

## INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

## GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

## Department of agriculture.

*Facts of interest in economic entomology.*—Bulletin 2 of the entomological division contains the following facts of interest:—

The Chrysomelid *Graptodera carinata* injured fuchsias by eating the leaves in September at Germantown, Penn. — During 1882 the army-worm was reported from Saratoga County, N.Y., at the north, to the Red-river valley in Louisiana, at the south. — The larva of *Agrotis inermis* is mentioned as cutting down smilax in an extensive flower-garden at Germantown, Penn. — The clover-leaf weevil (*Phytonomus punctatus*) was as destructive in Yates County, N.Y., in 1882 as in 1881; and its spread into adjoining counties was noticed. — *Ephestia zeae* was received from New-York City, with accounts of damage done by the larva to lozenges. — The description of the curious work of a mite allied to *Tetranychus tellarius*, found at Melrose Highlands, Mass., is given. A large ash-tree was almost entirely covered by a filmy web spun by this mite. — The little homopterous *Entilia sinuata* Fabr. was sent from Franklin Falls, N.H., as destroying the Canada thistle. — *Isosoma tritici* was received from Columbia County, Wash. Ter. — The fungus, *Scorias spongiosa*, upon the honeydew of *Schizoneura imbricator*, was sent from Johnson County, Tenn. — Twigs of *Wistaria* were received from Hudson, O., which were bored by the larva of *Elaphidion villosum*. — A letter from Mr. H. G. Hubbard, on the aid of spiders in the spread of scale-insects, is given in full. — The seventeen-year cicada appeared in 1882 in parts of Yates, Ontario, Livingston, and Wyoming Counties, N.Y. — A mill at Lansing, Mich., was overrun (November, 1882) by the two beetles *Palorus depressus* and *Laemophlaeus alternans*. — The natives of Upper Birman use, as a remedy for cotton insects, congee-water; i.e., fermented rice-water, with a little salt and the rind of a fresh squeezed lemon thrown in. — Mr. William Plumer of Lexington, Mass., advises the addition of a small quantity of gum-arabic or glue and bichromate of potash to insecticide solutions, in order to render them 'water-proof,' or less readily washed off by rains from plants or trees to which they have been applied. — The effect of frost upon scale-insects is considered in a letter from Mr. Joseph Voyle, of Gainesville, Fla., who concludes, that, by unusually cold weather, larvae killed, but not enough to be of service to the hatching and development are retarded, and a few tree.

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

Astronomical observatory of Harvard college, Cambridge, Mass.

*The work at the observatory.* — There has been great progress in the reduction and publication of past observations. The catalogue giving the results of photometric measurements on four thousand stars is now in the hands of the printer.

Photometric observations of a hundred and eighty-five eclipses of Jupiter's satellites have been made. The search for objects with singular spectra has been continued and carried on with more system than formerly. At the last opposition of Mars, the satellites were seen, and photometric measurements were obtained which agreed with those made in 1877. The results of the photometric measurements of various points on the moon have been published in the *Sele-nographical journal*, v. 57. Mr. Chandler has made a

careful study of Sawyer's variable star, and has found the period to be about twenty hours. The variation of the light is about three-fourths of a magnitude.

Professor Rogers has found it necessary to take a prolonged rest from night-work, but will resume soon. The results of his work in the last twelve years will occupy three volumes of the *Annals*, and are being prepared for publication.

The measurement of the light of the stars visible to the unaided eye was completed last summer. Over ninety thousand measures were made on about four thousand stars. The effect of atmospheric absorption has been found, for any altitude exceeding 15°, to equal in stellar magnitudes one-fourth of the secant of the zenith distance. This agrees with the result of Seidel, the average deviation of the two determinations not exceeding one-thirtieth of a magnitude. An extended comparison of the scale of magnitudes employed by previous observers has been made. A reduction of the observations of Sir William Herschel has been effected, and has led to important results. Their neglect hitherto has been partly owing to the want of a suitable system of magnitudes by which they might be reduced. This want has been supplied by the photometric measures at this observatory. We have thus an accurate measure of the brightness of a large part of the lucid stars of a hundred years ago.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

The fifth session of the congress of Americanists will be held in Copenhagen, Aug. 21-24, under the patronage of Christian IX., king of Denmark. Dr. J. J. A. Worsaae, director of the museum of ethnography, will be the president, and W. A. Carstensen, general secretary. A prospectus of the meeting has been published, and may be had from the president or the secretary. Any one remitting twelve francs to M. Tietgen, *directeur de la Banque privée de Copenhague*, will be entitled to a ticket of membership and a copy of the report. The subjects to be discussed are as follows:—

*History and geology.* — Discovery of America; The Northmen in Greenland; Mexican *calpullis*; Central American nationalities; Mexican and Peruvian military systems; The Popol Vuh; Comparison of the kingdoms of Cuzco, Trujillo, and Peru; Peruvian divinities, Viracocha, etc.; Migrations of the Caribs; Traditions of the deluge in America.

*Archeology.* — Kjökkenmøddings of Greenland and elsewhere; Sacred signs; Religious and emblematic significance of idols, etc.; Architecture of Peru.

*Anthropology and ethnology.* — Tribal synonymy and cartography; Kingdoms of Cibola, Quivira, and Tegnayo; Ethnology of New Granada and the Isthmus; North America and Central Asia compared.

*Linguistics and paleography.* — Grammar of the Eskimo compared with that of other American languages; Mexican languages and others compared; Decipherment of Maya inscriptions, and of quippos; Peruvian languages, and others compared.