AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

IN the February *Atlantic* the Bering Sea question is discussed by Charles B. Elliott; and Mr. K. Kaneko, the head of the Japanese commission which has been visiting various countries to compare their legislative assemblies, in order to establish a Japanese parliament, has a paper on "An Outline of the Japanese Constitution." The article which will arouse the most discussion is by Gen. Francis Walker, about Mr. Bellamy and the new Nationalist party. There are four articles devoted to recent books on political and historical subjects.

— Messrs. J. B. Lippincott Company publish immediately the long-looked for book concerning Henry M. Stanley and his rescue of Emin Pacha. This work, entitled "Stanley's Emin Pacha Expedition," will be entirely authentic in every particular, as it is compiled from Stanley's own letters to the president of the society which was mainly instrumental in sending him on the journey. The book contains about four hundred pages, together with numerous illustrations and maps.

— *Public Opinion* has issued No. 3 group of "Representative Moulders of Public Opinion." The first two contain portraits of the editors of daily papers. The third is confined to the weeklies and monthlies, of which the following is a list: E. L. Godkin of the *Nation;* H. Clay Trumbull of the Philadelphia *Sunday School Times;* A. E. Winship of the Boston *Journal of Education;* Prof. W. J. Youmans of the *Popular Science Monthly;* Henry C. Bowen of the *Independent;* Mrs. Martha J. Lamb of the *Magazine of American History;* Rev Edward Bright of *The Examiner*, New York; J. N. Hallock, *Christian at Work*, New York; Rev. A. E. Dunning, *The Congregationalist*, Boston; Rev. C. W. Leffingwell, *The Living Church*, Chicago; F. M. Somers, *Current* Literature, New York; Rev. Samuel J. Barrows, *The Christian Register*, Boston; F. M. Hexamer, *American Agriculturist*, New York; George William Curtis, *Harper's Weekly;* Rev. Charles Parkhurst, *Zion's Herald*, Boston; Rev. Lyman Abbott, *Christian Union*, New York; William H. Hills, *The Writer*, Boston; Joseph Keppler, *Puck;* Rev. John Talbot Smith, *The Catholic Review*, New York; Rev. O. P. Fitzgerald, *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, Tenn.; R. H. Edmonds, *Manufacturer's Record*, Baltimore; David M. Stone, *Journal of Commerce*, New York; Albert C. Stevens, *Bradstreets*, New York; Rev. Simeon Gilbert, *The Advance*, Chicago; Richard H. Clarke, *Catholic Quarterly*, New York; T. C. Martin, *The Electrical World*, New York; Joseph B. Gilder, *The Critic;* Rev. J. W. Mendenhall, *Methodist Review*, New York; W. J. Arkell, *Judge*, New York; L. S. Metcalf, *The Forum;* R. W. Gilder, *The Century Magazine;* E. L. Burlingame, *Scribner's Magazine;* Lloyd Bryce, *North American Review;* Allan Forman, *The Journalist*, New York; John A. Mitchell, *Life*, New York; E. H. Talbott, *The Railway Age*, Chicago; William H. Park, *Banker's Monthly*, Chicago; Howard M. Jenkins, *The American*, Philadelphia; John Boyle O'Reilly, *The Pilot*, Boston; Rev. A. T Pierson, *Missionary Review of the World*, Philadelphia; DeWitt J. Seligman, *The Epoch*, New York; Rev. Wendell Prime, *The Observer*, New York; N. D. C. Hodges, *Science*, New York; Charles W. Price, *Electrical Review*, New York; Rev. I. K. Funk, *Voice*, New York; and Rev. David H. Moore, *Western Christian Advocate*, Cincinnati.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

An Insect Destructive to Wheat.

ON p. 41, No 363, of *Science*, you tell that "an insect destructive to wheat, but previously unknown in this country, has appeared in considerable numbers in the Cornell University farm at Ithaca." We beg to say that so long as thirty-five to forty years ago, and probably longer, an insect similar in appearance and behavior to the foregoing was common in the wheat-fields of middle Tennessee, though we never knew them to be sufficiently numerous to seriously reduce the yield of grain. That it was the same insect, we have no doubt.

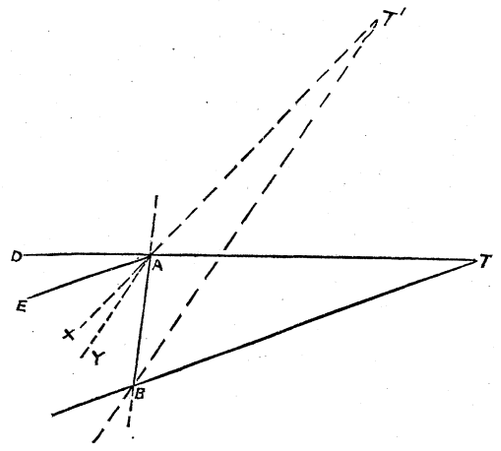
Q. C. SMITH.

Austin, Tex., Jan. 22.

The Fiske Range-Finder.

IN *Science* of Jan. 24 there is a full and comprehensive description of the Fiske range-finder, which, although interesting and very ingenious in regard to its electrical arrangement, is not so clear in its mathematical principles. I refer particularly to Fig. 4, p. 59. The error being so apparent, it cannot be conceived that the inventor has overlooked it, and I write more in a spirit of inquiry than of criticism.

Let the continuous lines in the following figure represent the essential conditions of Fig. 4, p. 59. Moving the index along the scale *mn*, *op* (Fig. 6, p. 59), a distance corresponding to the angle DAE, the bridge becomes balanced, and the reading will give the distance AT. Now let us suppose that from the position T, the object moves to T′, AT′ being equal to AT. The resulting diagram is indicated in broken lines. Moving the sliding index along the scale *mn*, *op*, as before, a distance corresponding to the angle XAY, the bridge is balanced, and the reading of the



scale will indicate the distance AT′; but this reading will by no means be the same as that obtained when the object was at T, because the angle XAY is smaller than DAE. In other words, it is impossible to construct a scale giving true distances of objects from A in terms of the angle DAE, unless we impose as a condition that one of the sight lines shall make a fixed and constant angle with the base.

The angle DAE will vary for different positions of the point T, in a circumference drawn with A as a centre and AT as a radius, having its maximum value when the triangle ATB is isosceles, and becoming O when T is in a rectilineal prolongation of the base.

THOS. L. CASEY.

New York, Jan. 27.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The Anglo-American Storage-Battery.

A FORM of storage-battery invented by Mr. Charles Sorley, and manufactured by the Anglo-American Storage Battery Company of this city, is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In the construction of the cell, the object aimed at by the inventor is to get as large an amount of active material as possible, with a correspondingly large conducting and contact surface. With a view to attaining this object, the plates of the cell are constructed as shown in Fig. 1, being built up of strips of lead bent into convolutions, as shown, and secured together so as to form a plate. The thickness of the plate, of course, depends upon the width of the strips. All the plates of the same sign are connected by means of the projecting ends of the lead strips, as shown in Fig. 1. The plates are separated and supported by insulating strips, and bound together by insulating rods, which pass through the centre of the plates. The complete cell is shown in Fig. 2.

A battery of these storage-cells has been in constant use in the Schermerhorn building in this city since May 20, 1889. Of this battery the superintendent of the building reports as follows: "In every respect it has exceeded the claims made for it, and is