

or rhinoceros, though these huge beasts are known from discoveries made at Brentford, Crayford, and other localities in the Thames Valley, to have been in times long gone by the companions of the Thames Valley mammoths. The specimen in this collection which has specially attracted the attention of gentlemen learned in the study of fossil osteology is the terminal point of an elephant tusk, unusually sharp at the point and highly polished, and from the surface of which a very thin skin of ivory peels off, exposing a strongly and regularly longitudinally channelled surface beneath.

A NEW CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.—A lecture was, a short time ago, delivered by Prof. Roscoe, at the Royal Institution, on a new chemical industry which has originated and developed in France to a considerable extent within the last two or three years. M. Vincent, *répétiteur* at the Ecole Centrale at Paris, and directing chemist of the great distillery works at Courrières, has succeeded in putting to good use what has hitherto been a waste product. Instead of burning the residue of beet-root molasses—after the alcohol has been distilled from it—in the open air for the purpose of obtaining the potash salts it contains, he performs the calcination in closed retorts, in order to secure the products of distillation. Among those he found a large quantity of trimethylamine, which can be easily worked up into chloride of methyl. This gaseous body, reduced through pressure to a liquid, is an excellent material for frigorific purposes. By its own evaporation the bulk of the liquid acquires a temperature of -23° C., and when the evaporation is assisted by the passage of dry air through the liquid the temperature is brought as low as -55° C. Prof. Roscoe was able to freeze in this way a mass of mercury of several pounds weight into a hard solid, which he hammered like a piece of lead. The other and more important use of chloride of methyl is in the manufacture of those beautiful dyes known as methylated anilines. They had been known before, but the cost of their production was so high that their consumption was only limited. The cheapening of the chloride of methyl has greatly extended and will continue to extend the preparation of those colours.—*Athenæum*.