

comparison with slabs having a known percentage of ash.

One of the most curious and interesting of the electrical exhibits at the Royal Society's last soiree was that of Mr. J. W. Swan. It consisted of dishes containing resin covered with beautiful and complex patterns that had been produced by placing the resin between two poles of an induction coil in action. The spark, which was taken between an auxiliary pair of terminals—did not pass to the resin, which was merely subjected to strain. No trace of any effect appeared on the resin when removed, but on being warmed through, the surface puckered up into patterns as the mass softened, the internal strains set up by the electric stress seeming to be unable to find relief while the resin is hard. The patterns at the negative pole differ from these at the positive pole. The strains persist for a long time, some of the patterns shown having been developed three months after the resin was electrified.

An immense electrical influence machine has been constructed by Mr. James Wimshurst, whose name is so well known in connection with apparatus of this kind. It is duplex in form, a shaft on each side carrying twelve plates 36 inches in diameter, each plate with 32 sectors. The machine is certain to excite itself before the hand-crank has made a complete revolution. It gives torrents of electricity, the length of the spark between the two outer terminals being 32 inches. The machine is nine feet long on side the case by two feet nine inches in width.

A remarkable collection of dwarfs has been discovered by Oliffsen and Filipsen, Danish officers in a little-known region of the Pamirs. Not only are the men of the savage tribe exceedingly small in stature, but their domestic animals are equally diminutive—the oxen being about the ordinary size of donkeys, the donkeys no larger than dogs, and the goats and sheep comparable to kittens. The small size is attributed to the exceptional environment and to the arrested development due to great scarcity of food.

A decaying oak tree at Cowthorpe, near Weirby, England, is more than fifty feet in circumference, and is believed to be the largest in the world. Two young oaks have been planted to perpetuate its memory.

A LETTER FROM CACHE.

LOGAN, Cache County,

June 18th, 1897.

A Sunday in the country is something the city folks would enjoy, so I propose to give them through the News some idea how we oldhoppers remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Being at home in Hyrum I attended Sunday school at 10 a. m. In the Primary department, which meets in the central school, is to be found 120 little tots, all well and neatly dressed, and as happy as sunshine. In the next room was a Scandinavian meeting where the aged were worshipping God in their native language. On the east side of the public square is a handsome three-story structure called the Hyrum Church academy. Here

was found the first and second intermediate departments of the Sunday school, all meeting in separate rooms, as also the theological department. Then there is the east beach school, where another branch of the Sunday school is taught (seventy pupils). Then up the canyon, or rather at the mouth of it, are twenty-eight children who meet every Sunday morning. The Hyrum Sunday schools number about 550 pupils, and they have an able corps of teachers.

In the academy building the first and second intermediate and theological all meet. The great folding doors are thrown open and the assembly room is filled with young men and women, boys and girls, dressed in their best. They would be taken by a stranger to be the sons and daughters of wealthy parents, and for beauty and beauty it would be difficult to name a comparison. On Sunday last, the opening exercises having been gone through and holy sacrament administered, each department filed out to the music of the organ to their own rooms. In the theological class was discussed the subject of the organization of the Church in the days of our Savior. The manner in which the young people dealt with the subject showed them to be quite familiar with the Holy Bible. All then reassembled in the large room for the closing exercises, where your humble servant and Elder James O. Allen, late of the Samoan Islands, present enjoyed her excellent address.

At last the drought in Cache valley is broken. It rained some last night, and from the cloudy appearance of the sky it looks as though we are to have a good rain. If it had come two or three weeks ago much grain on dry farms would have been saved; but as we get enough now we shall reap a better harvest than many thought for.

Good health, hard work, and a happy and contented people dwell in the rich and lovely Cache valley.

SALOP.

DAVIS STAKE CONFERENCE.

CENTERVILLE, Utah, June 14, 1897.—The quarterly conference of the Davis Stake convened at Centerville on Saturday and Sunday, June 12th and 13th, 1897. It was held in a commodious bowery. There was a full representation of the Stake and ward officers, and a large attendance of the Saints during the two days of conference. On Saturday there were present Elders John H. Smith and John W. Taylor of the council of Apostles, and Elder B. H. Roberts of the First Council of Seventies.

President John W. Hens reported the Stake; no doubtless existing, but a good spirit prevailing among the people.

Elder John H. Smith spoke on amusements and the way to conduct them; not to run to extremes, but to keep evenly balanced. He said parents should accompany their children to places of amusement. He also spoke strongly against Sabbath breaking.

Elder John W. Taylor delivered a short but powerful discourse, testifying to the truth of the Gospel and exhorting the Saints to keep all the commandments of God.

Elder B. H. Roberts spoke of the

early rise of the Church, of John and Peter Whitmer, Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon and others.

Elders Joseph H. Grant and Joseph S. Clark, counselors to President John W. Hens, also addressed the congregation, corroborating the report of President Hens as to the good condition of the Saints in the Davis Stake.

The general and Stake authorities were presented and unanimously sustained.

On Sunday the Teachers and members of the North and South district Sunday schools met in joint session in the bowery at 9 o'clock a. m. After the opening exercises, Elder John Knyaston, Elder George Reynolds and President Joseph F. Smith addressed the children, President Smith speaking on children obeying their parents.

Conference reconvened at 9:30 a. m., and was addressed by Elder George Reynolds and President Joseph F. Smith. Elder Reynolds spoke on the tendency of the age to disregard parental authority. President Smith read from the Doctrine and Covenants, sec. 68, commencing at the 25th verse, on the duty of parents in Zion. President Smith also spoke on luncheon, keeping the Sabbath day holy, etc.

Elders David Hens, Wilder Hatch, Mathoniah Thomas, Jesse K. Nelson, Aaron Call, Lorrin O. Woolley and William Ogden, young missionaries who recently returned from their fields of labor, related some of their experience while abroad preaching the Gospel, and all bore strong testimonies to the truth of the work in which they are engaged.

Elders John Ford, John S. Smith, Joseph B. Nonie, John D. Chase, John Ellison, Judeon Tolman and Jann Knyaston were unanimously sustained to receive ordination as Patriarchs, to which office and calling they were ordained by President J. F. Smith.

Nathan T. Porter was set apart to fill the office made vacant by the death of his father, that of Stake superintendent of Sunday schools, with Israel Barlow Jr. and Nathan Reeves as his assistants.

There was a good spirit manifested during conference, and the general feeling is that it was the best ever held in the Stake. The visiting brethren were filled with the Spirit of God, and gave fatherly counsel and instruction to the Saints.

There is much praise due the choir of the Centerville ward which, under the able leadership of Elder Lorenza Schofield, furnished most excellent music and singing.

JOHN J. SMITH, Stake Clerk.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCE.

The Sunday school annual conference of Millard Stake was held at Deseret, May 22, 1897. There was present of the general board Brothers Geo. Goldard and F. M. Lyman. The spirit of love and union prevailed, making the conference a spiritual feast. Much encouragement was given and the officers and teachers felt more determined to make their schools a success.

The reports of the respective wards was given in the form of answering questions suggested and arranged by