

less structure of these silicious compounds. By microscopic and comparative investigation, Turpin was led to conclude that, the various colours, rose, orange, blood-red, and reddish-brown (varieties owing to more advanced growth) which are enclosed in, or which surround the translucent and colourless structure of different kinds of Agates, will be found to be owing to the presence either of red globules, uniformly mixed as in the Carnelian Agate, or agglomerated into small irregular clots, and distributed into circular waves, according to certain forms or conditions which existed at the time of the silicious conglomeration; or, finally, though more rarely, to these small red vegetables themselves, quite entire, and most distinctly visible with the microscope. It is impossible to find a resemblance in colour and polish more striking, than that which is seen in a white glass phial filled with *Protococcus Kermesinus*, when compared with a carnelian, as may be fully established by the trial.—*Turpin in Jameson's Journal, Vol. 25.*

*Instrument for measuring Refraction.*—At one of the recent meetings of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, Dr. Wilson exhibited an instrument for measuring the refracting powers of different substances, invented by Mr. Alexander Bryson, of Edinburgh. The instrument consists of a compound microscope with a moveable platform underneath, for holding the refracting medium over a fine line, which is to be viewed through it. The platform must be raised or lowered, until the line is distinctly seen through the microscope, and as the distance at which this takes place depends on the refracting power of the medium, the graduated scale on which the platform moves indicates the refracting power. Dr. Wilson considered the invention of great importance to the mineralogist and the chemist, as it enables them to ascertain the refracting power of very minute substances.—*Inventor's Advocate, No. 77.*

*New Species of Auricula.*—On carefully examining sand from Van Diemen's Land, with a view to discover microscopic shells, my attention was directed to four small shells of the genus *Auricula*, for which I propose the name of *A. pellicida*. It is thus characterized:—*Testa minuscule, ovata, obtusa, albida, nitida; spira brevi; longitudinaliter transversimque tenuiter striata; labra non reflexa; columella duplicata.*

Shell hardly a line in length, pellucid, obtuse, with two small plaits on the pillar lip, the upper of which is the larger, and projects farther into the mouth of the shell. The four specimens above described are in the collection of the British Museum.—*Editor.*

*Microscopic Objects.*—We have much pleasure in recommending to the notice of Microscopists Mr. C. M. Topping, of No. 26, Bride Street, Liverpool-road, Islington, who has devoted himself with much zeal, for the last three or four years, to this increasing business. His terms are moderate, and the objects very carefully prepared.—*Editor.*

*See notice in No. 17, of the Microscopical Society, p. 10.*

*See notice in No. 18, of the Microscopical Society, p. 10.*

*See notice in No. 19, of the Microscopical Society, p. 10.*

*See notice in No. 20, of the Microscopical Society, p. 10.*

*See notice in No. 21, of the Microscopical Society, p. 10.*