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The common felspar occurs of a milk-white, yellowish-white, and ochre-yellow colour. It exhibits sometimes a faintly opalescent play of colour similar to that of Adularia. It is found in a crystalline form, and in regular crystals.—(Dublin Philosophical Journal.)

4. Description of Leveyne, a new Mineral Species.

The following abstract is taken from Dr. Brewster's paper, in the Edinburgh Journal of Science for April, 1825.

The mineral, of which I propose to give a brief description, was kindly transmitted to me for examination about a year ago, by Mr. Heuland. In the memorandum which accompanied it, Mr. Heuland stated that he suspected it to be new, and upon examining its optical properties, and comparing it with those minerals with which it seemed to be most closely allied, I had no doubt that it constituted a new and interesting species.

This mineral occurs in the cavities of an amygdaloidal rock, from Dalsnypen, in Faroe, and sometimes accompanies the chabasia and analcime, but particularly a new variety of the heulandite.

Although this mineral is evidently a compound one from the distinctness of the re-entering angles; yet this composition is not seen when examined by polarised light, through the faces perpendicular to the axis. This circumstance would of itself have been sufficient to show that it has only one axis of *double refraction*, but I determined this to be the case by the direct examination of the polarised rings. Its double refraction is negative, like that of calcareous spar, and other obtuse rhomboids, and though not great, yet the images may be easily separated. Its ordinary refraction is a little greater than that of almond oil, and very nearly the same as that of primitive chabasia.

I have sent a specimen containing a few minute crystals of this substance to M. Berzelius for analysis; but I have not yet received the results which he has obtained from them.

It is not soluble in acids, nor does it gelatinise with them. It whitens and intumescs with heat like chabasia and mesotype, and, according to Mr. Haidinger's observations, it yields with salt of phosphorus a transparent globule, which contains a skeleton of silica, and becomes opaque on cooling.

Cleavage, indistinct. Fracture imperfect conchoidal.

Lustre vitreous. Colour white. Streak white. Semitransparent.

Brittle. Hardness = 4.0.

I propose to distinguish this species by the name of Leveyne, in compliment to Mr. A. Levy, M.A. of the University of Paris, who is already well known to mineralogists, by his crystallogra-

phic acquirements, and by his determination of several new and interesting mineral species.—(Edin. Jour. Science.)

*** We are obliged to omit Mr. Haidinger's crystallographic observations on Leveyne, as they cannot be well understood without a figure.—*Ed.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

5. *Astronomical Prize.*

At a Sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris on the 23d of May, the astronomical prize was unanimously adjudged to Mr. Herschel and Mr. South for their observations of 380 double and triple stars, communicated to the Royal Society of London, and by them published in their Transactions.

6. *Falling Star seen at Mid-day.*

On the 13th of August, 1823, at a quarter-past eleven in the forenoon, as I was employed in measuring the zenith distances of the pole-star to determine the latitude, a luminous body passed over the field of the universal instrument telescope, the light of which was somewhat greater than that of the pole-star. Its apparent motion was from below upwards; but as the telescope shows images in an inverted position, its real motion, like that of every falling body, was from above downwards. It passed over the telescope in the space of a second, or a second and a half, and its motion was neither perfectly equal nor rectilinear, but resembled very much the unequal and somewhat serpentine motion of an ascending rocket, from the unequal burning of the charge, and the irregular reaction of the stream of air issuing from it on the atmospheric air. It was thus evident that this meteor moved in our atmosphere, but it must have been at a considerable height, since its angular motion was so slow. This is, perhaps, the only instance in which a shooting star has been seen at mid-day in clear sunshine. *Hansteen.*—(Edin. Phil. Jour.)

7. *Notice regarding Copernicus.*

The name of this celebrated astronomer was written *Koppernick*; he was a canon and physician, and occupied himself in directing buildings. The aqueducts which he constructed at Grandenz, Thorn, and Dantzic, still exist. He took 24 years to produce his famous astronomical system, against which the thunders of the Vatican were hurled when the author was dead. The sentence of condemnation was only repealed at Rome in 1821; Copernicus died in 1543. The monument which Bishop Kromer erected to him in the cathedral of Frauenbourg no longer exists. Prussia claims Copernicus as one of her sons, although, at this period, Thorn did not belong to the Prussians.—(Edin. Phil. Jour.)