

**Aniline Black.**—M. A. Rosenstiehl closes a historical note as follows: Whenever one wishes to obtain, economically and regularly, aniline black upon tissue, the simultaneous co-operation of a chlorate and of a metallic substance is indispensable. In practice, copper has been adopted for blacks, developed at a temperature of about 45° C., and iron for those which must undergo a steaming, or a temperature of 100°. But if the conditions of industrial labor are not imposed, an aniline black can be obtained upon tissue, without the aid of chlorates, or of a metallic substance, by the simple action of “nascent” or active oxygen. Blacks may likewise be obtained, independent of tissues, without the intervention of a metal, by the aid of chlorates; I have already proved that this fact has long been known. The work of M. Coquillion has just shown that, in this case also, the same result may be reached without chlorates. The fact observed by him is an elegant demonstration of the action of active oxygen upon aniline salts; it will, perhaps, enable us to obtain blacks derived from aniline in a state of greater purity, and to hasten the moment when we shall know their elementary composition, a question which, in view of its great interest, has been proposed for a prize by the Industrial Society of Mulhouse.—*Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, Aug., 1876. C.

**Old Gallo-Roman Harbor.**—At a very early date, the neighborhood of St.-Nazaire, between Ville-Halluard and Méans, formed a bay sown with islands. About the 5th century B. C., the bay of Penhouet was inhabited by a maritime population. This population, with dolichocephalous skulls, was contemporaneous with the aurochs and the stag; it used instruments and arms of horn, bronze, and stone. The bottom of the bay was then about four metres below the present low-water level. This harbor was probably the *Corbilo* of Polybius, cited by Strabo. In the 3d century of our era, the same banks were occupied by Gallo-Romans. The bay of Penhouet served again as a harbor, to which Ptolemy gave the name of *Brivates portus*, the port of Brivet. The bottom of the bay was then only one and a half metres below low water. Towards the 8th century A. D., the Brivet, meeting an obstacle in the muddy bed of Penhouet, changed its course at a distance of two kilometres above its mouth, and found a new outlet at Méans. These dates have been fixed by M. Al. Bertrand, by studying the mud-deposits.—*Acad. des Sciences*, April 9. C.