

This metal may be recognized among gold dust by its bright steel-grey lustre. Its specific gravity is considerably less than that of gold; and, owing to this, and the fact of its being attracted by the magnet used in freeing the gold from the iron sand, it may frequently escape observation.

Pure platina is worth about 34s. per oz., and this ore contains 27s. 2d. worth of the metal; but the cost of manufacturing it into compact form must be considerable, so that the sample may be valued at about 21s. per oz. As it has now been found at both extremities of the South Island (see Exhibition Jurors' Report Supplement, page 403), where the gold diggings are contiguous to the crystalline rocks, it may be expected to occur also on the sea coast of Westland.

## MINERALS AND ROCKS.

No.	BOOK.	PAGE.	NATURE OF SPECIMEN.	LOCALITY.	BY WHOM SENT.
7	1	39	Line Garnet, with Calc Spar ... ..	Kakanui River, Otago ... ..	Mr. Mantell.
...	"	1	Radiating Crystals of Carbonate of Lime ... ..	White Island ... ..	Mr. Vogel.
...	"	29	Heavy Spar Sulphate of Baryta ... ..	Poverty Bay ... ..	Rev. R. Taylor.
...	"	44	Scheelite—Tungstate of Lime ... ..	Dunstan, Otago ... ..	Mr. Hackett.
...	"	...	Gypsum ... ..	White Island ... ..	Colonel Hautain.
39	2	8	Diorite, from Dyke Rock ... ..	Kawa Kawa ... ..	Geological Survey.
40	"	9	Siliceous Rock (over the coal) ... ..	Ditto ... ..	Ditto.
...	"	18	A new Sulphate of Iron ... ..	White Island ... ..	Mr. Vogel.
MISCELLANEOUS.					
...	1	55	Water—(qualitative) ... ..	White Island ... ..	Mr. Vogel.
27	1	66	Soil of the Gum Land ... ..	Auckland ... ..	Geological Survey.
12	1	77	Tobacco (six samples) ... ..	Canterbury ... ..	Mr. Hall.
...	"	...	Ditto (one sample, Native manufacture) ... ..	Auckland ... ..	Dr. Hector.
52a	"	81	Bitter Substance of the Kohe Kohe ... ..	New Zealand ... ..	Mr. Mantell.
33	"	...	Petroleum Oil ... ..	Taranaki ... ..	Colonial Secretary.
34	"	...	Experiments on Flax ... ..	Testing McMillan's process ... ..	...
66	2	50	Petroleum ... ..	Poverty Bay ... ..	Colonial Secretary.

The detailed results of the above analyses have either been reported at once to the persons requiring the information, or will be embodied in their proper place in the general reports on the geology of the country.

A large number of qualitative analyses have also been effected upon various Museum specimens which are not referred to in the above list. Mr. Skey has, moreover, used the Laboratory in the evenings in making original researches on subjects that are suggested in the course of his ordinary duties, and the results of several of these have already been transmitted to England for publication.

JAMES HECTOR, F.R.S.

Geological Survey Office,  
11th September, 1866.