

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> Ὑπόφαος: ὑπό, below; φαίος, dark—in allusion to the dark color of under parts.

Forbes, Hooker, and Brown, by the lamented botanist Douglas, after English men of science." Of these names, Balfour and Forbes were given by Dr. Hector; Hooker and Brown (as pointed out by your correspondent A. G.), by Douglas. Besides Mounts Balfour and Forbes, Dr. Hector, in 1858-59, attached the names of scientific worthies to a number of peaks in this part of the mountains. Amongst these are Lyell, Richardson, Murchison, Lefroy, Bourgeau, and Sabine. Some of the peaks so named are visible from the line of the Canadian Pacific railway. The names, not only of Douglas himself, but also those of Drummond and Hector, deserve to be perpetuated in connection with this part of the mountains, and in a map (the result of explorations by the geological survey) now in course of preparation for publication these will appear.

GEORGE M. DAWSON.

Ottawa, April 10.

### Science at Cornell.

The undergraduates of Cornell university are becoming agitated over the question whether that great institution is becoming a technical school. Three-fourths of their number are in non-technical courses, and that in an institution the fundamental law of which declares that it is founded and receives its endowments for the specific purpose of promoting agriculture and the useful arts. But so serious a question is this, that the president, in his remarks at the alumni dinner at New York recently, considered it necessary to assert his conviction that enough had been done for the technical departments, and that the endowments and income of the university should be directed to the establishment of law and other schools apparently never contemplated by the founders of the institution, or authorized by the law and the charter.

The chance remark of Mr. Cornell, that he would found an "institution in which any person can receive instruction in any study," and the fact that the value of the endowment, as given by the general government, was, at the time of its presentation, but a fraction of the amount since realized from it, are made the basis of an ingenious argument for the restriction of the appropriation for agriculture and the arts to half a million dollars; while the remainder of the endowment, amounting to several millions, should be, in the opinion of the successor of Andrew D. White, devoted to other purposes.

Where are the traditions and the law and charter of Cornell? and where are the trustees and constituency, which have been hitherto regarded as the defenders of this great trust, instituted for the benefit of the people and the technical education of their sons and daughters?

The fact seems to be, as shown in this address, that the gift of the general government, presented to the state of New York for the purpose of founding and maintaining technical colleges, originally in the form of land-scrip, and worth, as stated, some six hundred thousand dollars, was, by carefully locating the land and by persistent 'holding on,' finally made to produce several millions of dollars, and to form the main dependence of this university, in which the 'leading objects' are prescribed to be "to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts." But it has evidently required some ingenuity, not to say sophistry, to find an excuse for turning the magnificent grant

of the United States into a law school, a school of medicine, or a school of divinity, as speakers at the Cornell dinner are reported to have proposed. It would seem to the outside looker-on that the original provisions of the law and the charter, which have been above quoted, and which further allow scientific and classical studies to be taught, nevertheless must stand, despite the efforts and desires of those who have no knowledge of, or sympathy with, technical education, and that all gifts, from whatever source, should be subject to the fundamental law.

That Cornell should become a true university, in the sense that it should embrace colleges of all the branches and departments coming within the scope of its charter, as far as is possible consistently with the original objects of its foundation, is evidently desirable, not only in itself, but also for the purpose of lending assistance to the students in these 'leading branches,' who have the ability and the desire to become liberally educated; but that such a foundation should be diverted to law, or medicine, or divinity schools, seems preposterous, and it is a question whether the university may not forfeit its charter should such counsels prevail. There are many other institutions in the state of New York looking with wishful eyes upon the grand endowment of Cornell.

H. N.

### A convenient way of indicating localities upon labels.

In the careful working-up of a local flora or fauna it becomes necessary to indicate many localities which have not well-known names. This is commonly done by means of more or less lengthy descriptions of the locality. But this plan involves much labor, and is also undesirable from the fact that the data can be attached to the specimen only by means of cumbersome labels, or by reference to a note-book. To avoid these objectionable features, I have devised a system which meets the desired end in a simple manner. This system was suggested to me by the way in which the position of localities are indicated in the city of Washington.

For the purposes of our local survey a well-known point on the university grounds is taken as a centre. Upon a map of this locality, a north and south line and an east and west line are drawn through this point. These lines are marked O. Other lines are drawn parallel to these lines, dividing the map into squares, each line indicating a distance of one kilometre. These lines are numbered, beginning in each case at the one next the zero line, and reading towards the margin of the page. By means of roads, streams, and other conspicuous objects, the position, upon the map, of any locality, can be easily ascertained; and its distance north or south of one zero line, and east or west of the other, seen at a glance. It is only necessary to write figures indicating these co-ordinates upon a printed blank label to accurately indicate the locality. This label should have printed upon it the name of the centre of reference; it may also have letters indicating two of the cardinal points of the compass. In the latter case four sets of labels would be necessary. The following is an example:—

Cornell U.      This filled out might } Cornell U.  
N.      E.      read as follows:      } N. 23, E. 16½.  
J. HENRY COMSTOCK.

Entomological laboratory, Cornell  
university, April 8.