and decomposed, and in a comparatively few years entirely disappear. Carbonic acid of the rain-water must be a potent agent in their ultimate solution, as it percolates through the sand. While the beach receives its constant supplies of shells, no trace of these is to be found in the sand immediately back of the shore, which in former times received the same incessant contributions. For similar reasons, no doubt, calcareous fossils are comparatively rare in sandstones, though in many cases their impressions are well preserved.

NOTES AND NEWS.

LUDWIG LIEBRECHT of Lippstadt, in Westphalia, is endeavoring to obtain subscriptions from all countries to establish a memorial in honor of the late Dr. Hermann Müller, whose biography was briefly given in No. 36 of *Science*. The income is to be applied to the support of his family during the life of his widow, and thereafter to aid students of the natural sciences educated at the public school of Lippstadt.

— Professor John LeConte has contributed a series of physical studies of Lake Tahoe to the recent numbers of the *Overland monthly* (San Francisco), in which he sums up what is known of the lake, and suggests lines of work for studious observers to follow. The greatest depth sounded was sixteen hundred and forty-five feet, and the lowest temperature found was at the bottom, 39°.2 F. Like most deep lakes, this one does not freeze, because the winters are not long or strong enough to reduce its entire volume to a cold below this temperature of maximum density. The transparency and color of the water are discussed at length, and an abstract of the recent Swiss studies of lake-oscillations, or *seiches*, is given; as there is every reason to suppose they must occur in our lakes, although not yet recognized here. According to the most reasonable estimates of mean depth, the duration of the longitudinal *seiche* of Lake Tahoe, calculated by Forel's formula, would be eighteen or nineteen minutes; and of the transverse, about thirteen minutes. The lake-basin is regarded as a 'plication hollow' or trough produced between two adjacent and parallel mountain ranges.

— E. and F. N. Spon announce as in preparation 'A history of electricity and of the electric telegraph,' by J. J. Fahie.

— Messrs. Barry, an old wine and coffee firm of London, have since the middle of the last century kept a scale for the amusement of their customers. The results of the weighings have been regularly entered in books kept for the purpose, together with the ages and any remarks called for by the clothing or other condition of the person weighed. Francis Galton, in his search for statistical information of the progress of man, has examined these records, and published a notice of the results in *Nature* for Jan. 17. The weights of the nobility he especially studied, and they show that the variation in weight of this class during the year has steadily declined in the past hundred years from seven to five pounds. Not only is there this evidence of a more regular and healthy life, but the age of greatest weight, which, with the generation from 1740 to 1769, was reached at forty-five, being at that age about sixteen pounds more than the weight of the 1800–1829 generation at the same age. While from that age the entire generation declined in weight, the tables show that the English nobility born in the early part of this century continued to increase in weight till at least their seventieth year; at their sixty-second year reaching that of their grandparents of the same age, who had been growing lighter for nearly twenty years, the later generation rising in weight at almost the same rate at which the earlier declined. The men of the last century seemed to grow stout in early manhood, then to fall off, while those of the present increase steadily with their age.

— Prof. G. Seguenza continues his studies of the quaternary formation of Rizzolo. His last contribution is devoted to the Ostracoda, and comprises about thirty-two pages quarto, with an excellent plate. About thirty-five species are mentioned, and more are to follow. Ten species are well figured. These often elegantly ornamented little creatures have an enormous range; some of these Sicilian fossils being common to Norway, New Zealand, and Sicily, either living or fossil. A number of new species are described.

— Late signatures of the Proceedings of the U. S. national museum contain a catalogue of mollusca and echinodermata dredged on the coast of Labrador by the expedition under the direction of Mr. W. A. Stearns in 1882. This list, which is carefully annotated, covers eleven pages, is illustrated by a plate, and is more complete than any thing hitherto published. It is due to Miss Katherine J. Bush of New Haven. This, and another paper by Rosa Smith in the same issue, would seem to indicate, that at last, if somewhat tardily, women are about to claim their share of work and honors by serious zoölogical investigations.

— Herr R. J. Runeberg, who has been examining the Angara River between Yeniseisk and Irkutsk at the request of Sibiriakoff, has returned to St. Petersburg. He reports that the rapids which obstruct navigation on the upper part of the Angara may be easily removed so as to admit of regular traffic on this important Siberian waterway.

— In a lecture by the Russian academician, Fr. Schmidt, on the Vega voyage, the author sees strong reasons for doubting the sanguine view of Nordenskiöld, that commerce may generally or even frequently find a waterway along the coasts of the Siberian Sea. He recalls, among other evidence, the experience of Rakhmanin, who wintered twice at Spitzbergen, and not less than twenty-six times in Novaia Zemlaia, and who found the way to the Yenisei open on only five occasions.

— A society of natural history has been organized at Sedalia, Mo.; and an address by F. A. Sampson, indicating the objects specially in view, was printed in the Sedalia *Daily democrat* of Feb. 13.