

An ingenious set of comparisons leads the author up to the ratio of the occurrence of each set of color-terms to the entire eleven hundred. "His perceptions of color are clearest and strongest in the middle of the spectrum; even in his sensuous imagination, he is temperate and reserved, avoiding the extremes of sensation, and dwelling by preference upon the mean terms, the *media via* of visual perception."

Prof. Price draws attention to the striking coincidence of scientific accuracy with prophetic genius in the phrase of Virgil, *Mille coloribus arcum* (*Ecl.*, v. 609), and the discovery of Aubert (*Rood*, p. 40),

that in the solar spectrum the unaided eye may distinguish a thousand colors. The following terms are traced to their origin, and their fundamental idea fixed: ruber, rutilus, sanguineus, cruentus, sandix, minium, ferrugo, roseus, viridis, vitreus, hyalus, igneus, spadix, flavus, fulvus, croceus, luteus, aurum, cereus, pallidus, lividus, caeruleus, purpureus, puniceus, murex, ostrum, albus, candidus, niveus, argenteus, lacteus, marmoreus, decolor, canus, glaucus, ater, niger, fuscus, fumens, pullus, piceus. — (*Amer. journ. phil.*, v. 1.) o. t. m. [1102]

## INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

### GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

#### Smithsonian institution.

*Explorations in Louisiana.* — Capt. R. W. Shufeldt, medical corps U. S. A., has, since October last, assisted by grants from the Smithsonian institution, been exploring the country in the vicinity of the city of New Orleans, La. The collection that this officer has made has just been forwarded to the institution at Washington. It consists of some three thousand specimens of very interesting forms of the representative vertebrates and invertebrates of that region, besides the contents of the Indian shell-mound situated in the rear of Carrollton, — an antiquity suspected to exist by Foster, from reports he had heard when engaged in his explorations in that locality. Among the vertebrates, some very uncommon forms of bats have been forwarded, and six or seven specimens of the rare *Bascanium anthicum*, and one of the *Aspidonectes asper*, the soft-shelled turtle, so eagerly sought after by collectors. Of the fish, Dr. T. H. Bean, curator of the department of fishes at the Smithsonian institution, says, "Two of the determinations are uncertain. The examples of *Lepomis* 32410 and 32419 are so small that I cannot be sure what they are, the lower pharyngeals being little developed, and with incomplete dentition; 32412, 32414, and 32420 agree with the published descriptions of *Zygonectes chrysoties* Günth., but they may represent a species quite distinct from that. I will try to get fuller information about Günther's types through some one of my friends who will visit the British museum next summer. The species called *Mollienesis latipinna* would be regarded as *M. lineolata* by our friends, Jordan and Gilbert; but I think your series will prove that *lineolata* is not distinct from *latipinna*; and, as *latipinna* is the older name, we should use it.

"The lot of *Elassoma zonatum* (32423 = No. 108) is the largest and finest ever known in this museum, and there is no probability that any collector has secured a better series. The range of variation is greatly extended by them, and a new locality is found. O. P. Hay had the species from Mississippi; it is known, also, from Alabama, Texas, and South Illinois."

Dr. Shufeldt will work this material up for publication by the Smithsonian institution as soon as the opportunity offers.

### STATE INSTITUTIONS.

#### State university of Kansas, Lawrence.

*Weather report for May.* — This month had the largest rainfall, the greatest aggregate wind-velocity, and, with one exception (1882), the lowest mean temperature, recorded in any May of our sixteen years' obser-

vations. The light white frost of the 22d did no damage to vegetation, and the growing crops are in prime condition at the close of the month.

Mean temperature, 62.05°, which is 4.08° below the average May temperature. The highest temperature was 91°, on the 2d; the lowest was 39°, on the 22d; monthly range, 52°: mean temperature at 7 A.M., 56.19°; at 2 P.M., 71.13°; at 9 P.M., 60.45°.

Rainfall, 7.63 inches, which is 3.56 inches above the May average. There were five thunder-showers. Hail accompanied the rain of the 13th without damage at this station. On the 13th the rainfall was three and one-half inches, which daily register has been but twice exceeded in the past sixteen years. Of this amount, two inches fell in one hour and three-quarters, from 3.45 to 5.30 P.M. The entire rainfall for the five months of 1883 now completed has been 14.07 inches, which is 2.25 inches above the average for the same period in the past fifteen years.

Mean cloudiness, 47.63% of the sky, the month being 1.75% clearer than usual. Number of clear days (less than one-third cloudy), 11; entirely clear, 3; half-clear (from one to two thirds cloudy), 14; cloudy (more than two-thirds), 6; entirely cloudy, 3; mean cloudiness at 7 A.M., 46.77%; at 2 P.M., 56.45%; at 9 P.M., 39.68%.

Wind: N.W., 25 times; S.E., 20 times; S.W., 16 times; S., 14 times; N.E., 13 times; W., 3 times; N., twice. The entire distance travelled by the wind was 15,661 miles, which is 3,334 miles above the May average. This gives a mean daily velocity of 505 miles, and a mean hourly velocity of 21.04 miles. The highest velocity was 60 miles an hour, on the 13th.

Mean height of barometer, 29.010 inches; at 7 A.M., 29.017 inches; at 2 P.M., 28.989 inches; at 9 P.M., 29.029 inches; maximum 29.355 inches, on the 5th; minimum, 28.496 inches, on the 13th; range, 0.859 inch.

Relative humidity: mean for month, 64.5; at 7 A.M., 75.3; at 2 P.M., 45.9; at 9 P.M., 72.3; greatest, 100, on 13th; least, 14, on the 9th.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

The American association for the advancement of science will hold its thirty-second annual meeting at Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 15 and following days. The president-elect is Prof. C. A. Young of Princeton, and the following is the list of the general officers of the meeting: section A (Mathematics and astronomy), vice-president, W. A. Rogers of Cambridge; secretary, W. W. Johnson of Annapo-