It is true that an extra number of clerks might be necessary to attend to this influx of patents of the third class, but the salaries of these additional clerks would be but a fraction of the revenue derived from the additional fees resulting from the alterations suggested above.

*On Phosphorescence, Fluorescence, &c.** By Prof. FARADAY.

The agent understood by the word "light," presents phenomena so varied in kind, and is excited to sensible action by such different causes, acting apparently by methods differing greatly in their physical nature, that it excites the hopes of the philosopher much in relation to the connexion which exists between all the physical forces, and the expectation that that connexion may be greatly developed by its means. This consideration, with the great advance in the experimental part of the subject which has recently been made by E. Becquerel, were the determining causes of the production of this subject before the Members of the Royal Institution on the present occasion. The well-known effect of light in radiating from a centre, and rendering bodies visible which are not so of themselves, as long as the emission of rays was continual—the general nature of the undulatory view, and the fact that the mathematical theory of these assumed undulations was the same with that of the undulation of sound, and of any undulations occurring in elastic bodies, were referred to as a starting position.—Limited to this effect of light it was observed that the illuminated body was luminous only whilst receiving the rays or undulations. But super-added occasionally to this effect is one known as *phosphorescence*, which is especially evident when the sun is employed as the source of light. Thus, if a calcined oyster-shell, a piece of white paper, or even the hand, be exposed to the sun's rays, and then instantly placed before the eyes in a perfectly dark room, they are seen to be visible *after* the light has ceased to fall on them. There is a further philosophical difference, which may be thus stated; if a piece of white oyster-shell be placed in the spectrum rays issuing from a prism, the parts will, as to illumination, appear red, or green, or blue, as they come under the red, green, or blue rays; whereas if the phosphorescent effect be observed, *i. e.* that effect remaining after the illuminating rays are gone, the light will either be white, or of a tint not depending upon the color of the ray producing it, but upon the nature of the substance itself, and the same for all the rays. The ray which comes to the eye in an ordinary case of visibility, may be considered as that which, emanating from the luminous body, has impinged upon the substance seen, and has been deflected into a new course, namely, towards the eye; it may be considered as the same ray, both before and after it has met with the visible body. But the light of phosphorescence cannot be so considered, inasmuch as *time* is introduced; for the body is visible for a time sensibly after it has been illuminated, which time in some cases rises up to minutes, and perhaps hours. This condition connects these phosphorescent bodies with those which phosphoresce by heat, as apatite and fluor-spar; for when these are made to glow intensely by a heat

* From the Lond. Athenæum, July, 1859.

far below redness, it is evident that they have acquired a state which has enabled them for a time to become original sources of light, just as the other phosphorescent bodies have by exposure to light acquired a like state. And then again there is this further fact, that as the fluor-spar, which has been heated, does not phosphoresce a second time when re-heated, still it may be restored to its first state by passing the repeated discharge of the electric spark over it, as Pearsall has shown. Then follows on (in the addition of effect to effect) the phenomena of *fluorescence*, and the fine contributions to our knowledge of this part of light by Stokes. If a fluorescent body, as uranium glass, or a solution of sulphate of quinine, or decoction of horse-chestnut bark, are exposed to diffuse day-light, they are illuminated, not merely abundantly but peculiarly, for they appear to have a glow of their own; and this glow does not extend to all parts of the bodies, but is limited to the parts where the rays first enter the substances. Some feeble flames, as that of hydrogen, can produce this glow to a considerable degree. If a deep blue glass be held between the body and the rays of the sun, or of the electric lamp, it seems even to increase the effect; not that it does so in reality, but that it stops very many of the luminous rays, yet let the rays producing the effect pass through. By using the solar or electric spectrum, we learn that the most effectual rays are in most cases not the luminous ones, but are in the dark part of the spectrum; and so the fluorescence appears to be a luminous condition of the substance, produced by dark rays which are stopped or consumed in the act of rendering the fluorescent body luminous: so they produce this effect only at the first or entry surface, the passing ray, though the light goes onward, being unable to produce the effect again; and this effect exists only whilst the competent ray is falling on to the body, for it disappears the instant the fluorescent substance is taken out of the light, or the light shut off from it. When E. Becquerel attacked this subject he enlarged it in every direction. First of all, he prepared most powerful phosphori; these being chiefly sulphurets of the alkaline earths, strontia, baryta, lime. By treatment and selection he obtained them so that they would emit a special color: thus, seven different tubes might contain preparations which, exposed to the sun, or diffused day-light, or the electric light, should yield the seven rays of the spectrum. The light emitted generally possessed a lower degree of refrangibility than the ray causing the phosphorescence; but in some instances he was able to raise the refrangible character of the ray emitted to that of the exciting ray. By taking a given preparation, and raising it to different temperatures, he caused it to give out different colored rays by the single action of one common ray; this variation in power returning to a common degree as the temperatures of the phosphori became the same in all. He showed that *time* was occupied in the elevation of the phosphorescent state by the ray; and also that time was concerned in various degrees during the emission of the phosphorescent ray: that this time, which in many cases was long, might be affected, being shortened by the action of heat, and then the brilliancy of the phosphorescence for the shortened time was

increased. He showed the special relation of the different phosphori to the different rays of the spectrum, pointing out where the maximum effect occurred; also that there were the equivalents of dark bands, *i.e.* bands in the spectrum, where little or no phosphorescence was produced. These phosphori were many of them highly fluorescent. Thus, if one of them was exposed to the strong voltaic light, and then placed in the dark, it was seen to be brilliantly luminous, gradually sinking in brightness, and ultimately fading away altogether: but if it were held in the rays beyond the violet end of the spectrum (the more luminous rays being shut off) it was again seen to be beautifully luminous, but that state disappeared the instant it was removed from the ray. Now this is fluorescence, and the same body seemed to be both phosphorescent and fluorescent. Considering this matter, and all the circumstances regarding time, Becquerel was led to believe that these two luminous conditions differed essentially only in the *time* during which the state excited by the exposure to light continued; that a body being really phosphorescent, but whose state fell, instantly, was fluorescent, giving out its light while the exciting ray continued to fall on it, and during that time only; and that a phosphorescent was only a more sluggish body, which continued to shine after the exciting ray was withdrawn. To investigate this point he invented the *phosphoroscope*; an apparatus which may vary in its particular construction, but in which discs or other surfaces illuminated by the sun or an electric lamp might, by revolution, be rapidly placed before the eye in a dark chamber and so be regarded in the shortest possible space of time after the illumination. By such an apparatus Becquerel showed that all the fluorescent bodies were really phosphorescent; but that the emission of light endured only for a very short time. An extensive series of experimental illustrations upon the foregoing points was made with some fine specimens of phosphori, for which the speaker was indebted to M. Becquerel himself. The phosphoroscope employed consisted of a cylinder of wood, one inch in diameter and seven inches long, placed in the angle of a black box with the electric lamp inside, so that three-fourths of the cylinder were external, and in the dark chamber where the audience sat, and one-fourth was within the box, and in the full power of the voltaic light. By proper mechanical arrangements this cylinder could be revolved, and the part which was at one instant within, rapidly brought to the outside, and observed by the audience. As the cylinder could be made to revolve 300 times in a second, and as the twentieth part of a revolution was enough to bring a sufficient portion of the cylinder to the outside, it is evident that a phosphorescent effect which would last only the 1-3000th or even the 1-6000th of a second might be apparent. All escape of light between the moving cylinder and the box was prevented by the use of properly attached black velvet. The cylinder was first supplied with a surface of Becquerel's phosphori. The effect here was, that when by rotation the part illuminated was brought outside the box it was found phosphorescent. If the cylinder continued to rotate it appeared equally luminous all over, and when the rotation ceased, or the

lamp was extinguished, the light gradually sank as the phosphorescence fell. Then a cylinder having a surface of quinine or resculin was put into the apparatus. Whilst the cylinder was still it was dark outside; but when revolving with moderate velocity it became luminous outside, ceasing to be so the moment the revolution stopped. Here the fluorescence was evidently shown to occupy time: indeed, the full time of a revolution: and taking advantage of that, the self-shining of the body was separated from its illumination within, and the fluorescence made to assume the character of phosphorescence. Another cylinder was covered with crystals of nitrate of uranium, a hot saturated solution having been applied over it with a fine brush. The result was beautiful. A moderate degree of revolution brought no light out of the box; but with increased motion it began to appear at the edge. As the rapidity became greater, the light spread over the cylinder, but it could not be carried over the whole of its surface. It issued as a band of light where the moving cylinder left the edge of the box, diminishing in intensity as it went on, and looking like a bright flame, wrapping round half the cylinder. When the direction of revolution was reversed, this flame issued from the other side; and when the motion of the cylinder was stopped, all the phenomena of fluorescence or phosphorescence disappeared at once. The wonderfully rapid manner in which the nitrate of uranium received the action of the light within the box, and threw off its phosphorescence outside, was beautifully shown. The electric light, even when the discharge is in rarified media, or as a feeble brush, emits a great abundance of those rays which produce the phenomena of fluorescence; but then if these rays have to pass through common glass they are cut off, being absorbed and destroyed even when they are not expended in producing fluorescence or phosphorescence. Arrangements can however be made in which the advantageous circumstances can be turned to good account with such bodies as Becquerel's phosphori or uranium glass. If these be enclosed within glass tubes, having platinum wires at the extremities, and which are also exhausted of air and hermetically sealed, then the discharge of a Ruhmkorff coil can be continually sent over the phosphori, and the effects both fluorescent and phosphorescent be beautifully shown. The first or immediate light of the body is often of one color, whilst on the cessation of the discharge the second or deferred light is of another; and many variations of the effects can be produced. In connexion with rarefied media it may be remarked, that some of the tubes by Geissler and others have been observed to have their rarefied atmospheres phosphorescent, glowing with light for a moment or two after the discharge through them was suspended. Since then Becquerel has observed that oxygen is rendered phosphorescent, *i.e.* that it presents a persistent effect of light, when electric discharges are passed through it. I have several times had occasion to observe that a flash of lightning, when seen as a linear discharge, left the luminous trace of its form on the clouds, enduring for a sensible time after the lightning was gone. I strictly verified this fact in June, 1857, recording it in the *Philosophical Magazine*,

and referred it to the phosphorescence of the cloud. I have no doubt that that is the true explanation. Other phenomena, having relation to fluorescence and phosphorescence, as the difference in the light of oxygen and hydrogen exploded in glass globes, or in the air, were referred to, with the expression of strong hopes that Becquerel's additions to that branch of science would greatly explain and extend them.

*On the Progress of Steam Navigation at Hull.**

By JAMES OLDHAM, M. Inst. C.E.

For generations past, Hull has been noted for its Greenland and Davis Straits fishery, and for many years this has constituted the chief feature of the port. Within the last two or three years steam has been put into successful requisition to aid the dauntless and hardy mariner in the pursuit of this hazardous calling, and now we have several screw steam ships employed; and although some of them are fitted with comparatively small power, they have proved to be possessed of great advantage in the service, and in some instances satisfactorily to the owners. We have had two descriptions of steam vessels employed in the fishery; the first, the old wooden sailing ships, which had been engaged in the service for some years, but which were afterwards fitted with screw machinery and auxiliary steam power. The second, iron-built ordinary screw steam vessels; but which proved, I believe, almost a total failure: the material of which they were built and the want of strength for such a purpose proving them altogether unfit to contend with the severity of the climate and rough encounters with the bergs and fields of ice, some becoming total wrecks, while others returned bruised and rent, and were with difficulty kept from sinking. A question here arises, how far iron ships are calculated to bear the severe frosts of high latitudes, and whether wooden-built vessels, with all their defects, are not the best adapted for encountering such a climate? The screw steam ship which was first sent from Hull, or any other place, to the fishery as an experiment, was the *Diana*, timber-built, 355 tons and 40 horse-power, high pressure, the property of Messrs. Brown, Atkinson & Co., of Hull. This vessel had been some time engaged in the fishery as a sailing ship; but her spirited owners, thinking an important advantage could be gained, determined upon the adoption of steam power, and at once had the *Diana* fitted up for the spring of 1857 by Messrs. C. and M. Earle, who put in the engines, and made the screw to lift out in case of need. The experiment fully answering their expectations, Messrs. Brown, Atkinson & Co. bought the *Chase*, a fine American built ship of immense strength, and of 558 tons. She was fitted by Messrs. Martin, Samuelson & Co. with condensing engines of 80 horse-power, and dispatched to the fishery in the early part of 1858, and with good results. By the application of steam, ships in this service can now make a voyage first to Greenland, and afterwards to the Davis Straits. In the commencement of this year several ordinary iron screw steamers were dispatched to Greenland,

* From the London Civ. Eng. and Arch. Jour., Dec., 1859.