

dergoing the test, that has suffered but very little, not having partaken of any food whatever for over a month.

I had a live *Sceloporus consobrinus* about my room here nearly two months, but one day it was missed, and ten days afterwards it was found in a dark corner. Nothing remained of it but the skin, enclosing a perfect skeleton and seven eggs. These latter had firm white shells, and were each of an elliptical form.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Fort Wingate, N. Mex., Aug. 12.

Color and other associations.

In the matter of color association with months, I have a relative who associates June and green, October and light crimson, December and blue.

I have strong color association with certain names; for example, —

Henry, Henrietta	= grass-green.
Sophia,	= dark green.
Louise,	= violet.
Charlotte,	= deep purple.
Alice,	= black and gold.
Francis,	= white and gold.
Emily,	= primrose-yellow.
Susan,	= pale blue.
Lucy,	= clear blue.
Anna,	= gold color.
Caroline,	= Naples-yellow.
Agnes,	= pearl gray.
Frances,	= pale fawn.
Lydia,	= a gay plaid, pink and green predominant.

Some of these, I suspect, are caused by the vowel in the name of the color and the proper name being the same. Lydia, perhaps, may wear the dress of the first owner of the name I ever saw. The others I cannot account for.

The months stand in a circle: December, January, and February grouped close together on the upper, or right hand; March and April curve around; May has a little more room; June, July, August, and September are wider apart; October and November correspond to March and April on the other side. The winter months are in the shade; the summer ones in a strong light.

F. M. SLACK.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

To German parents in Lebanon county, Penn., in the year 1796, was born a son, who received the name James Lick. As a boy, he learned the piano-maker's trade in Philadelphia, where, in youth and early manhood, he led a varied life, engaging in divers occupations, from the making and selling of furniture and pianos, to the managing of a theatre. When about thirty-five years old, he went to South America, where he resided chiefly at Buenos Aires, acquiring property to the extent of about forty-five thousand dollars, with which sum, in 1847, he emigrated to the site of the present San Francisco, and invested it in real estate. In a quarter of a century he found himself worth a fortune nearly one hundred times as

great, which, by the execution of a deed of trust, he placed under the control of a board of trustees, of which Mr. Richard S. Floyd is now the president.

Mr. Lick died at the age of eighty years. His chief scientific bequest was the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars, for the erection of a great observatory at a mountain elevation. He was anxious to secure the highest elevation consistent with ready accessibility; and Lake Tahoe, nearly eight thousand feet above sea-level, was about the first site which came prominently to his notice. The proposed locality was visited, investigated, and rejected; and the site of Mount Saint Helena, an eminence much nearer San Francisco, was visited by Mr. Lick in person. Early in 1875 Mr. Thomas E. Fraser suggested Mount Hamilton, in the county of Santa Clara, as a desirable site; and, on his recommendation, Mr. Lick decided upon this eminence for the permanent location of the great observatory. Mount Hamilton is situate in the Pacific coast-range, about fifty miles south-east of San Francisco, and thirteen miles in a direct line from San José, the nearest city. A telephone-line, and an excellent mountain road, now connect the two.

Mount Hamilton has a treble-pointed summit, about forty-five hundred feet high; and no mountain within a radius of one hundred miles approaches this elevation. The two extreme peaks of the general summit are nearly a mile distant from each other, in a north-east, south-west direction. The southernmost peak is bare of all woody growth, and its lines converge to form an angle slightly acute. Although about a hundred and twenty-five feet lower than the northern summit, this peak was chosen by the trustees for the location of the observatory, on the advice of Professor Newcomb and Mr. Burnham; as it presented the greater advantage in point of accessibility, configuration, and a minimum of obstruction to the view south, east, and west. The first work was to cut down this apex; and about forty-five thousand tons of rocks were removed, leaving an irregularly oval plateau, about four hundred and fifty feet in length, and with an extreme breadth of about two hundred and twenty-five feet. The lands about the mountain, which are set aside for observatory purposes, comprise a government reservation of about fifteen hundred acres, to which the trustees have added a hundred and sixty acres by purchase.

The first astronomer who visited the site of the projected observatory was Mr. Sherburne