

### New and Remarkable Chemical Experiments.

The liquefaction of oxygen gas and nitrogen, the freezing of alcohol and sulphide of carbon, are the latest achievements of chemical science. This news comes to us from the laboratory of M. W. Oblewski, in Cracow, Poland, who has given some interesting particulars in a dispatch to M. Debray, published lately in *Comptes Rendus*. By the use of liquefied ethylene, M. Wroblewski and K. Olszewski obtained the remarkably low temperature of  $-136^{\circ}\text{C}$ ., equal to  $-212.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Oxygen gas subjected to about this temperature, and compressed under a pressure of about 25 atmospheres, of 375 pounds to the square inch, was readily liquefied in glass tubes, and formed a colorless and transparent liquid, very mobile, and resembling carbonic acid.

Nitrogen was also liquefied, forming a colorless liquid.

Alcohol was solidified at  $130.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . or  $-202.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ., forming a white body. Sulphide of carbon froze at about  $-116^{\circ}\text{C}$ . or  $-176.8^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

These are certainly very interesting and remarkable experiments. Air contains by weight, approximately, 23 parts of oxygen and 77 parts nitrogen. It is common to compress it to a far greater degree than above mentioned. For motive power, in driving compressed air locomotives, a compression of the air to 1,000 pounds to the square inch is in some cases employed. The difficulty heretofore experienced in the liquefaction of oxygen and nitrogen has been to obtain a sufficiently low temperature in conjunction with compression. This obstacle now appears to be removed, and a variety of new and valuable observations concerning the nature of gaseous substances may be expected.—*Scientific American*.

### A Bolivian Saurian.

"The Brazilian Minister at La Paz, Bolivia, has remitted to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Rio photographs of drawings of an extraordinary saurian killed on the Beni after receiving thirty-six balls. By order of the President of Bolivia the dried body, which had been preserved in Asuncion, was sent to La Paz. It is twelve meters long from snout to point of the tail, which latter is flattened. Besides the anterior head, it has, four meters behind, two small but completely formed heads (?) rising from the back. All three have much resemblance to the head of a dog. The legs are short, and end in formidable claws. The legs, belly, and lower part of the throat, appear defended by a kind of scale armor, and all the back is protected by a still thicker and double cuirass, starting from behind the ears of the anterior head, and continuing to the tail. The neck is long, and the belly large and almost dragging on the ground. Professor Gilveti, who examined the beast, thinks it is not a monster, but a member of a rare or almost lost species, as the Indians in some parts of Bolivia use small earthen vases of identical shape, and probably copied from nature."

Mr. Wm. E. A. Axon, in a note giving the above to the *Journal of Science*, says: "If this account should prove to be accurate, it would form a counterpart to the etching of the mammoth which forms so interesting a memorial of pre-historic art."

We are glad to find among our exchanges the *Kansas City Review of Science and Industry*. Having known this journal for some years we are prepared to speak quite strongly in its favor. Published in the West by a western man it furnishes a good index of western push and enterprise. The table of contents is exceedingly rich and full covering nearly the whole field of natural science, while the readers of the *Review* are kept well informed in regard to the latest discoveries in science and progress of the times. Every reader of the *SCIENTIST* should send 25 cents for a sample copy to the editor and publisher, Theo. S. Case, Kansas City, Missouri.