

transportation-rates in Europe, and a list of transportation-rates on the more important rail and water routes from the west to the seaboard. All these are obviously of more or less general interest; but it is difficult to see how it can be considered the duty of the department to publish, as it does in this report, a gratuitous advertisement of one particular western railroad, avowedly furnished by its western passenger-agent. Report No. 57 is on the distribution of the corn and wheat crops of 1882, and the comparative quantity still remaining on the farm. Statistics are also presented regarding the extent and character of the domestic uses of these crops, and tables of transportation-rates are appended to the report.

— The U. S. geological survey has commenced the publication of octavo bulletins to receive such papers, relating to the general purpose of its work, as would not properly come under the heads of annual reports or monographs. Each paper will be issued separately with a distinct number, and will have two paginations,—one proper to itself, at the top; and one belonging to the volume, at the bottom,—a most convenient arrangement. The first number, just issued, contains a paper by Whitman Cross on hypssthene-andesite, and on triclinic pyroxene in augitic rocks, with a geological sketch, by S. F. Emmons, of Buffalo Peaks, Col., where the principal rocks examined were found. Mr. Cross urges the need of a re-classification of the andesite rocks, and concludes that the chief subdivision of the augite-andesites may much more properly be called hypersthene-andesite. Two plates accompany the bulletin.

— At its two hundred and thirty-third meeting, held April 7, the Philosophical society of Washington listened to Prof. W. C. Kerr, on the Geology of Cape Hatteras and the adjoining coasts; to Mr. H. F. Walling, on Topographical indications of a fault near Harper's Ferry; and to Mr. S. F. Emmons, on Ore deposition by replacement.

— At the annual meeting of the Cincinnati society of natural history, April 3, the following officers were elected: president, Dr. J. H. Hunt; vice-presidents, Professors John Mickleborough and George W. Harper; secretary, Davis L. James; treasurer, S. E. Wright; librarian, A. E. Heighway, jun. The report of the treasurer showed a balance in the treasury. The membership dues paid during the year amounted to a larger sum than in any previous year. Reports of the curators and custodian were handed in. The latter stated that the use of the museum by instructors of the high schools and academies was increasing yearly. The collections had been increased largely by donation and purchase, and were as well displayed as the limited space permitted.

— By the consent of the surgeon-general of the army, the Washington anthropological society held its last meeting in the army medical museum. Three papers were read, as follows: Myths of the Dhegiha,

the stock including Omahas, Poncas, and Osages, by the Rev. J. Owen Dorsey; A year in anthropology, being a summary of works on man, which appeared in 1882, including those by Americans, those on America, and those of general anthropological interest, by Professor Otis T. Mason; A letter from Sir Rawson Rawson upon the relativity of stature to latitude, derived from the volumes of anthropometry published by the provost-marshal-general's bureau during the war of the rebellion, by Dr. Robert Fletcher.

— Prof. C. H. Hitchcock has just returned home from a tour to the Hawaiian Islands, having visited Kilauea, Mauna Loa, the source of the Hilo flow of 1881, and Haleakala. Kilauea has rarely been filled up with lava so much as at present, the 'black ledge' being covered by over fifty feet thickness of recently cooled lava.

— Mr. Frederick W. True has been appointed acting assistant director of the National museum, to serve during the absence of assistant director, Mr. Goode, who sailed, March 31, for London, to attend the Fisheries exhibition as U. S. commissioner.

— The Society of American taxidermists will hold their third exhibition in New York, May 1 to 5. The programme of the general meeting to be held May 1, at Lyric Hall, is: President Lucas, The scope and needs of taxidermy; William T. Hornaday, Common faults in the mounting of quadrupeds; Prof. F. W. Staebner, Taxidermic value of animal illustrations; President Lucas, On the mounting of crustaceans; F. S. Webster, Taxidermy as a decorative art; F. S. Webster, How to clean bird-skins of all kinds; Samuel F. Rathbun, How to make good bird-skins; Frederic A. Lucas, New method of skinning turtles; William T. Hornaday, Mounting mammal heads.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

**Partsch, J.** Die gletscher der vorzeit in den Karpathen und den mittelgebirgen Deutschlands nach fremden und eigenen beobachtungen dargestellt. Breslau, 1882. 209 p., 4 kart. 4°.

**Plumondon, J. R.** Le baromètre appliqué à la prévision du temps dans la France centrale. Paris, 1883. 15 pl. 12°.

**Renault, B.** Cours de botanique fossile, fait au Muséum d'histoire naturelle. Troisième année. Fougères. Paris, *Masson*, 1882. 36 pl. 8°.

**Rütimeyer, L.** Die Bretagne. Schilderungen aus natur und volk. Basel, 1883. 8°.

**Saporta, le marquis de.** Apropos des algues fossiles. Paris, *Masson*, 1882. 10 pl. 4°.

**Scheffler, H.** Die magischen figuren. Allgemeine lösung und erweiterung eines aus dem alterthume stammenden problems. Leipzig, 1882. 114 p., 2 pl. 8°.

**Scheiner, Jul.** Untersuchungen über den lichtwechsel Algen nach den Mannheimer beobachtungen v. Prof. Schönfeld in den jahren 1869 bis 1875. Inaugural-dissertation. Bonn, 1882. 31 p. 8°.

**Schmid, A. E. v.** Leitfaden für den unterricht in ausgewählten kapiteln der chemischen technologie. Zum gebrauch an handels-, industrie- und gewerbeschulen. Graz, 1880 p. 8°.

**Schmitz, F.** Die chromatophoren der Algen. Vergleichende untersuchungen über bau und entwicklung der chlorophyllkörper und der analogen farbstoffkörper der Algen. Bonn, 1882. 184 p., 1 pl. 8°.

**Schultz, G.** Die chemie des steinkohlentheers mit besonderer berücksichtigung der künstlichen organischen farbstoffe. Braunschweig, 1882. 1106 p., illustr. 8°.