

— The Leonard Scott Publishing Company write us they are still publishing the *American Naturalist* in its serial order, notwithstanding the announcements or statements of other parties.

— The eighth annual series (1890) of "Johns Hopkins University Studies in History and Politics," edited by Herbert B. Adams, will be published in twelve monthly numbers, averaging fifty pages each, and will be devoted to history, politics, and education. Among the papers that may be expected are "The Beginnings of American Nationality: The Constitutional Relations between the Continental Congress and the Colonies and States," by Albion W. Small, president of Colby University; "Development of Municipal Unity in the Lombard Communes," by William Klapp Williams; "Local Government in Wisconsin," by David E. Spencer; "The Study of History in France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland," by Professor Paul Frédéricq of the University of Ghent, translated by Henrietta Leonard; "Spanish Colonization in the Southwest," by Frank W. Blackmar, professor of history and sociology in the University of Kansas; "Seminary Notes on Recent Historical Literature," by H. B. Adams, J. M. Vincent, W. B. Scaife, and others; "Higher Education of the People: A Series of Social and Educational Studies," by Herbert B. Adams of Johns Hopkins University; "Notes on the Government and Administration of the United States," by W. W. Willoughby and W. F. Willoughby. Other papers will be announced from time to time. Seven series of the "University Studies" are now complete. The publication of a series of notes supplementary to the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science" was begun in January, 1889. The following have thus far been issued: "Municipal Government in England," by Dr. Albert Shaw of Minneapolis; "Social Work in Australia and London," by Mr. William Grey of London; "Encouragement of Higher Education," by Professor Herbert B. Adams; "The Problem of City Government," by Hon. Seth Low of Brooklyn; "The Libraries of Baltimore," by Mr. P. R. Uhler of the Peabody Institute; "Work among the Working-women in Baltimore," by Professor H. B. Adams; "Charities: The Relation of the State, the City, and the Individual to Modern Philanthropic Work," by A. G. Warner; "Law and History," by Dr. Walter B. Scaife. These "Notes" are sent without charge to regular subscribers to the "Studies."

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.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

On request, twenty copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The Various Discoveries of Lake Mistassini.

MY attention has been called to a communication of Mr. Jacques W. Redway in *Science* of Nov. 8, on the various discoveries of Lake Mistassini. I wish to correct a few misleading statements in it about the work of the Geological Survey of Canada. From Mr. Redway's letter it would appear that the Geological Survey was accountable for the various startling reports as to the immense size of the lake which have appeared from time to time during the past few years. This is not the case, as the only official reports on that region are those of Messrs. Richardson and McOuat in 1870 and 1871, and that of the writer in 1885. Mr. Bignall, who is credited by Mr. Redway with the survey of the lake, was employed by the Geological Survey and the Crown Lands Department of Quebec to make a complete survey of the lake in 1884, but, owing to certain reasons, was recalled before he had made any surveys on Lake Mistassini; and the work commenced by Messrs. Richardson and McOuat was continued and finished by myself. From the report of that survey, it may be seen that Mistassini is only one hundred miles long, with an average breadth of twelve miles.

Mr. Bignall and his sons are accountable for many of the stories as to the great size of the lake; but as they did not go around the lake, and have only Indian hearsay evidence for their statements, they may be taken for what they are worth against actual measurements.

It is a well-known fact that persons unaccustomed to the proper estimation of distances are liable to enlarge the portions traversed by them on great bodies of water, and to make the unknown parts often too small, thus greatly distorting the appearance of such lakes. These causes, along with those mentioned by Mr. Redway, would tend to throw Père Laure's map all out of proportion, and a more natural explanation of it can be given by taking these facts into account.

The lake was entered at the head of the south-east bay by the ordinary route from the Saguenay, as shown by the "Abanel portage," and the small southern portion of the bay enlarged and called "Lac Dauphin." "Lac des Père Abanel" extends as far as the narrows at the Hudson Bay Post; and "Jean Bay," from the Hudson Bay Post to the Big Narrows (Le grand percé). The point marked "Ancien Etablissement" is the point between the south-east and south-west bays, where the Indians still congregate in summer, to live on the fish which are there taken in great quantities.

The remainder and greater part of the lake is represented by that portion called "Lac des Mistassins," which, being unexplored, is made relatively much too small. By this interpretation of Père Laure's map we are not obliged to swing it 30°, dry up Lac Dauphin, and change the relative labels of different parts, to make it correspond with the modern map. Experience in the archæan region to the north of the St. Lawrence shows that the differences of level between the high and low lands there have reached almost a minimum, and consequently the denuding action of the rivers is very small.

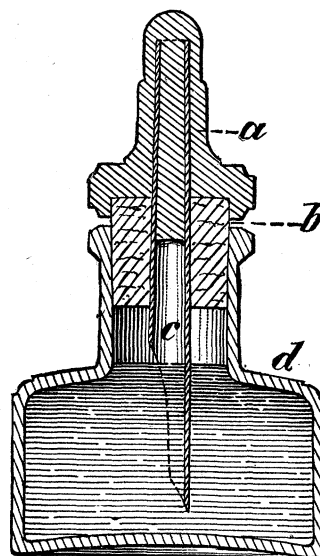
A. P. LOW.

Ottawa, Nov. 12.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Liquid Drawing-Ink.

DRAUGHTSMEN, map-makers, surveyors, and others who frequently or occasionally use drawing-instruments, will be interested in a new drawing-ink now being put on the market by G. S. Woolman, dealer in mathematical and drawing instruments on Nassau Street, this city. This ink is a liquid, and does not become thick or gelatinous, like some inks heretofore introduced; neither does it injure the instruments. It is said to be the only perfect substitute yet found for the solid stick ink, which it is extensively displacing, especially in large establishments in which a great deal of work is done. It is put up, ready for immediate use, in special bottles, with combined stopper and pen-filler, a section of which is shown in the



accompanying cut. There are two kinds of the ink made, — a general drawing-ink, for tints, tracings, photo-drawing, fine line work, etc.; and a waterproof ink, which is insoluble when dry. The latter is intended for work which has to stand handling, moisture, or color-washes.