

The *Bulletin de la Société Chimique de Paris*, amongst many chemical papers of much interest, draws some attention to a waterproof glue, which promises to be of considerable value. The action of light in rendering the size on paper, when it is coated with the bichromate of potassa, insoluble was first noticed by Mr. Mongo Ponton, and the principle has been applied to several of the photographic printing processes. Gum, glue or gelatine may thus be rendered insoluble, and the action takes place, though slowly, in the dark. A concentrated solution of the bichromate of potassa is kept in the dark, and some of it is added to boiled gelatine. Anything glued with this may, after a little time be washed with hot water without effect. A parchment paper, used for wrapping the pea-sausages of the German soldier, is prepared by M. J. Stinde with this chromatised gelatine.

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During an unusually heavy snow-storm in Stockholm, which continued for five or six days in December, 1871, Nordenskjöld detected, even in those portions of the snow which fell latest, a black carbonaceous powder, charged with very small spangles of metallic iron. He has since found similar substances in the snows of the Arctic Regions and from the heart of Finland. It will be curious to learn from the analysis, which he has recently promised, whether the iron in this cosmical dust is similar to meteoric iron.

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Attention has been called, by Prof. B. Silliman, to the probable occurrence of small diamonds in the sands left in the sluices of hydraulic washings in California. A microscopic examination of a sample of these sands, from Cherokee, in Butte County, revealed the existence of numerous crystals of hyacinth or zircon, associated with crystals of topaz, fragments of quartz, black grains of chromite and titanite iron-ore, and a few small masses of a highly refracting substance, which, from its physical and chemical characters, is believed to be true diamond. The occurrence of diamonds in California has long been known, although not under these circumstances.