

**Electric Fishing.**—An electric fish-hook has excited much attention and curiosity at the Berlin exposition. It is attached to a little skiff, which can be directed noiselessly towards any point of the water by means of a helix and wheel work. When reaching the desired location it anchors itself against wind and stream while the line and hook glide into the water. The skiff contains an electric battery and an induction coil, so arranged that the slightest bite completes the electric circuit. Immediately, with the rapidity of a flash, under the action of an electro-magnet, the line, hook and fish are raised into the air; a little bell rings to inform the fisherman of the capture, so that he can draw the skiff ashore and detach the fish.—*Les Mondes*. C.

**Contact Electricity.**—F. Exner attributes the electricity which is developed by the contact of two metals to the difference of the chemical actions of the surrounding medium upon the metals, and he thinks that the quantities of electricity are proportional to the heats of oxidation, as in hydro-electric couples. The experiments of De la Rive show that there is no charge in a vacuum or an inert gas, moreover, the orders of oxidation and of electric tension in the air are identical. The heats of combustion are well known, but there is a great divergence between the values which have been given to electric tensions by different authors. Exner employs a new condenser to measure them, and finds a remarkable accordance between the observed and calculated values. The chemical theory accounts readily for all the observed effects, but the contact theory is insufficient in many cases.—*Wied. Ann.* C.

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## Franklin Institute.

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HALL OF THE INSTITUTE, September 15th, 1880.

The stated meeting was called to order at 8 o'clock P. M., the President, Mr. William P. Tatham, in the chair.

There were present 86 members and 15 visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Actuary presented the minutes of the Board of Managers, and announced that 26 persons were elected members of the Institute at the July meeting and 12 at the August one.