

kind of writing. Dr. Hincks maintains that every vowel is expressed at least once; but that both vowels and consonants might be expressed twice, at the end of one character and at the beginning of the next.

In addition to the correction made in Westergaard's alphabet by the addition of vowels to the consonants, which he supposed the complete representations of certain characters, and by the substitution of different vowels for those which he used, entirely new values are given by Dr. Hincks to five characters which Westergaard had improperly valued, and to five more which he had not valued at all.

Specimens of the inscriptions in this kind of writing, as read and translated, were added. The language was said to agree with the Indo-Germanic languages in having inflections; but to have inflections completely different from those of all these languages.

In a postscript to the paper it was stated, that the Babylonian and Assyrian alphabets were both of the same nature as this; so far as that some of the characters represented syllables and some elementary sounds; that the same sound was represented by two or more characters; that no vowel was omitted; and that vowels and consonants were habitually represented twice, when only to be sounded once. The number of elementary sounds in the Babylonian, or third kind of Persepolitan writing, was greater than in the second kind, as was the number of characters in use. Both the Babylonian and Assyrian had something in common with the second Persepolitan language; but they had also affinities with the Semitic languages.

Rev. T. R. Robinson made some observations on Dr. Hincks's paper, referring to researches on the same subject by Mr. Norris and Colonel Rawlinson.

Rev. S. Butcher read the third part of Dr. Hincks's paper on Egyptian hieroglyphics.

In it the principles established in the preceding parts were applied to ascertain the exact power of each of the letters of the Egyptian alphabet. Those contained in the alphabet lately published by Chev. Bunsen were first examined; and then the other characters alleged to be alphabetic: some of which were classed, in Chev. Bunsen's arrangement, among the syllabic signs, while others were altogether omitted. A new class of letters having the power of *ch*, and corresponding to the Hebrew \aleph , is established, to which the *long serpent* belongs, occurring in the word *chat*, signifying *ever*.

Robert Ball, Esq., exhibited various anatomical preparations of marine animals made by Mr. Goadby of London.

June 22.

REV. HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., President, in the
Chair.

Mr. Oldham, on the part of Mr. R. Mallet, who was unavoidably absent, described the objects, construction, and use of certain new instruments devised by the latter for self-registration of the passage of earthquake shocks.

Instruments previously intended for this purpose have not possessed the power of self-registration; they have consisted either in the trace left by the motion of a viscid fluid on the containing vessel, or they have been upon the principle of the inverted pendulum, or watchmaker's nobby. Instruments so constructed are objectionable, because having themselves times of vibration of their own, which may conflict with those of the earthquake shock, they are liable to fail in point of delicacy. They also possess several inconveniences of a mechanical kind in being adapted to self-registration.

The objects to be attained in the instruments which the author has had in view, are :