

general biology that we can seek the solution of the problems of reproduction, heredity, sex, growth, variation, death, the evolution of species, and the general economy of nature. All of this phenomena are common alike to the vegetable and the animal world, and for their thorough study it is necessary that the investigator should be strictly a general biologist and not merely a botanist or zoologist. These investigations are necessarily expensive in character, since they require that the animals and plants experimented upon be kept under specific conditions for long periods of time; but, it is to be believed that the results which may be obtained will amply justify both the labor and the expense. The speaker expressed the hope that some persons who felt generously inclined to aid in scientific work might give support for this line of work, and in concluding expressed the more general hope that those persons of wealth who wish to contribute to science may feel more and more inclined to endow research, for much can be accomplished in this way than in any other for the advancement of science.

Wherever we turn we see scientific work of the highest quality delayed and even stopped for the lack of means. Every one who can rescue these opportunities from being lost, even in part, will deserve well of mankind and the acknowledgments of the association.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

—California topics occupy considerable space in the September *Century*. A paper of interest, practically illustrated, is Commander C. F. Goodrich's description of "Our New Naval Guns," detailing the process of manufacture and recounting their remarkable efficiency.

—Thomas Stevens (who went to meet Stanley when the latter was coming from the interior of Africa) speaks of his article on "African River and Lake Systems" in the September *Scribner's*, as suggested by several interesting discussions of the subject while

he was in Zanzibar and Cairo—notably one with Mason Bey, one of the best authorities on African affairs, who with Prout (a name familiar to readers of the magazine) explored the White Nile in 1877. Much of the information which he gained from Mason Bey appears in Mr. Stevens's article. Professor Shaler of Harvard, in his article on "Nature and Man in America," in the same number says: "It seems to me that it is rather to the physical conditions of North America than to any primal incapacity on the part of its indigenous peoples to take on civilization, that we must attribute the failure of indigenous man within its limits to advance beyond the lowest grades of barbarism. The Indian shows us in many ways that he is an able person. We may judge any folk by their greater men, and there can be no doubt that the ablest of our American savages rank high in the intellectual scale. It is, it seems to me, to the ceaseless disturbances of nascent civilization that we owe the failure of this folk to attain to a higher grade." Apropos of railway strikes, James S. Norton, a prominent Western lawyer, says, in the same issue, "If a corporation is held to strict performance of its duty as a public servant, should not its agents, who live upon its business, be held to some account—at least for combinations made to obstruct a public service as a means to satisfy the personal grudge of a few individuals?"

—The September number of *The Forum* will contain a political essay on "Money Interests in Political Affairs," by E. L. Godkin, editor of the New York *Evening Post*, in which Mr. Godkin traces to the growth of protection the enormous and alarming increase of the influence of money in politics, which he regards as the most important political fact of our time. In the same number Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama replies to Senator Chandler's recent article on "The Federal Control of Elections." Other articles in this number will be "The Training of Teachers," by President G. Stanley Hall of Clark University; "The Christianity of the Future," by Professor John S. Blackie of Edinburgh; "The Latest Astronomical News," by Professor Charles A. Young of Princeton;

Publications received at Editor's Office, Aug. 11-23.

- BALLOU, W. R. A Compend of Equine Anatomy and Physiology. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 205 p. 12°. \$1.
BREWER, W. H. Warren's New Physical Geography. Philadelphia, Cowperthwait. 144 p. f°. \$1.
CHITTENDEN, E. P. The Pleroma. A Poem of the Christ. New York, Putnam. 347 p. 8°. \$2.50.
DAY, D. T. Mineral Resources of the United States, 1888. Washington, Government. 652 p. 8°. 50 cents.
DENTAL MIRROR. Vol. I. No. 1. m. New York, Dental Publ. Co. 16 p. f°. \$1.
DRAGON FLIES vs. Mosquitoes. Can the Mosquito Pest be Mitigated? (The Lamborn Essays, by Working Entomologists.) New York, Appleton. 202 p. 8°. \$1.50.
LITCHFIELD, Mary E. The Nine Worlds: Stories from Norse Mythology. Boston, Ginn. 163 p. 12°. \$1.75.
MARCON, J. B. Bibliography of North American Paleontology in the year 1886. Washington, Smithsonian Institution. 57 p. 8°. \$1.
POULTON, E. B. The Colours of Animals, Their Meaning and Use, Especially Considered in the Case of Insects. New York, Appleton. 360 p. 12°. \$1.75.
SCHOFIELD, A. Health at Home Tracts, 1-12. London, Rel. Tract Soc.; New York, Revell. 192 p. 12°. 60 cents.
SMITH, E. F. Electro-Chemical Analysis. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 116 p. 12°. \$1.
UNIFORMED RANK ARGUS. (Published in the interests of the Uniformed Rank, Knights of Honor.) Vol. I. No. 1. m. New Orleans, C. H. Ludwig. 4 p. f°. 50 cents.
WALKER, F. Practical Dynamo-Building for Amateurs. (Science Series.) New York, Van Nostrand. 104 p. 16°. 50 cents.

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"Protection Against Tornadoes," by Lieut. John P. Finley; as well as articles by Simon Sterne, Edward Everett Hale, James E. Murdock, M. J. Savage, and Alice E. Ives.

—The Religious Tract Society of London, believing that due care of the body is as much a Christian duty as concern for the soul, makes it an important part of its work to diffuse sound information, in a popular and readable form, in such a way as to lead people to use all the means in their power to preserve their own health and the health of those dependent upon them. With this object in view, the society has issued a neat little volume entitled "Health at Home Tracts," written by Alfred Schofield, M.D. The book is made up of a dozen tracts which had previously been issued separately, and which had been so well received by the public that their publication in the present form was determined upon. Fleming H. Revell of New York and Chicago represents the Tract Society in this country.

—It appears from a publication recently issued by the Government Statistician of New South Wales that many descriptions of gems and gem stones have been discovered in various parts of the Australian colonies, but no systematic search has been made for any but the diamond. Diamonds are found in New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland, but only in the first-named colony have any attempts been made to work the diamond drifts. The principal diamond fields are situated at Bingera, near Inverell, in the New England district. The Government of New South Wales has, on various occasions, obtained the services of experts to report upon the fields, as well as the gems which have been from time to time extracted from them, and these reports, it is said, have generally been of an encouraging nature. The number of diamonds found in the colony to the end of 1887 is estimated at 75,000, the largest one being of 5½ carats, or 16.2 grains. The diamonds occur in old tertiary river drifts, and in the more recent drifts derived from them. The deposits are extensive, and have not yet been thoroughly prospected. The New South Wales

diamonds are harder and much whiter than the South African diamonds, and are classified on a par with the best Brazilian gems. During the year 1887 the diamond companies at Cope's Creek, near Bingera, produced about 23,000 diamonds, weighing 5,151 carats; but in 1888, owing to the severe drought which occurred, the search for diamonds had to be temporarily abandoned.

—The September number of the *New England Magazine* will be strong in agricultural articles. James Knapp Reeve tells of the advance of agricultural schools, and traces back the history of agricultural education. Another paper in this series gives an interesting treatment of the present condition of the farmer, while an article with the title "Moses in Massachusetts" cannot fail to stir up interest, especially among the readers of Henry George. The *New England Magazine* is bent upon honoring the South. The University of Georgia comes second in her series of illustrated articles on the colleges of America, and is presented by Charles Morton Strahan in this number with a series of engravings.

—In *Lippincott's Magazine* for September, Rear-Admiral Daniel Ammen, one of the chief promoters of the Nicaragua Canal scheme, contributes an article which gives a history of the inception of the project and the progress made up to date, and indicates the results which will accrue from the construction of the canal. A timely article upon "Current Concentration of Industrial Capital" is contributed by Henry Clews. He inveighs in strong terms against the present "trusts" and "combinations," and predicts their speedy downfall. He holds, however, that some form of combination is necessary to all large enterprises, and that existing State laws relating to corporate enterprises need but to be broadened in their scope, and more strictly defined in respect to their safeguards, in order to keep all combinations within proper bounds. Alfred C. Haddon gives some interesting descriptions of various dances he witnessed among the Papuans of Torres Straits, and Charles McIlvaine (Tobe Hoge) has an entertaining article upon "Superstitions about Birds."

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