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board, and suddenly let loose to fly back by their own force against a piece of wood hanging like a door on hinges\*. The piece of wood should move on a graduated arch, in order to determine the degree of force with which the different slips fly back.

*Observations.*—How far this contrivance will answer I am not able to determine; but it appears on consideration that some judgment may be formed of the elastic quality of bodies by this method, where the substance is capable of being cut into slips, which will bend easily and recover their form again. Should either of these proposed schemes, or others more preferable, be adopted, it appears to me that the knowledge obtained by them might be of considerable use in various branches of art, as well as satisfactory to the inquiring naturalist.

London,  
September 7, 1803.

LIX. *Account of two Fœtuses produced by the same Parrots which in the Year 1801 produced a young one at Rome.*

*By C. L. MOROZZO, Member of the Institute of Bologna, of the Italian Society of the Sciences, of the Academy of Stockholm, and of that of Padua †.*

IN the letter which I addressed to C. Lacépède in the year 1801 on the birth of a parrot at Rome (see *Philosophical Magazine*, No. XLVII.), I contracted an engagement with the public, as I promised to employ all my care on the eggs which these parrots might lay in the spring of the next year (1802). I shall now discharge my promise; and though my care was not crowned with success, I flatter myself that the amateurs of natural history will find in it some interesting details.

I did every thing in my power to get again into my hands these parrots, promising to the owner to take the greatest care of them possible. By these means I should have been enabled to observe more exactly their habits; but J. A. Passeri, the owner of them, who was governor of Orvieto, gave absolute orders that his son, in whose keeping they had been the preceding year, and at whose house I had made all my observations, should send them to him.

\* Or it may be made to strike the end of a rod or arrow in the manner of the catapulta. The distance to which the arrow is carried will determine the elastic force.—EDIT.

† From the *Journal de Physique*, Floreal, an. 11.

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These birds had already begun their amours. No reasons were able to persuade him to recall his orders. I was therefore obliged to suffer them to depart: happily they sustained no injury by the way.

I therefore employed the only resource that remained; which was, to request him to take every possible care of them; to cause materials for building their nests to be placed within their reach; and to transmit to me a journal of every thing that might take place. I even delivered to him a small memorandum in regard to the observations which I more particularly wished him to make.

He informed me, that on the 21st of June the female deposited her first egg; that on the 25th she deposited another; and on the 29th a third. I flattered myself with the happiest success; but though the female sat on them continually, after the term of forty days, which we found the preceding years to be the term of incubation, observing that the first egg had been dragged out of the nest, and that the other two had been bruised, we thought proper to examine them; and the following is a literal translation of the *procès-verbal*, written in Italian, which was sent to me on the occasion:

“ We the undersigned, physician and surgeon of the town of Orvieto, declare to whom it may concern, that we saw in the house of J. A. Passeri, governor of the town, two parrots of the kind called Amazons, viz. a male and a female, and that on a requisition from the said governor we paid several visits to these birds after the female seemed ready to lay. We observed that the female on the 21st of June 1802 deposited an egg in a nest which she had constructed under a chest of drawers, and lined with linen rags which had been placed within her reach.

“ On the 25th of the same month she deposited a second, and on the 29th a third.

“ We observed that the female sat on the eggs, and that she continued to do so with great assiduity, and that during the whole time the male supplied her with food.

“ On the 18th of July we observed the first egg she had laid to be without the nest: a small round hole, suspected to have been made by the beak of the mother, was found in one side of it. On this egg being opened, nothing was found in it but a little coagulated matter in one corner, almost black, and putrid, without any appearance of an embryo.

“ On the 22d of the same month we examined one of

the eggs which was in the nest, which was cracked, and depressed on one side, without any hole being observed as in the former. On the 24th it was remarked that the third egg had the same depression and fracture as the other.

“ The female, however, continued her incubation with great assiduity; and on the 2d of August, finding that the eggs would not hatch, and that the fœtus was dead, we determined that day, in presence of the canon Felix Albarici, and M. Bernard Piermattei, merchant of that city, to break the eggs with great caution; and when this was done we found the following results :

“ In one of the eggs we found the shell very hard, with an almost round depression in one of its sides: on the shell being broken it was observed that the pellicle by which eggs in general are enveloped was dry, and adhered to the fœtus. This pellicle being gently removed, we found the fœtus, which was completely formed, and we distinguished in it a small parrot. We observed that the head was placed between the thighs, with the beak large and long in the upper part, the tongue thick, the eyes shut, and covered by the eyelids. It had the two wings formed, as well as the thighs and legs, with claws on the toes, two of which were before and two behind. On the upper part of the head, the back, and as far as the tail, it was covered with white down; on the breast and belly there was none; on the middle of the belly was observed a carneous mass adhering to it, which resembled the placenta. We found also near the thorax a depression which corresponded to the contusion observed in the shell, and which there is reason to suppose was the cause of the death of the young.

“ In the shell of the other egg a contusion was found as in the first: the pellicle and fœtus were completely formed, though smaller than in the preceding, which gave us reason to believe that this egg had been the last that was laid. In this fœtus were observed on the right wing, and near the thorax, a depression and contusion corresponding to the fracture in the egg.

“ We remarked that the beak of the former was of an ash colour, like that of the male, and that the beak of the latter was blacker, like that of the female: we therefore supposed that the first was a male, and the second a female.

“ These two fœtuses were put into a flask with spirit of wine, closed and sealed in the presence of the above witnesses, to be kept as an authentic testimony of the prolific powers of these two parrots; which did not surprise us, as

we

we saw them produce young ones at Rome the preceding year, and as that produced in 1801 is lively, and now in the possession of the princess Venosa."

The witnesses who attest the above are :

Dr. Louis Bernardi,  
Joseph Taruchi, surgeon,  
Felix Alberici, canon,  
Bernard Piermattei.

It is to be regretted that the hatching of these parrots has not been attended with the same success as it was last year.

We here see that the climate of Orvieto, which is more temperate than that of Rome, was no obstacle to the copulation or laying of these birds. What in all probability prevented the female from hatching the eggs was, that the parrots were not in separate apartments as the preceding year, and that they were deranged by the too great number of people who approached them either through curiosity or by accident, since they were placed in a chamber which served as a kitchen.

These birds are suspicious and timid, and it is probable that the female bruised the eggs in endeavouring to change their position with a view of placing them in more safety.

But as these birds, according to my calculation, are in the vigour of youth, it is to be hoped they will produce young hereafter; and that the owner, taught by the experience of this year, will take the necessary precaution of placing them in an apartment less exposed to noise and bustle, where the solitude of the place may bring them nearer to the wild state, and suffer them to complete their incubation as during the preceding year.

Turin,  
September 25, 1802.

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LX. *Account of a new Spring of Petroleum discovered in Italy; in a Letter to the Editors of the Annales de Chimie.* By J. POGGI\*.

Paris, Dec. 22, 1802.

BEING detained in the capital by the great means it affords of applying to the study of nature, I think it my duty to communicate to you an account of an interesting phenomenon with which nature has enriched my country. It consists in a very abundant and permanent spring of *petroleum* or *naphtha*, which has appeared for some months at

\* From the *Annales de Chimie*, No. 134.