of Condroz and the upper old red (*Ibid.*, p. 26, ¶ 1).

8. "The congress, not wishing to pronounce any view on the scientific question of the proper division of the Permian and carboniferous, preserves the classification as it now is" (*Ibid.*, p. 31, ¶ 4).

As to the tertiary and the eruptive rocks, no action was taken; but, for the purpose of bringing out the map, sufficient discretionary power was lodged with the committee (*Ibid.*, p. 32, ¶¶ 8 and 14).

This is all, and it does not look much like an attempt at usurpation.

As for the colors and symbols used on the map, they are purely tentative, and designed to furnish a test on a sufficiently large scale to enable all defects to be seen and subsequently corrected.

Persifor Frazer.

Philadelphia, May 2.

## City feeding of milch-cows.

In *Science* for April 29 is an editorial note on the use of distillery slops in feeding milch-cows, in which you say, "It is well settled that distillery swill in any amount is an unnatural food for milch-cows, and that the milk produced from animals so fed is unwholesome and injurious." Will you please indicate the source of the 'ample evidence' which you claim 'will demonstrate' 'that distillery swill is totally unfit food for milch-cows?' I have tried to keep informed upon this subject, but have failed to find any trustworthy evidence to support your propositions. On the contrary, milk from swill-fed cows is often of better quality — so far as we are able to demonstrate this chemically — than milk from cows poorly pastured. The important point to remember, it seems to me, is that the animals should be well stabled. It is as important to the health of cows that their habitations should be clean, dry, warm, and well ventilated, as it is to human beings. If boards of health would see to this, the swill-milk problem would bother them in a much less degree than it does at present. George H. Rohé.

Baltimore, May 2.

[In the report of E. H. Bartley, M.D., chief chemist of the Brooklyn board of health, made in 1886, occurs the following paragraph: "The very objectionable practice of feeding distillery waste — a practice that three years ago was, during the cold weather, almost universal — has been almost broken up. This result alone is of incalculable benefit to the consumers of milk, as such milk is without doubt a dangerous food for infants, especially in warm weather." In other reports by Dr. Bartley the question has been fully discussed, and the evidence therein contained seems to be conclusive on the unwholesomeness of this food. Some ten years ago the sanitary superintendent of Brooklyn communicated with the health officers of the large western cities where distillery swill was extensively used in the feeding of cows, and received from them statements which satisfied him that this material was entirely unfit for the food of milch-cows. As a result of this investigation into the subject, together with the experience had in Brooklyn and its vicinity, swill-feeding has not been permitted within the jurisdiction of the Brooklyn board of health. The New York state penal code, section 662, provides that a person who keeps a cow for the production of milk, and feeds such cow upon any food that produces impure or unwholesome milk, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment. Section 669 states that the words 'impure and unwholesome milk' shall include all milk obtained from animals in a diseased or unhealthy condition, or which are fed on distillery waste, usually called 'swill,' or upon any substance in a state of putrefaction or fermentation. The most recent law passed by the New York state legislature touching this question is chapter 183, laws of 1885. This act declares that milk from animals fed on distillery waste is "unclean, unhealthy, impure, and unwholesome." We think that the general opinion of sanitarians is that the feeding of distillery waste to milch-cows should be prohibited rather than encouraged, which will be the effect of the Philadelphia regulation if enforced. — Ed.]

## Queries.

1. Archeological and ethnological collections. — I am aware that considerable ethnological work is done by private persons and institutions in America, but the results of their researches are difficult to obtain. The queries of *Science* seem to me an excellent means of getting information which it would be difficult to obtain in any other way. Readers of *Science* will oblige me by informing me of name and place of private and public archeological and ethnological collections, particularly in the western parts of the United States and Canada. — Franz Boas, 47 Lafayette Place, New York.

2. Gaseous enemata in the treatment of consumption. — I desire to obtain results of the new treatment of pulmonary consumption and phthisis by gaseous enemata, for publication in *The polyclinic*. The correct therapeutic value of this method can only be arrived at by the collection of statistics, and I therefore request any one who has administered the gas to communicate the result to me, the formula used, and any special information that may be useful. — Henry Leffmann, editor of *The polyclinic*, P.O. box 791, Philadelphia.

3. Origin of consumption. — I have been much interested in the theory of consumption which has been suggested by Mr. Hambleton, and which was described in *Science*, ix. No. 221, but cannot agree with all his inferences. He says that the natives of America, Africa, and the South Sea Islands were entirely free from consumption till they came into intimate relationship with civilized Europeans, and that the disease then came among them because they adopted the habits of the civilized nations. This seems to me to be a very weak argument. The same is true of syphilis, small-pox, measles, and other diseases, and yet I presume no one would explain their introduction in this way. Is not the fact stated by Mr. Hambleton one of the strongest arguments in support of the contagious theory of consumption? Not until the germ, the bacillus tuberculosis, was introduced, did the disease occur, and then it spread among the natives in the same manner as small-pox and other communicable diseases. That narrow chests and impeded respiratory movements are conditions favorable to the production of consumption no one doubts, but that they can actually produce the disease seems incredible. — Medicus.