

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Deville, Henri Étienne Sainte-Claire

1818 - 1881

DEGREE: MD

DATE: 1843

PLACE: Paris

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: none

investigated turpentine, toluene, and acid anhydrides; first to prepare N_2O_5 ; developed first practical process for producing pure aluminum by reducing its salts with sodium; prepared elemental silicon, boron, and titanium by the sodium method; studied the artificial production of natural minerals; expert on the use of high temperature techniques up to $3000^\circ C$; measured the vapor densities of compounds at various temperatures, helping to confirm Avogadro's hypothesis; discovered that chemical compounds can dissociate at high temperature and then recombine when the temperature is lowered; prepared the Pt-Ir alloy from which the standard kilogram and meter bar were manufactured.

FOOTNOTE: While working toward his MD degree Deville attended lectures given by Thenard and was encouraged by Dumas and others. At that time, Deville was already carrying out independent investigations in his own private laboratory.

1. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 4, p77-78.
2. *Chymia* **1954**, 3, 205-221.
3. *Rev. d'Hist. Sci.* **1949**, 2, 352-357.
4. *Compt. Rend.* **1881**, 93, 6-9.
5. Guy, J. *Henri Sainte-Claire Deville - sa vie et ses travaux*; Gauthier-Villars et Fils: 1889.
6. Dumas, J. B. *Discours et Eloges Academiques*; Gauthier-Villars: 1885; vol. 2; 283-328.
7. *Nature* 1881, 24, 219-221.
8. *Ann. Sci. Ecole Norm. Super.* 1894, 11(Suppl.), 1-70.
9. Ferchl-Mittenwald, F. *Chemisch-Pharmazeutisches Bio- und Bibliographikon*; Arthur Nemayer: 1937; p464-465.
10. *Grande Encyclopédie Inventaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Lettres et des Arts par une Société de Savants et de Gens de Lettres*; Berthelot, C., Ed.; Société Anonyme de la Grande Encyclopédie: 1886-1902; vol. 29, p130.