

Throwing a spadeful of lime upon a cow-dung will destroy the larvæ which are living in it; and, as in almost every pasture there are some one or two spots where the cattle preferably congregate during the heat of the day, the dung which contains most of the larvæ will consequently be more or less together, and easy to treat at once. If the evil should increase, therefore, it will well pay a stock-raiser to start a load of lime through his field occasionally, particularly in May or June, as every larva killed then represents the death of very many flies during August. Dr. C. V. Riley feels certain that this course will be found in many cases practical and of great avail, and will often be an advantage to the pasture besides.

#### THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

THE annual meeting of this society was held at Wichita. Among the papers read was the following: "On Monstrosities in Flowering Plants," by W. A. Kellerman. The author illustrated what may be called extreme variations in the development of certain parts of plants. These are looked upon as interesting phenomena in botany, and deserve greater attention.

E. A. Papenoe discussed oviposition in *Tragidion*, and showed that this beetle places its egg within an elliptical case on the surface or bark of the chestnut, oak, and other trees. The egg is oblong, smooth, and dull white. The bark is not punctured, as is commonly the case with this class of beetles. Robert Hay read a paper on artesian wells, in which he showed by diagrams how such wells are possible, and what progress had been made in the West with these wells. The relation of artesian wells to irrigation in arid regions was discussed. J. T. Willard gave a brief description of devices and methods used in the analysis of agricultural products. He described a desiccating apparatus, a method of purifying ether, and a method to prevent foaming in boiling liquids. G. H. Failyer communicated the results of his work on nitric acid and ammonia in rain-water. These observations have extended through more than three years. The per cent is usually greater in smaller rains. About three pounds and a half of nitrogen are annually added to an acre of soil by the rains. But little continuous work has been done in this line in this country. F. H. Snow gave the results of his attempts at artificial spreading of contagious disease among chinch-bugs. It has been observed that a certain fungus is present where the bugs are dying in large numbers. The attempt was made to propagate this disease by sending the infected bugs to different parts of the State and to several other States. The result has been thus far successful, and the war will be pushed next season with the help of a lot of infected material which is being kept over. The same author showed the curve of mean daily temperature for twenty-one years at Lawrence, Kan. Among the interesting facts brought out, it may be noted that the average coldest day is Jan. 6; and the hottest day, July 15. There seems to be a remarkable rise in temperature during the first ten days of April, and a corresponding fall of temperature in November, thus showing a more sudden change of seasons than has been observed in some other States. Professor Snow has also made a discovery on the method of respiration of the salamander. In its final or air-breathing stage, a stream of water was observed passing into the mouth through each nostril, the mouth being opened eight or nine times a minute to allow the water to escape. Folds of mucous membrane in the posterior part of the mouth appear to perform the function of removing the oxygen from the inspired water. E. C. Murphy gave some tests of cements manufactured in Kansas. From these tests it was shown that the native cements are inferior in tensile strength, compressive strength, and transverse strength, to Portland cement. L. I. Blake gave the result of tests made in the physical laboratory on the insulation resistance of electric wires exposed to moisture. The wires were immersed in water, and daily tests were made for three months. The results were shown by a series of curves, and a remarkable difference in quality was observed. The underwriter's wire was especially condemned. The same author gave the results of experiments in telephonic communication between vessels at sea. W. S. Franklin presented a paper on classification of the sense of smell. D. B. Jennings gave the result of his observations on hot winds. Though the paper is too long to

be successfully abstracted, many interesting points were brought out. This is simply a preliminary paper on the subject.

F. O. Marvin exhibited an isogonic chart of the State of Kansas. There is shown to be an irregularity in the action of the needle in several contiguous counties. E. H. S. Bailey and E. E. Slosson presented a paper on the occurrence of celestite and associated minerals in concretionary formations in eastern Kansas. Complete analyses of the minerals will be published. E. H. S. Bailey also called the attention of the academy to the analyses of some Kansas mineral waters. Their occurrence and constituents were discussed. J. R. Mead gave a *résumé* of his observations on the occurrence of gold in Montana. L. E. Sayre gave the history and process of manufacturing binding-twine. In the discussion which followed, W. A. Kellerman suggested that perhaps some common weeds, like the velvet-leaf or the dogbane, might be used as a substitute for the more expensive fibres now in use. F. O. Marvin gave the result of a series of experiments on the second setting of cements. L. E. Sayre gave some notes on albuminoids, and also exhibited a novel and ingenious microscope attachment to be used to facilitate field-work in botany.

At the close of the meetings an excursion was made to the salt-fields of Kingman, where an opportunity was afforded to examine the practical work of salt-manufacture and salt-mining.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Studies in Pedagogy.* By THOMAS J. MORGAN. Boston, Silver, Burdett, & Co. 12°. \$1.75.

THE author of this work, who is the principal of the Rhode Island State Normal School, here gives the public a statement of the views on education to which his experience and reflection have led him. We cannot say, however, that there is much that is new or valuable in them; on the contrary, they are mostly of a commonplace order. Mr. Morgan rightly lays stress on training, or discipline, as of more importance than mere instruction; but there is nothing new in this idea, and we cannot see that he has any thing striking to offer in regard to methods of training. He lays great stress on the education of the senses and the imagination, and even proposes to have a special series of exercises for training the nose, which he characterizes as an organ of "neglected merit and overlooked modesty." He points out the importance to the teacher of a thorough knowledge of psychology, and also of a preliminary training in methods of teaching. He has a high conception of the function of the teacher, and of the qualifications necessary for their perfect performance. Mr. Morgan's views appear to us in the main sound and true; but they are so familiar that there seems to be no good reason for writing a whole volume for the purpose of setting them forth.

*Seven Thousand Words often Mispronounced.* By WILLIAM HENRY P. PHYFE. New York and London, Putnam. 12°. \$1.25.

THE editor of this book has produced already two books on pronunciation, — one "The School Pronouncer," and the other "How Should I Pronounce?"

That every one cares to pronounce correctly goes without saying. That every one, even if he may be reckoned among the well educated, does not necessarily know the accepted or most acceptable pronunciation of our mysteriously spelled English words, is equally true. But it is not always true that one seeking the recognized pronunciation of a word in dispute is willing to handle his big dictionary, even if he is so fortunate as to possess such; and, again, it not infrequently happens that the word may be a proper name, and proper names are sparingly treated in even the big quartos.

"Seven Thousand Words often Mispronounced" includes fully that number of words which, through inherent difficulty or carelessness on the part of the speaker, are liable to be mispronounced, with twenty-five hundred proper names.

There are the necessary introductory chapters on the sounds of the English language, — sounds both native and adopted or imported, as it were, from foreign tongues; it being the editor's idea that the adoption of so considerable a number of foreign words into

frequent use in English conversation calls for an appreciation, on the part of English speakers, of the sounds peculiar to these imported words. There are also the helps and suggestions as to the way of using the book. But the suggestion to use the book will be willingly accepted by all to whom it may be available, it is so well suited to its purpose.

*The State. Elements of Historical and Practical Politics.* By WOODROW WILSON. Boston, Heath. 12°.

THIS is one of the most ambitious books that we remember to have met with, but we are sorry to say that the execution is by no means adequate to the design. The work is mainly descriptive and historical, and attempts to give an account of all the more important constitutional governments on record, including those of Athens, Sparta, Rome, France, Germany, Switzerland, England, the United States, and several others. In the case of the United States, not only is the Federal Government described, but also those of the States, of the Colonies before the Revolution, and even of the counties, cities, and towns. But this is by no means all. The author has undertaken not only to describe these various governments as they now are or as they were at some particular epoch, but also to give a history of them all from the days of Homer to the present time. He has, besides, several chapters on the origin of government and on its nature and functions, on the nature and development of law, and so forth; and all this is crowded into one duodecimo volume. The necessary result is that the work is so condensed and so crammed with facts that it is almost impossible to read it through; and the broad outlines of the subjects treated are obscured by the mass of insignificant detail.

We are obliged to add that the author's conception of politics and political history seems to us defective. He confines his attention mainly to the mere machinery of government, the details of organization and administration, and has little or nothing to say on the all-important subject of the relations between the government and the people. The main question about any government is as to what rights it guarantees to the people, and how these rights are secured; but on these points Professor Wilson gives scarcely any information. His remarks, too, on the nature and functions of government are slight and superficial, and the philosophy of the book generally is very thin.

After finding so much fault, we are glad to add that the facts recorded seem to have been carefully and conscientiously collected; and, though we have not undertaken to verify them, we have no doubt they are trustworthy, and they also are pretty well arranged. The book has an elaborate table of contents, as well as an index; and it will, no doubt, be of considerable value as a book of reference, but it can hardly be used for any other purpose.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE J. B. Lippincott Company have published a new edition, revised, of Professor Joseph P. Remington's text-book on the "Practice of Pharmacy."

— Sidney S. Rider, Providence, R.I., has in preparation for the series of Rhode Island Historical Tracts a "History of Privateering," as connected with Rhode Island during the Revolution (1776-83).

— D. Appleton & Co. have published a volume on the land question, entitled "The Land and the Community," by the Rev. S. W. Thackeray, with an introduction by Henry George; and a new edition of Bellamy's "Dr. Heidenhoff's Process."

— Beginning with the coming year, the *North American Review* will be printed on a larger page. Among the attractions of the year is announced a "Duel between Free Trade and Protection: a Great Discussion between Two Prime-Ministers, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and the Hon. James G. Blaine."

— In view of the unceasing efforts for the suppression of the African slave-trade, interest will be taken in the announcement that Longmans, Green, & Co. are about to publish an authorized life of Cardinal Lavigerie, the primate of Africa, which will contain a full statement of the means by which he proposes to check this infamous traffic.

— "The Descendants of Palæolithic Man in America" is the subject of an article, by Dr. Charles C. Abbott, which will open the December *Popular Science Monthly*. It describes the surroundings and occupations of the men who made the rough pottery and the implements of slaty rock which Dr. Abbott has found so abundantly in the Delaware valley. Another of Professor C. H. Henderson's illustrated articles on "Glass-making" will appear in the same number. In this one the evolution of a glass bottle is picturesquely described. Some new phases in the Chinese problem will also be presented by Willard B. Farwell. The writer asks, in view of the wretchedness of millions of the Chinese at home, whether exclusion will exclude, and invites more thoughtful consideration of the Chinese problem, which is made especially serious by the peculiar constitution of the Chinese mind. Col. Garrick Mallery's American Association address on "Israelite and Indian" will be concluded in this number. This portion of the essay deals especially with the similarity in the myths and social institutions of the two peoples.

— One of the most accurate pictures ever given of the slums of New York will appear in *Scribner's* for December under the title "How the Other Half Lives." The author is Jacob A. Riis, for many years police reporter of the Associated Press, who has had every facility during his very active career to collect definite information on the subject. The illustrations are from flash-light photographs taken by the author. Edward J. Phelps, ex-minister to England, in his article in the same number, says, "Never since the creation has there come upon the earth such a deluge of talk as the latter half of the nineteenth century has heard. The orator is everywhere, and has all subjects for his own. The writer stayeth not his hand by day or by night. Every successive day brings forth in the English tongue more discourse than all the great speakers of the past have left behind them, and more printed matter, such as it is, than the contents of an ordinary library. . . . We certainly seem to be approaching the time when hardly any thing will be left to be said on any subject that has not been said before — perhaps many times over; when all known topics will begin to be exhausted."

— Professor Paul Haupt of the Johns Hopkins University is editing, in connection with Professor Friedrich Delitzsch of the University of Leipzig, a new periodical, *Beiträge zur Assyriologie und vergleichenden semitischen Sprachwissenschaft* ("Contributions to Assyriology and Comparative Semitic Philology"). The plan of such a series was conceived by Professor Haupt as early as 1878, but various circumstances prevented its realization. This new series will form a *pendant* to the quarto volumes of the Assyriological Library, edited by Friedrich Delitzsch and Paul Haupt, which now includes Haupt's "Akkadian and Sumerian Texts" and his "Babylonian Nimrod Epic," Bezold's "Achaemenian Inscriptions, with the Cuneiform Text of the Smaller Achaemenian Inscriptions," autographed by Professor Haupt, Strassmaier's "Alphabetical List of Assyrian and Akkadian Words," Lyon's "Sargon," Zimmern's "Babylonian Penitential Psalms," Delitzsch's "Assyrian Dictionary," Lehmann's "Samassumukin," Weisbach's "Second Species of the Achaemenian Inscriptions," and Bang's "Old Persian Texts." Due regard will be given to the principles of comparative philology, and this will be a distinctive feature of the contributions published in the *Beiträge*. Naturally the *Beiträge* will chiefly contain the work of the German Semitic School; though articles in other languages, especially in English, French, or Latin, will not be excluded. The editors do not propose to issue the journal at fixed intervals, but from time to time, as sufficient satisfactory material is at hand. Part I. of Vol. I. is now ready. Subscription and orders may be addressed to the Publication Agency of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

— G. P. Putnam's Sons announce a new edition (the nineteenth) of "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates," brought down to the fall of 1889; a revised edition of Edward L. Anderson's treatise on "Modern Horsemanship;" the first volume of Charles Booth's "Labor and Life of the People," describing East London; "A History of Austro-Hungary from the Earliest Time to the Year 1889," by Louis Leger, translated from the French by Mrs. Birkbeck Hill, with a preface by Edward A. Freeman; "The First In-