

a few small corals were brought up in the dredge. Along the shore to the westward of Progreso is a small serpuloid reef.

—Messrs. Ginn & Co. announce as ready "Quintus Curtius," the first two extant books, edited for sight-reading by Dr. Harold N. Fowler of Phillips Exeter Academy, with an introduction on reading at sight by Professor James B. Greenough of Harvard College. This book has been preferred on account of the conviction of the editor that for practice in sight-reading some continuous prose narrative not readily accessible in a copiously annotated edition should be in the hands of the pupil. The notes of this edition are confined to translations of unusual or striking words and phrases, with occasional brief hints concerning syntax, the main object of which is to save time in the class-room. In the introduction, Professor Greenough shows by examples the method to be pursued in reading at sight, besides explaining fully his ideas on the subject.

—The twenty-fifth volume of the *Magazine of American History* is opened with the January number. The leading illustrated paper for the month, from the pen of the editor, is entitled, "John Ericsson, the Builder of the 'Monitor,'" and a portrait of the inventor forms the frontispiece. The second article following, "The Bladensburg Duelling-Ground," near Washington, written by Milton T. Adkins, is also illustrated. The Georgia historian, Col. Charles C. Jones, jun., contributes a paper on "Dr. Lyman Hall, Governor of Georgia in 1783, and Signer of the Declaration of Independence;" Hon. Charles Aldrich of Iowa writes of the eloquence of Andrew Johnson; Hon. James Phinney Baxter, president of the Maine Historical Society, contributes "Isaac Jogues, A.D. 1636," a poem; Orrin B. Hallam gives the reader a history of the original treasury accounting office; and we have the first part of "Count de Fersen's Private Letters to his Father, 1780-1781," which are the observations and opinions of an officer under Rochambeau in the French Army during the Revolutionary

war, translated from the French by Miss Georgine Holmes. Among the Shorter papers, "The United States Flag," by J. Madison Drake, and "Capital Punishment in 1749," by Bauman L. Belden, are interesting.

—*The Monist* for January, 1891, a philosophical quarterly published by The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago, contains "The Architecture of Theories," by Charles S. Peirce; "Illustrative Studies in Criminal Anthropology," by Professor Cesare Lombroso; "The Squaring of the Circle, the History of the Problem from the most Ancient Times to the Present Day," by Hermann Schubert; "The Criterion of Truth, a Dissertation on the Method of Verification," by Dr. Paul Carus; "Five Souls with but a Single Thought: the Psychology of the Star-Fish," by Carus Sterne; "German Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century," by Professor Friedrich Jodl; "Recent French Philosophical Works," by Lucien Arréat; book-reviews; and contents of the philosophical periodicals of America and Europe.

—"The fancy took me to go to Noto," says Mr. Percival Lowell, in his paper on "Noto: An Unexplored Corner of Japan," and where Noto is, and how he went there, is not only the subject of the opening article in the January *Atlantic*, but is to be the subject of several articles which are to follow. Cleveland Abbe's paper, which will command attention, suggests a new university course, this course to be devoted to terrestrial physics as a distinct department of instruction. Mr. Charles Worcester Clark writes about compulsory arbitration, in which he says that one of the most striking features of our easy-going American character is ready submission to the domination of our servants, whether it be Bridget in our kitchen, the railway in our streets, or Congress in the Capitol at Washington. Professor Royce has a long paper on Hegel, Adolphe Cohn writes about Boulangism, and Mr. Henry Charles Lea indicates the lesson of the Pennsylvania election.

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## CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

## Biological Society, Washington.

Dec. 27. — Cooper Curtice, A Preliminary Study of Ticks in the United States; C. Hart Merriam, Exhibition of a New Rabbit from the Snake Plains of Idaho; W. H. Dall, On the Topography of Florida with Reference to its Bearing on Fossil Faunas; F. A. Lucas, Exhibition of Young Hoatzins.

## Wants.

Any person seeking a position for which he is qualified by his scientific attainments, or any person seeking some one to fill a position of this character, be it that of a teacher of science, chemist, draughtsman, or what not, may have the 'Want' inserted under this head FREE OF COST, if he satisfies the publisher of the suitable character of his application. Any person seeking information on any scientific question, the address of any scientific man, or who can in any way use this column for a purpose consonant with the nature of the paper, is cordially invited to do so.

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COULD some one inform me what the ingredients and origin of asphalt as used for street-paving and gathered at Trinidad are? Also how gathered and shipped by natives, and mode of refining by the Warren-Scharf Co. of New York and the Barber Co. of Washington? G. KNIPER, 28 Gunn Block, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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