

Nachrichten von der Georg-Augusts Universität und der Königl.
Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. 1852. 12mo.
—*From the Society.*

Monday, 17th April 1854.

RIGHT REV. BISHOP TERROT, Vice-President, in the
Chair.

The following Communications were read:—

1. On the Products of Destructive Distillation of Animal Substances. Part. III. By Dr Thomas Anderson.
2. Notice of the Completion of the Time-Ball Apparatus. By Professor C. Piazzzi Smyth.

The electric time-ball, erected on the Calton Hill last October by the Government, and placed under the author's charge, has now been at work for five months. But the work has necessarily been of an experimental or tentative character; for before the accuracy of the signals could be guaranteed, it was necessary to have experience of the machinery in all weathers; and, moreover, the present strength of the Observatory establishment, and the nature of pre-existing occupations, prevented the experiments being made every day.

There have, however, been now upwards of 100 daily-signals made, *four* only of which have proved defective, and from causes which have since been remedied, so that there is now strong warrant against future accidents.

In the course of the trial, the following questions presented themselves, and, if not answered satisfactorily by the experiments, suitable alterations were made in the machinery.

1st, Is the fall of the ball *equally* quick in windy as in calm weather?

The answer is, that it is so, owing to the great weight of the ball, something near a ton, overpowering any side pressure of the wind, while all other friction is carefully relieved.