

expanded ends. Another form shows a curious dice-box, resulting from a bundle of such crystals. Probably they are some silicate of soda, modified by the presence of other bases.

Columbic acid is deposited from borax in crystals which often have similar forms; whereas titanitic acid gives hair-like prisms, variously grouped. Molybdic acid is sometimes set free as liquid globules, which coalesce, rise to the surface, and afterwards solidify as small spheres.

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THE SOLAR HEAT.—M. Mouchat, who has been experimenting on the utilization of the solar heat, has sent in a paper on this subject to the Academy of Sciences. He states that, according to his experiments, upwards of three-sixths of the solar heat might be gathered at a small cost. At Paris, a surface of one square metre normally exposed to the rays of the sun receives, on an average, at any time of the year, on a fine day, ten units of caloric per minute. Such a quantity of heat would make a litre of water at freezing-point boil in ten minutes, and is equivalent to the theoretical action of a one horse-power. He further states that he had proved the possibility of keeping hot-air machines going by means of solar rays, and had succeeded in making a few litres of water boil by exposure to the same agent; and in June, 1866, he had made a small steam-engine work by converting water into vapour with the assistance of a reflector one metre square.

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its eighteenth meeting at Salem, on Wednesday, August 18th. It is intended to give great prominence to microscopy, and the committee have issued a special prospectus calling on microscopists to aid in sending instruments and specimens. Communications should be addressed to Mr. F. W. Putnam, the Local Secretary, Salem, Massachusetts. The titles of papers should be handed in as early as possible, in order to secure their presentation to the Association. Each title should be written on a separate slip of paper, with the author's name and address, and an estimate of the number of minutes required to read the communication. As soon as practicable after entering the titles, the paper itself, or an abstract, must be handed to the Secretary, and until all these conditions are complied with, no title can appear in the programmes.