

town in England which at one time had a great reputation for locomotive building. It is Stourbridge. The locomotive which M. H. correctly states was operated at Honesdale over a half-century ago, was made there. From this fact it was called the Stourbridge Lion, not "Stonebride," as your correspondent has it. This name and the reason for it are very familiar in Scranton, whence I write, but as a clincher, I may say that I recently conversed on the subject with a lady who enjoyed the acquaintance of Mr. Allen, the engineer of the locomotive in question, and from her I once more learned the facts here narrated.

STANLEY M. WARD.

Scranton, Pa., Jan. 26.

#### A Section of Botany in the American Association.<sup>1</sup>

THE thought of having a section for the botanists in the American Association should be very inspiring to all who have at heart the thorough study of plant life in America. All admit that Section F is now crowded with members and papers, and doubtless many are deterred from taking part in the sessions from lack of opportunity. At the last meeting numerous papers were passed without comment or discussion that the programme might be carried out.

The work of the section has naturally divided itself into two groups, namely, that pertaining to animal life, and to botany. In order to gain more time and draw together more closely those who are interested in particular branches, clubs have been formed. Thus the entomological and botanical clubs have arisen and grown into features of the week of as much importance as the section and more perhaps to the younger members. These clubs should, and doubtless will, be continued. In the section itself for years there has been an attempt on the part of the programme committee to group the subjects so that zoologists and entomologists have had a half-day assigned them, alternately with the botanists. This has virtually broken up the continuous attendance of members upon the sectional meetings, and excursions or other events are indulged in by the party not upon the programme. Perhaps to our shame, this has been particularly true of the botanists, who have sometimes left the zoologists with a depleted but more homogeneous and attentive audience. Also within the past few years the plan of having time assigned for a series of connected papers upon one or more of the branches of science coming under the present scope of the section has still further differentiated the work. As Section F now stands its sessions are largely an alternation of groups of subjects with an audience that shifts with the programme.

A notice of an amendment to divide Section F is therefore well founded; the division is very natural and one that, in fact, has already been made, so far as arranging the programme by grouping the subjects and by the work of the clubs will permit it. In short, it has gone as far as it can save by a division of the section itself.

The contemplated division will bring many gains without corresponding losses. Time will then be offered for thorough sectional work upon the two large and growing fields of biological science, instead of the rapid reading of papers, as at present, followed by little or no discussion before a half-interested audience.

With a Section of Botany, for example, officers can be selected who will be interested in all subjects presented, a condition that does not always obtain under the present arrangement, to say nothing about the difficulty that may now arise as to the proper apportionment of the official plums among the aspirants for honors.

If we believe in the principle of division of labor and specialization, in short, in the theory of evolution in its broad and best sense, we cannot but feel that the proposed step is in the direction of advance, and realize that the last few meetings of Section F indicate clearly that the time to take the step forward is at hand.

The best way to make the importance of a division still more emphatic is for every student of the biological sciences to come, if possible, to the Rochester meeting with a large number of full

papers, and strive to have as many as possible read and discussed in Section F, the balance of shorter ones to be considered as best they may at the clubs. As a section of botany is asked for, let the botanists in particular show, by their works, their faith in the reasonableness of the demand.

BYRON D. HALSTED.

Rutgers College, Jan 25.

#### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE Regent Street Polytechnic Institute of London proposes to bring over a thousand or more of its young clerks, mechanics, and apprentices to visit the Chicago Exposition; and its secretary, Mr. Robert Mitchell, is about to arrive at New York on his way to Chicago, for the purpose of making transportation and other advance arrangements. Steamship arrangements have already been made. Mr. Albert Shaw, American editor of the *Review of Reviews*, describes in an illustrated article in the February number "The Polytechnic and its Chicago Excursion."

— In the February number of *Babyhood* Dr. William H. Flint discusses the dislikes of children to certain articles of food and the means of overcoming such antipathies. Of equal value to mothers is an article on "Colic," by Dr. C. L. Dodge, in which the causes, symptoms, and treatment of that common ailment are clearly described. "Ought Obedience to be Enforced?" "The Tyranny of Whims," "Talking about Children in their Hearing," etc., are some of the other topics discussed. The medical editor furnishes advice concerning such "Nursery Problems" as the voracious appetite often seen in children, the desirableness of giving fruit to infants, the treatment of eczema, etc.

— Claus Spreckels, the millionaire sugar manufacturer, whose plantations are in the Sandwich Islands, has written to Mrs. Helen Mather that he has carefully read her book, "One Summer in Hawaii" (Cassell Publishing Company), and that he "commends it to the earnest attention and study of all such as are desirous of obtaining a knowledge of the beauties of that comparatively unknown and still less appreciated Paradise of the Pacific."

— The Cassell Publishing Company will publish in February "Across Thibet," by Gabriel Bonvalot, author of "Through the Heart of Asia," with upward of one hundred illustrations, made principally from photographs taken by Prince Henry of Orleans. Of this book the London *Times* says: "M. Gabriel Bonvalot has already achieved a high reputation as a central Asian explorer. 'Across Thibet' is thus recommended alike by the character and literary skill of the explorer and by the interest and novelty of the regions explored by him. The journey here described was undertaken in the company of Prince Henry of Orleans, son of the Duke de Chartres, and of Father Dedeken, a Belgian missionary, with a rare taste and aptitude for adventurous travel and a keen appetite for sport, and it tried to the utmost the endurance and the enterprise of all three. The copious illustrations due to Prince Henry's camera are full of interest and the translation is excellently done."

— There has just appeared in the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science" a pamphlet by Paul E. Lauer on "Church and State in New England." Beginning with the Reformation in England, the author traces the movement of thought on the relations of church and state, first among the Puritans of England and then among their descendants in the New World; and shows how the new ideas of religious freedom expressed themselves in political action, ending with the complete secularization of the state in the present century. The main principles involved and the mode of their application are well shown, and the narrative, though destitute of imaginative insight, is straightforward and clear. Unfortunately for Mr. Lauer, however, it is all a threshing of old straw. The story he relates has been told so often and so well that this pamphlet is more likely to weary than to interest the reader. Moreover, it is impossible to treat satisfactorily of the relations of church and state in any nation apart from the general religious and political history of the time, so that Mr. Lauer's work is incomplete and fragmentary.

<sup>1</sup> This letter also appeared in the *Botanical Gazette*.