

The rector of the parish at once communicated with the owner, and obtained the following information. The kite broke adrift from the grounds of M. Delcourt, Chalet des Vogues, Pas de Calais, at six p.m. on February 10th. A shepherd who was looking after his sheep came to the end of the cord which he picked up and began to wind up; after a long while he arrived at a ditch, in which lay the kite. The cord was lying in a S.W. to N.E. direction, and had been trailed through the sea, and over the telegraph wires which run along the sea coast. The kite was packed and returned to the owners, who not only paid all the expenses incurred, but liberally rewarded the finder.

War Balloons and International Law.—A legal correspondent in the "Standard," recently commented upon the debated question as to whether the war balloonist, when captured, is liable to be court martialled or captured and shot as a spy, or should be treated as a prisoner of war. Germany has been the chief exponent of the sterner view. In the Franco-Prussian War, M. Verrecke and some other balloonists who descended in Bavaria, and were taken captive, were sent to a military prison. M. Nobecourt, made captive under similar circumstances, was condemned to death, although the sentence was afterwards commuted to one of fortress imprisonment. In no case does the extreme sentence appear to have been carried out on a balloonist. The more lenient, and surely reasonable view is represented by Article 22 of the Brussels Declaration of 1874, which provides that "individuals sent in balloons to carry despatches, and generally to keep up communication between the different parts of an army, or of a territory," are equally with military men charged with the duty of penetrating the enemy's lines to collect information, entitled to be treated, on capture, as prisoners of war.

Obituary.

MONSIEUR DAGRON.

"La Nature" informs us of the death of M. Dagron, an aeronaut of the siege of Paris, and the inventor of the microscopic photography. This ingenious process added considerably to the usefulness of the aerial post during the investment of the French capital. The tiny scraps of paper on which the correspondence was photographed, was so exceedingly light, that one pigeon used to carry over fifty

thousand messages, which were read off at the post office, by means of an optical projection apparatus. It is a fact that the fifteen hundred thousand messages sent during the siege, could have been carried at once by one bird. M. Dagron was born at Beauvoir, and attained the age of eighty-one. As "La Nature" remarks, his name deserves to be remembered.

Foreign Aeronautical Periodicals.

L'AERONAUTE (Paris).

April.—Séances des 5 Mars. et 5 Avril. Communication par M. F. Roux, "Le Vol des Oiseaux Explique."

May—Séances des 19 Avril and 3 Mai.—Discours par M. Eric Stuart Bruce.—Communication par M. Grimoin Sanson, ingénieur du Cinéorama à l'Exposition.—Nécrologie.—Madame Vve. Hureau de Villeneuve.

LA FRANCE AÉRIENNE.

1—15 *April.*—Exposition Universelle de 1900.—Réglement des Concours Nationaux de Colombophilie.—Le présent: C. Jobert.—Aérostation, Exposition Universelle de 1900.—La Colombophilie Algérienne: E. Caillé.—Exposition Annuelle des Avicultures Françaises: M. Dagron.—Colombophilie Militaire: E. Caillé.

15—30 *April.*—Aéronautique Rétrospective: Docteur Ox.—Combattons La Nature.—Un Progrès en Colombophilie: E. Caillé.—Tribune Libre: A propos du Grand Prix de l'Aéro-Club.—Partie Littéraire.—Le Pigeon de Coulmiers.

1—15 *May.*—L'Aéronautique au jour le jour.—Pléthore d'Experimentations.—Ballon Dirigeable et Poisson.—A propos du dernier accident survenu aux Ateliers de Meudon: C. Jobert.—La Colombophilie au jour.—Notre élevage en 1900: E. Caillé.

15—31 *May.*—La Colombophilie au pays des Tzars: Docteur Ox. Le Point d'Appui.—La France Aérienne en Normandie: Réunion Solennelle de la Fédération à Rouen. Revue de Presse Etrangère.—Avril, 1900, Aeronautical Journal.—Mme. C. Jobert.

1 au 15 *Jun.*—Le Vent.—Comte Jules Carelli.—Une Fête in time.—La France Aérienne à l'Etranger.

L'AEROPHILE (Paris).

April.—Portraits d'Aéronautes Contem-