

ences of Philadelphia to investigate the natural history of Yucatan and Mexico. The paper also includes a list of the crustacea collected upon the west coast of Florida in the spring of 1886 by Professor Heilprin and Mr. Joseph Willcox, under the auspices of the Wagner Free Institute of Science of Philadelphia, and the description of a new Isopod, collected by the Academy's expedition to the Bermuda Islands in 1888. It is remarkable that the shores of Yucatan and Mexico, portions of the American continent among the first to be discovered by Europeans, should be among the last to have their zoölogy investigated. Nothing whatever, with one or two isolated exceptions, has been known hitherto of the fauna of the shores of Yucatan, and very little of that of the eastern coast of Mexico. The material collected by the expedition has added considerably to the knowledge of this region.

— The late Richard A. Proctor, according to *Literary News*, was gifted with a remarkable memory. Thackeray was his favorite novelist, and he could repeat verbatim page after page of "The Newcomes;" so much in fact that the dear old Colonel became an unmitigated bore to his former friends.

— The officers for 1891-92 of the Boston Society of Natural History will be: president, George L. Goodale; vice presidents, William H. Niles, B. Joy Jeffries, Samuel Wells; curator, Alpheus Hyatt; secretary, Samuel Dexter; treasurer, Charles W. Scudder; librarian, Samuel Dexter.

— The Fiske range-finder, which was first described in these columns last year, has been very favorably received by the naval departments of several different countries, the remarkable results obtained by the exhaustive trials carried out on board United States war-ships having given a sufficient guarantee of the practical value of the instrument. In the American navy the range-finder was installed on board the "Baltimore," and from the extensive trials made with it there, during six months at sea, the writers of the official report state that it is accurate within three per cent on ranges up to 5,000 yards. In France, according to *Engineering*, the range finder has been mounted on board "Le Formidable," the flagship of the French Mediterranean fleet, and extensive trials were made in February last with the instrument to determine the distance between vessels having a relative motion of from 0 to 28 knots. Under these conditions the results were found to be accurate within five per cent. From experiments on fixed objects the commission in charge report that the instrument could be used by trained observers under the conditions of combat, and they remark that a specially valuable feature of the instrument is that it enables the observer to record the distance — to within a very small percentage — between forts or ships, before firing grows heavy. Difficulty in observation would, of course, be increased in a heavy seaway, but not so much as would the accurate pointing of the guns, so that the range-finder can be always relied on to give more accurate work than the guns. The com-

Publications received at Editor's Office,  
April 27-May 2.

- AMMEN, D. *The Old Navy and the New*. Philadelphia, Lippincott. 553 p. 8°. \$3.  
BROOKS, W. K. *The Oyster*. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press. 230 p. 12°.  
D'ANVERS, N. *The Story of Early Man* (2d ed.). New York, Whittaker. 140 p. 12°. 40 cts.  
D'ANVERS, N. *The Life Story of Our Earth* (2d ed.). New York, Whittaker. 165 p. 12°. 40 cts.  
FINE, H. B. *The Number-System of Algebra*. Boston and New York, Leach, Shewell, & Sanborn. 181 p. 12°. \$1.  
JONES, D. E. *Elementary Lessons in Heat, Light, and Sound*. London and New York, Macmillan. 230 p. 12°. 70 cts.  
KEEP, R. P. *The Essential Uses of the Moods in Greek and Latin, Set Forth in Parallel Arrangement*. Boston, Ginn. 56 p. 16°.  
NEW YORK, Fifth Annual Report of the Factory Inspectors of the State of. Albany, State. 673 p. 8°.  
OTT, I. *The Modern Antipyretics: Their Action in Health and Disease*. Easton, Pa., Vogel. 52 p. 8°.  
OUR LANGUAGE. Vol. I., No. 1. April, 1891. New York, F. A. Fernald. 8 p. 4°. m. 50 cts. per year.  
PARSONS, J. R., Jr. *Prussian Schools through American Eyes*. Syracuse, Bardeen. 91 p. 8°. \$1.  
ROOPER, T. G. *Apperception; or, The Essential Mental Operation in the Act of Learning*. Syracuse, Bardeen. 52 p. 12°. 50 cts.  
TRELEASE, W. *The Species of Epilobium Occurring North of Mexico*. St. Louis, Nixon-Jones Co. Pr. 117 p. 48 pl. 8°.  
VON MEYER, E. *A History of Chemistry from Earliest Times to the Present Day*. London and New York, Macmillan. 556 p. 8°. \$4.50.  
WINCHELL, N. H. & H. V. *Iron Ores of Minnesota* (Bulletin No. 6. Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey of Minnesota). 430 p. 8°. Geol. Map and 44 pl.

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— A series of experiments in treating corn with various substances to prevent its being taken by the striped squirrels was carried on at the Iowa Experiment Station last spring. The corn was treated in the following manner: Smoked with meat in an ordinary smoke-house until the kernels were black; smoked in a barrel with tobacco dust; smoked over night in strong decoctions of tobacco and of quassia chips; soaked in a dilute carbolic-acid mixture, in strong alum water, in salt water, and kerosene. The squirrels would take the corn treated in any of these ways, though the carbolic-acid treatment and the smoking with tobacco made

the corn distasteful, and when in the vicinity of other grain would be left till the last. The best remedy seems to be to harrow the ground immediately after planting to cover the planter tracks, and then to scatter corn about the border of the fields and in the vicinity of the squirrel holes as soon as the corn begins to come up.

— "Schliemann was thirty-four years old," says the Chicago *Tribune*, "before he knew a word of Greek, and it was not until he was forty-one that he began the study of archæology, in which he was destined to achieve so much distinction. By the way, there was an interesting clause inserted in the marriage contract between the late Dr. Schliemann and the Greek girl whom he made his second wife, to the effect that she should improve her knowledge of Homer by learning and reciting fifty lines of the Iliad nightly. Schliemann, when telling the story to his friends, always said that neither tears nor entreaties ever induced him to let her off a single line."

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