

SCIENCE:

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF ALL THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

PUBLISHED BY

N. D. C. HODGES,

47 LAFAYETTE PLACE, NEW YORK.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—United States and Canada.....\$3.50 a year.
Great Britain and Europe.....4.50 a year.

Science Club-rates for the United States and Canada (in one remittance):

1 subscription 1 year	\$ 3.50
2 " " 1 year.....	6.00
3 " " 1 year.....	8.00
4 " " 1 year.....	10.00

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VOL. XIII.

NEW YORK, MAY 10, 1889.

No. 327.

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THE FOLLOWING INSTANCE is reported to have occurred in Glasgow, and shows how easily measles may be spread. During the month of January, forty-two persons belonging to the congregation of a Gaelic church were taken ill with measles. Taking twelve to fourteen days as the recognized period of incubation, Dr. Russell, the health-officer, connects two serious groups of cases with the attendance at the church of two girls on Dec. 30 and Jan. 13 respectively. One of these girls, it is ascertained, had come from an infected house, while the other had actually taken the disease two days before. Two other girls who usually worshipped elsewhere, but were in this particular church on the 13th, became ill on the 26th, and other circumstances pointing in the same direction are noted. Dr. Russell considers, that, unless something like perfect isolation and disinfection can be guaranteed to a person who is suffering from infectious disease in a house, all healthy members of the household should be debarred from attendance at school, church, or other place of concourse.

THE AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY.

IN substance, the plan of this society is to collect and publish dialect material through an executive committee, with assistants in various places. The district secretaries will doubtless, after some experience, become more and more acquainted with the conditions and needs of their respective districts, and will thus be able to ad-

vises the executive committee with more confidence. The members of the executive committee will naturally assist in the direction of active members in their own States. Further, Professor Gustaf Karsten, Bloomington, Ind., will act as secretary for Indiana; Professor E. L. Walter, Ann Arbor, Mich., for Michigan; Professor Alcée Fortier, Tulane University, New Orleans, for Louisiana; Dr. James W. Bright, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, for Maryland; Mr. W. D. Armes, University of California, Berkeley, Cal., for California.

The conditions of membership have been made very easy in order to attract many members, for it is believed that the number of those who can contribute material in large or small amounts is very great. All who feel an interest in the plan of the society are invited to join it, even if they do not feel sure of contributing any thing but a membership fee. Without a large membership, the expense of printing will render publication only possible in small quantities or at long intervals. With a large membership, it will be possible to publish oftener, and to send the publications to every member without additional charge.

At the annual meetings it is not intended to have papers read. They are to be strictly business meetings, the work of publication being done through the executive committee and the editing committee. No regular issues can yet be announced, but it is hoped that it will be possible later to publish at stated intervals.

Some of the dialect variations indicated below are doubtless survivals of dialects spoken in England; others may be due to the influence of other European languages spoken in the United States and Canada, as French, German, Dutch, Spanish; while still others are probably independent developments in America. All are worth noting, and will have an attraction for linguistic students, perhaps all the greater when they appear to show the beginnings of dialectal divergence. The materials thus collected are not only interesting in themselves: they may be utilized in many ways, as in the construction of dialect maps to show how far each peculiarity extends, in comparisons with dialects in England and on the continent of Europe, in the preparation of a complete list of Americanisms, in assisting the work of lexicographers, and otherwise contributing to the history of the English language in America.

In order to give somewhat more in detail the purposes of the society, and the method of work planned by it, the dialect variations considered may be divided into two classes:—

I. VOCABULARY.—Strange, uncommon, or antiquated words, or uses of words, really current in any community. Such are *deedies* ("young fowls"), *gall* ("assurance, effrontery"), *to play hookey* or *to hook off* ("to play truant"), *to stump* or *to banter* ("to challenge"), *let the old cat die* (used of letting a swing come to rest gradually instead of stopping it), *slew* ("a great quantity"), *fool* (as an adjective), *he up and did it*, *he took and hit him*, *he's been and gone and done it*, *clim or clum* (*clomb*), *housen* (as plural of *house*), *the nagent* (for "the agent"), *sandy Pete* (for "centipede"), *to cut* or *to cut and run*, *to leg it*, *to buzz* a person (to talk with him), *buckle* ("to bend," used of ice under one's weight); likewise local names of fishes and plants, exclamations, and words used in games; also lack of common words or phrases which one would expect to find everywhere. It is the natural unstudied speech of different localities that is of interest. Many school-teachers might contribute lists of words and phrases which they perhaps have to teach their pupils not to use. Any person of education, especially if living in a different place from that where his childhood was passed, may also be able to make contributions. Even one such peculiarity found in common use where it has not already been noted has a value for the purposes of the society. Many such words and phrases have already been published in the collections of Americanisms, but much yet remains to be done in noting unrecorded usages, and in defining limits of use geographically and otherwise.

II. PRONUNCIATION.—For example, the different pronunciations of *r* in words like *hard*, *turn*, *cord*, *mother*; of *a* in *park*, *calm*, *past*; of *oo* and *u* in *room*, *rude*, *put*; of *o* in *stone*, *hot*; such forms as *git*, *ketch*, *shet* for *shut*, *sech* or *sich*, *he ken* or *kin* for *can*, *deestricht*, *holt* for *hold* (noun), *sneck* for *snake*, *hahmer* for *hammer*, etc. It is often possible to tell by a person's pronuncia-