

receiving government concessions, in spite of the adverse report made by the Academy of sciences last year.

—The Entomological society of London, the second of its name, held its fiftieth anniversary last month; and, in his presidential address upon the occasion, Mr. J. W. Dunning suggested that Professor Westwood of Oxford be made titular life-president of the society. "An original member, he has never failed us. During the crucial period of our childhood, he was the motive power, the life and soul, of the society. For fourteen consecutive years he was secretary, and for part of that time he was curator also. The council has seldom been complete without him, and during six years he was our president. Whilst he resided in or near London, he rarely missed one of our meetings. Even Oxford cannot keep him away from us; and there is not a single year, from first to last, that he has not been a contributor to our transactions." This proposal was carried by acclamation.

—The unusual competition for the last 'Walker prize' of the Boston society of natural history induces the society to offer the same subject for next year's competition; viz., 'Original unpublished investigations on the life-history of any animal or plant.' While the partial treatment of the subject is permitted, preference will be given, other things being equal, to memoirs which embrace the whole life-history of an animal or plant from the early embryological stages to the adult form.

The society also offers, through the generosity of a member, for next year, a special first prize of from \$60 to \$100, and a second prize of \$50, on the following subject: "A study of the venation of the hind-wings of Coleoptera, with illustrations of all the families of Le Conte's and Horn's classification." Essays in competition for both prizes must be sent to the secretary of the society before April 1.

—Over four hundred members of the British association have already pledged themselves to attend the meeting at Montreal in August, 1884. It is believed that all the permanent officers of the organization will be present.

—We learn that a series of fifteen original letters of Alexander von Humboldt to his intimate friend Wegener, bearing the dates 1788–90, is for sale in Germany. They have been made use of for the biography of Humboldt by Bruhns; and extracts have been more than once published, — most recently, in the Berlin journal *Gegenwart*, nos. 30 and 32, of 1882, — but they have never appeared in full. Any institution or private person desiring to acquire them should apply to Dr. G. A. Saalfeld, Hobsminden, Germany.

—In the weekly summary ¶ 1075, line 20, instead of 'acid,' read 'pentachlor- and hexachlor-compounds.'

In the 'Weather in March,' p. 388, for 'Fallstown, Ind.,' read 'Fallstown, Md.'

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

American apiculturist, The. A journal devoted to scientific and practical bee-keeping. Edited by S. M. Locke. Vol. I., nos. 1–2. Salem, Mass., *Locke*, May–June, 1883. 48 p. 8°.

Anderson, J. Scotland in pagan times: the iron age. The Rhind lectures in archaeology for 1881. Edinburgh, *Douglas*, 1883. 332 p. 8°.

Basset, J. Anthony. Latitude and longitude, and longitude and time, embracing a comprehensive discussion, with over one hundred illustrative questions and problems. Syracuse, N.Y., *Bardeen*, 1883. 50 p. 16°.

Blackburn, T. True and false issues between christianity and science. London, *Skeffington*, 1883. 12°.

Box, T. A practical treatise on the strength of materials, including their elasticity and resistance to impact. London, *Spon*, 1883. 530 p. 8°.

Briart, Alphonse. Principes élémentaires de paléontologie. Avec 227 figures. Mons. *Baudry*. 12°.

Buck, J. H. W. A graphic table for facilitating the computation of the weights of wrought iron and steel girders, etc., for Parliament and other estimates. London, *Lockwood*, 1883. Large sheet.

Cotterill (Bishop of Edinburgh). Does science aid faith in regard to creation. London, *Hodder*, 1883. 226 p. 8°.

Dessoliers, H. De l'habitation dans les pays chauds. Contribution à l'art de l'acclimatation. (Alger) *J. Baudry*. illustr. 8°.

Dresler, E. F. Flora von Löwenberg in Schleswig; nach dem natürlichen system bearbeitet. Löwenberg, *Köhler*, 1883. 162 p. 12°.

Eclectic complete geography, The. Cinc. and N.Y., *Van Antwerp, Bragg, & Co.*, 1883. (New two-book series.) 114 p., illustr. 4°.

Haeckel, Ernst. A visit to Ceylon. Translated by Clara Bell. Boston, *Cassino*, 1883. 8+337 p. 16°.

Hoffman, Carl. Botanischer bilder-atlas nach De Candolle's natürlichem pflanzensystem. 1 lief. Stuttgart, *Thieme-mann*, 1883. 8+6 p., 6 colored lith. 4°.

Klein, E. Elements of histology. London, *Cassell*, 1883. 364 p., 181 illustr. 12°.

Maynard, C. J. Manual of taxidermy; a complete guide in collecting and preserving birds and mammals. Boston, *Cassino*, 1883. 16+111 p., illustr. 16°.

Mohnike, O. Blicke auf das pflanzen- und thierleben in den niederländischen Malaienländern. Münster, *Aschendorf*, 1883. 4+694 p., illustr. 8°.

Philanthropist (*pseudon*). Physiological cruelty; or, fact and fancy. An inquiry into the vivisection question. London, *Finsley*, 1883. 8°.

Reis, P. Die periodische wiederkehr von wassernoth und wassermangel im zusammenhang mit den sonnenflecken, den nordlichtern und dem erdmagnetismus. Leipzig, *Quandt & Händel*, 1883. 8+124 p., illustr. 8°.

Remelé, A. Untersuchungen über die versteinierungsführenden diluvialgeschiebe des norddeutschen flachlandes mit besonderer berücksichtigung der Mark Brandenburg. 1 lief. Berlin, *Springer*, 1883. 152 p., illustr. 4°.

Roche, T. C. How to make photographs: a manual for amateurs. Edited by H. T. Anthony. New York, *Anthony*, 1883. 91 p. 12°.

Sherrerd, J. M. Iron analysis record; with a complete table of atomic weights, their elements and symbols, with the old and new system. Troy, *Young*, 1883. 12°.

Souchon, Abel. Traité d'astronomie pratique, comprenant l'exposition du calcul des éphémérides astronomiques et nautiques. *Gauthier-Villars*. 8°.

Step, Edward. Plant-life: popular papers on the phenomena of botany. N.Y., *Holt*, 1883. 12+218 p., illustr. 16°.

Taber, G. L. The fisheries of the Adriatic, and the fish thereof. London, *Quaritch*, 1883. illustr. 8°.

Taylor, I. The alphabet: an account of the origin and development of letters. 2 vols. London, *Paul*, 1883. 752 p. 8°.

Thiersch, H. W. J., and Thiersch, A. Die physiognomie des mondes. Versuch eine deutung derselben im anchluss an die arbeiten von Mädler, Nasmyth und Carpenter. Augsburg, *Preyss*, 1883. 4+43 p., 4 lith. 4°.