

- Bulletin de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles. 1835. Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
- Annuaire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences et Belles Lettres de Bruxelles. 1836.—*By the Academy.*
- Annuaire de l'Observatoire de Bruxelles pour l'An 1836. Par le Directeur A. Quetelet.
- Compte de l'Administration de la Justice Criminelle en Belgique pendant les Années 1831, 1832, 1833, et 1834, présenté au Roi par le Ministre de la Justice. 1835.—*By M. Quetelet.*
- Astronomische Nachrichten. Nos. 289 to 294.—*By M. Schumacher.*
- Du Spiritualisme au xix^{me} Siècle, ou Examen de la Doctrine de Maine de Biran, par L. A. Gruyer.—*By the Author.*
- Institut Royal de France pour l'An 1836.—*By the Institute.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts; conducted by Benjamin Silliman, M. D., LL. D., &c., for January 1836.—*By the Editor.*
- On the Occurrence of the Megalichthys in a Bed of Cannel Coal in the West of Fifeshire, with Observations on the supposed lacustrine Limestone at Burdiehouse.—*By Leonard Horner, Esq.*
- On an artificial Substance resembling Shell; by Leonard Horner Esq. With an Account of an Examination of the same; by Sir David Brewster, LL. D. With Specimen of the substance.—*By Leonard Horner, Esq.*

The following communication was read :—

Observations on the Chemical Nomenclature of Inorganic Compounds. By Dr HOPE.

The object of this paper is to propose a modification of the nomenclature of inorganic compounds now in use among chemists, which shall display with accuracy the ingredients of each compound, and the atomic ratios of each ingredient.

After stating the introduction of the principle of employing a descriptive nomenclature in chemistry by Bergman, and the happy application of it by Lavoisier and his associates, and subsequently by Berzelius, he traced the various changes rendered necessary by the improved knowledge of the more intimate constitution of compounds, resulting from the discovery of combination in definite proportions, and the atomic ratios in which combinations take place, adopted by Wollaston, Thomson, Thenard, Turner, &c. He

next pointed out several imperfections in the nomenclature now in use in chemical writings, and explained a modification of it which he conceived to be more precise, completely descriptive, and admitting of application to every case and proportion of combination.

He suggested, 1st, That the prefixes of proto, per, super, and sub, now in common use, should be discontinued, as unnecessary,—as possible sources of confusion—and as deviating from the sound rule, of employing numerals of the same order and language to denote a continued series of any compound.

2d, That the happy suggestion of Dr Thomson, of employing the Greek adverbial numerals to denote the number of atoms or equivalents of base, and the Latin the number of atoms of oxygen, acid, &c. should be adopted.

3d, That the interweaving of the Latin and Greek atomic numerical indications in the same word ought to be avoided as much as possible.

The following tabular views of the nomenclature of oxides, and of metallic salts, were given as specimens of the nomenclature of the more simple and more complicated combinations.

TABLE I.

Atom of Metal.		Atom of Oxygen.		Oxide.
1	+	1	...	Oxide of Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Oxide of Metal.
1	+	3	...	Ter Oxide of M.
1	+	4	...	Quater Oxide of M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Oxide of M.
3	+	1	...	Tris Oxide of M.
4	+	1	...	Tetrakis Oxide of M.
2	+	3	...	DisTer Oxide of M.
2	+	5	...	Dis Quinquoxide of M.

TABLE II.

Oxide.		Acid. Sulphuric.		Compound Salt.
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Sulphate of M.
1	+	3	...	Ter Sulphate of M.
1	+	4	...	Quater Sulphate of M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Sulphate of M.
3	+	1	...	Tris Sulphate of M.
4	+	1	...	Tetrakis Sulphate of M.

Atom of Bis Oxide.		Atom of Acid. Sulphuric.		Compound Salt.
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of Bis Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Sulphate of Bis M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Sulphate of Bis M.
Ter Oxide.				
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of Ter Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Sulphate of Ter M.
1	+	3	...	Ter Sulphate of Ter M.
2	+	1	.	Dis Sulphate of Ter M.
Dis Oxide.				
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of Dis Metal.
1	+	2	...	B's Sulphate of Dis M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Sulphate of Dis M.
Tris Oxide.				
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of Tris Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Sulphate of Tris M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Sulphate of Tris M.
DisTer Oxide.				
1	+	1	...	Sulphate of DisTer Metal.
1	+	2	...	Bis Sulphate of DisTer M.
2	+	1	...	Dis Sulphate of DisTer M.

He called the attention of the Society to an apparent deviation from the principle of the nomenclature, which he adopted for the sake of abbreviation, while it cannot possibly create any confusion. When speaking of the combination of an acid, *e. g.* the sulphuric with an oxide of a metal, say iron, the atomic constitution of which is one atom of metal and one of oxygen, he calls the compound sulphate of iron, not sulphate of oxide of iron, because every chemist is aware that invariably the metal is in the state of an oxide when in union with an acid.

He concluded by inculcating the importance of chemical writers and teachers employing uniformly the same nomenclature, and expressing his hope that the modification now proposed may meet the approbation of his fellow-labourers in the Edinburgh School.

2. Mr Stark read a communication from Dr Parnell on the occurrence of the *Clupea alba*, or White Bait, and of the *Raniceps trifurcatus*, or Tadpole-fish, in the Frith of Forth. Specimens were exhibited.

Dr Parnell endeavoured to state the specific characters by which