

given. How far and in what direction from nearest town? On or near what stream, if any? On whose property? The occurrence of native objects of copper, or articles of European introduction, should be mentioned. Communications may be addressed to Henry Phillips, jun., secretary, Philadelphia.

—Naturalists will be pleased to learn of the early publication of Mr. Scudder's extensive work on New England butterflies, which has been nearly completed for a number of years. Those who have seen the elegant colored plates, and are aware of the thorough monographic way in which each species is treated, will appreciate the value of the work. The author is desirous of obtaining additional material for the illustration and description of the earlier stages of a number of species, and will welcome any assistance that may be afforded him in diminishing his list of desiderata.

—Hardly a week passes without the announcement of some new literary or scientific enterprise from Germany. This time it is the appearance of the opening number of a *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* that we have to announce. It is published by Schulze at Leipzig, and Assyrian scholars speak very highly of the part just issued.

—Lea & Son's 'Encyclopaedia of dentistry,' an important work on odontological science now publishing, will contain extended illustrated articles on the teeth of vertebrates, both fossil and recent, and of invertebrates,—on the former by Mr. J. H. Wortman, and on the latter by Mr. W. H. Dall.

—William Paul Gerhard's 'A guide to sanitary house-inspection' (New York, Wiley, 1885) will serve as a comprehensive *vade mecum* for the house-holder and house-hunter. It contains succinct and complete instructions for the sanitary inspection of city and country dwellings, and for the choice of their surroundings. Much of the contents common sense and common prudence ought to suggest to the intelligent person; but, unfortunately, common sense and common prudence in sanitary matters are not usually the attributes of the ordinary householder, nor indeed frequently of the educated one, as witness a case of a city physician in good practice who failed to discover in many months that the sewerage connections of his house were untrapped. For those who cannot employ an expert, this book can be recommended as a useful guide in building or in the choice of dwellings.

—Mr. W. T. Hornaday of the national museum will shortly issue his second book, 'Canoe and rifle on the Orinoco,' being a history of his hunting and exploring experiences on that river.

—There has recently been issued by Cupples, Upham & Co. of Boston a pamphlet on the present condition of electric lighting, written by one N. H. Schilling, Ph.D., purporting to be a report made at Munich, Sept. 26, 1885. To whom this report was made is not stated in the volume; but from the statement made at the bottom of p. 5, that 'no business loss has been sustained by us' by the introduction of electricity for lighting the Munich railway-station, "since gas-motors are used for the production of the current," it is natural to suppose that the report was made to one of the gas companies of that city. Similar references occur on other pages, and the report cannot, therefore, be considered an unbiased statement of the present condition of electric lighting.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*\*\* Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

#### Preliminary description of a new squirrel from Minnesota (*Sciurus carolinensis hypophaeus*<sup>1</sup> sp. nov.).

ONE of my mammal collectors has recently sent me from Sherbourne county, Minnesota, a number of specimens of the gray squirrel of that region. The locality is considerably north of the supposed northern limit of the animal's range, and the specimens differ markedly from the previously described varieties of the species. They are as large as, or slightly larger than, their nearest ally, *Sciurus carolinensis leucotis*, with which they agree in the size and bushiness of the tail and in the color of the upper parts. They differ from it, 1°, in having broader ears, the convexities of which are adorned with large and very conspicuous white woolly tufts, the yellowish-buff being confined to a narrow strip along their anterior borders; 2°, in having the white of the under parts very much restricted. The color of the back and sides encroaches everywhere upon the belly, leaving a small and irregularly defined patch of white in the centre of the abdominal region, and even this is usually much mixed with gray. The breast and throat are grizzled gray, more or less strongly suffused with yellowish fulvous. The pelage is noticeably softer and denser than in the common gray squirrel.

C. HART MERRIAM.

#### Names of the Canadian Rocky Mountain peaks.

I willingly admit the inaccuracy of the correction as to the names of some Rocky Mountain peaks made on my authority by Mr. Ernest Ingersoll in *Science* (vii. No. 165). Had I supposed that Mr. Ingersoll would have thought it worth while to publish any note on the subject, I would have been more precise in specifying the names to which it should apply. Mr. Ingersoll, in his original article, wrote (*Science*, vii. No. 162), "Many of the principal peaks in this part of the range were long ago named Balfour,

<sup>1</sup> Ὑπόφαεις: ὑπό, below; φαίος, dark—in allusion to the dark color of under parts.