XVIII. Notice on the “Essays of Jean Rey”

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traces of chloride of potassium, and of sulphate of lime. Its characteristics are nearly the same as those of basalts in general.

No. 37. The heat of a current of lava continues long after all *fumeroles*, sublimations, and efflorescences, have ceased.

No. 38. A peculiar aromatic odour was perceived, which seems to indicate the presence of some new highly volatile substance.

No. 40. The best means of guarding against the suffocation occasioned by the acid vapours, is to carry with one some phials of solution of ammonia.

No. 41. It may be asserted as a general fact, that hydrochloric acid is disengaged (but not exclusively), and that sulphur becomes apparent when the temperature of the volcano is below ignition, and that sulphurous acid can only be formed by contact with the air and at a higher temperature.

Some of these facts are found quoted in the *Récapitulation des faits observés*, which is given under the forty-third and last number. The other facts noticed there were already more or less known.

In the memoir of Messrs. Monticelli and Covelli we must notice with particular approbation the chemical experiments with which it abounds. They are given in detail, and accord with the present state of the science. This part of the study of Mount Vesuvius, and of all other burning volcanos, had been, until the present time, almost entirely neglected.

XVIII. Notice on the "*Essays of JEAN REY.*" By Mr. JOHN MURRAY, *F.L.S. M.W.S.*

PROF. BRANDE in his eloquent and able dissertation on Historical Chemistry, in the Supplement of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, has alluded to the extreme rarity of the work of Jean Rey, even of the reprint of 1777.

We are indebted to that distinguished chemist J. G. Children, Esq. for a masterly translation of the copy (edition 1777) of these *Essays* (in the Library of the British Museum), and published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Institution*.

It may not be uninteresting to mention, that I purchased at Paris in February 1819 a copy of the first edition of this celebrated and interesting work at the sale "*de la bibliotheque de M. P***.*" It was marked in the catalogue "*très rare de cette édition.*"

Allow me now to quote what I find written on the blank leaf preceding the title page. It is scarcely possible in perusing these

these remarks to believe that Lavoisier was unacquainted with a volume which was so well known to others, and referred to in their writings.

“Cet ouvrage, écrit dans le style de Montaigne, mais avec plus de méthode et moins de diffusion, a été reimprimé en 1777 à Paris, avec des notes de M. Gabet.

“Il était devenu extrêmement rare, et la réimpression en été faite suivant l'exemplaire de la Bibliothèque du Roi.

“Spiedman, professeur de chimie à Strasbourg, en recommande la lecture à ses élèves dans son institution de chimie en 1766.

“M. Bardeu en fait une mention honorable dans ses Recherches sur les maladies chimiques—même éloge dans la Mineralogie docimastique de M. Sage, &c.

“Cette édition est d'autant plus remarquable, que l'on n'avait presque aucun ouvrage imprimé à Bazas, petit trou dans le Gascoigne, où jamais il n'y a eu ni litterateurs, ni aucune autre imprimerie que celle de Guillaume Millanges, qui n'y a fait qu'un court séjour.”

Next to the “Tractatus de Respiratione” of John Mayow of Oxford, “Lugd. Batavor 1671,” the “Prælectiones Chymicæ” of Freind, of which a translation was published at London in 1729, have interested me. In this last the attractive forces of chemical combinations;—the weight acquired by “calcination;”—“fermentation” as “raised by elastic particles;”—the determinate forms of crystals—are all taught in a masterly manner.

I am yours, &c.

Stranraer, N.B., July 10, 1823.

J. MURRAY.

XIX. *An Account of the Observations and Experiments on the Temperature of Mines, which have recently been made in Cornwall, and the North of England; comprising the Substance of various Papers on the Subject lately published in the Transactions of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, and other Works.*

[Concluded from p. 46.]

V. **T**HE concluding paper on the Temperature of Mines, in the Transactions of the Cornish Geological Society (vol. ii. p. 404), is by Mr. Moyle, who has since detailed the substance of it, with some additional facts, and remarks on the statements of Mr. Fox and Dr. Forbes, in the Annals of Philosophy for January last, p. 43; still more recently, also, in the same journal, for July, p. 15, he has given some further results as to the