscopic apparatus described in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1821. The results are given in a table.

A paper was read, entitled, "An Experimental Examination of the Blood found in the Vena Portæ." By James Thackeray, M.D. Communicated by Sir Astley Cooper, Bart. V.P.R.S.

The author, in the course of an inquiry into the properties of the blood, was led to notice some peculiarities in the contents of the vena portæ, and to investigate this subject more minutely. The results of the experiments which he made for this purpose are chiefly the following. The blood contained in the vena portæ is darker than that of the other veins, inclining more to a ruddy hue than to the Modena red. Being less homogeneous, it has the appearance of being less perfectly elaborated. Its specific gravity was found to be very variable, but it is in general less than ordinary venous blood. It coagulates much more quickly, and contains a larger proportion of serum, but a much smaller proportion of albumen, than blood taken from other veins. The serum obtained from it is redder than common serum, in consequence of its retaining much of the colouring matter of the blood: it has also a greater specific gravity, and yields, on exsiccation, a greater weight of solid matter. On the application of heat, it concretes more quickly, but much less completely, than blood from the jugular vein; which peculiarities are attributed by the author to the different state and imperfect formation of the albumen contained in it. The crassamentum of the blood from the vena portæ does not expel its serum so fully as blood from other vessels; but it remains a soft mass, unless artificial means be employed, and it yields a considerably smaller quantity of fibrin.

The Ballot for William Snow Harris, Esq., which should have been taken at this Meeting, was postponed to the next Meeting, in consequence of there not being twenty-one Members present.

The Society then adjourned over Whitsuntide to the 2nd of June.

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June 2.

SIR ASTLEY COOPER, Bart. V.P., in the Chair.

William Snow Harris, Esq., and William Wilkins, Esq. R.A., were elected Fellows of the Society.

The following Presents were received, and thanks ordered for them:—

The Journal of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. No. III. 8vo.—*Presented by the Institution.*

The Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, exhibiting a View of the progressive Discoveries and Improvements in the Sciences and the Arts. Conducted by Professor Jameson. Nos. 19 and 20. (Oct. 1830—March 1831.) 8vo.—*Professor Jameson, F.R.S.*

The Philosophical Magazine and Annals of Philosophy. No. 54. 8vo.—*The Editors.*

The Englishman's Magazine. No. I. 8vo.—*The Publishers.*

National Portrait Gallery. Part 26.—*The Proprietors.*

Library of the Fine Arts, or Monthly Repertory of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture and Engraving. Nos. 1—4. 8vo.—*The Publisher.*

Two Views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge ; proposed to be erected according to the design, and under the Directions of I. Brunel, Jun. Civil Engineer, F.R.S.—*I. K. Brunel, Esq. F.R.S.*

A Portrait of the late Dr. Thomas Young, F.R.S., engraved by Turner from the Painting by Sir T. Lawrence.—*Mrs. Young.*

Criteria for determining in which Version of the Holy Scriptures the original Hebrew Computation of Time is contained ; with the æras of corruption. By J. Cullimore, M.R.S.L. 8vo.—*The Author.*

A Letter to the Editor of the Edinburgh Review, in Answer to his Criticism on "A Journal down the river Marañon," &c.—By H. I. Maw, Lieut. R.N. 8vo.—*The Author.*

Die Farben. Entdeckungen aus dem Gebiete physikalischer Farbenlehre durch Versuche dargethan. Von Dr. Jacob Roux. Drittes Heft. 8vo.—*The late Author.*

A paper was read, "On the Caves and Fissures in the western district of the Mendip Hills." By the Rev. David Williams, A.M. F.G.S., Rector of the parishes of Bleadon and Kingston-Seamoor, in the County of Somerset. Communicated by Davies Gilbert, Esq. V.P.R.S.

[The Abstract will be given in No. 5. Supplement.]