

forty people are cousins to the entire population of Boston; does that relation either prove or disprove their possession of traits in common that do not appear among 40 other cousins of 40 different names?

ENQUIRER.

The Systematic Position of the Diptera.

In reply to the article, by Professor J. M. Aldrich, in *Science* of April 26, I will say that the Diptera are undoubtedly the most highly specialized order of insects. Professor Hyatt deserves credit for apparently being the first one to call attention to this idea and offer proofs to sustain it. His idea of what constitutes specialization is correct, from my standpoint. I realize the force of Professor Aldrich's remark, when he says that this line of reasoning will apparently lead us to the conclusion that the Pupipara are the highest insects; but I am inclined to believe that the higher families of Cyclorrhapha will be found to exhibit greater specialization. Everything points to their being of the most recent origin. If anything has been published on the the embryology of the Pupipara, I am not aware of it. Embryological research alone will clear up this point, and there is no reason in the world why it should not show that the Pupipara have long ago passed through stages now occupied by apparently more highly developed Diptera, but it is improbable, to say the least. If it can be demonstrated, I shall be glad to accept the Pupipara as the highest insects.

C. H. TYLER TOWNSEND.

Las Cruces, N. M., May 26.

A Botanical Congress and Botanical Nomenclature.

I HAVE read your note of May 20, with reference to the action of the Botanical Club of Washington upon the questions of a botanical congress and botanical nomenclature. It has always seemed to me wise for American botanists first to agree among themselves in reference to this matter, and then they will be in a better position to come to an understanding with the rest of the world. There is no more representative body of American botanists than the Botanical Club of the American Association. It is perfectly democratic; every botanist in the country can join it and take part in its discussions. It may be questioned whether its boundaries are not too ill-defined to make it a fit body to decide such important questions; but it is surely a capital place for their discussion.

JOHN M. COULTER.

Bloomington, Ind., May 25.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE first number of the *Yale Review*, a quarterly journal of history and political science, has just been issued for the month of May. It is edited by Professor George P. Fisher and others of Yale University, but will welcome contributions from every quarter and from every school. The papers in this opening number are on "German Tariff Policy, Past and Present," by Henry Villard and Henry W. Farnam; on "The Demarcation Line of Pope Alexander VI," by E. G. Bourne; on "Legal

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For information address Mr. FRITZ RUHL, President of the Societas Entomologica, Zurich-Hottingen, Switzerland.

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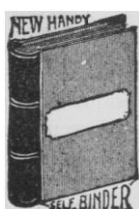
Annual address of the President of the Biologica Society of Washington delivered Jan. 24, 1891. A historical and critical review of modern scientific thought relative to heredity, and especially to the problem of the transmission of acquired characters. The following are the several heads involved in the discussion: Status of the Problem, Lamarckism, Darwinism, Acquired Characters, Theories of Heredity, Views of Mr. Galton, Teachings of Professor Weismann, A Critique of Weismann, Neo-Darwinism, Neo-Lamarckism, the American "School," Application to the Human Race. In so far as views are expressed they are in the main in line with the general current of American thought, and opposed to the extreme doctrine of the non-transmissibility of acquired characters.

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WANTED.—We want any and all of the following providing we can trade other books and magazines or buy them cheap for cash: Academy, London, vol. 1 to 28, 35, Jan. and Feb., '89; Age of Steel, vol. 1 to 66; American Antiquarian, vol. 1, 2; American Architect, vol. 1 to 6, 9; American Art Review, vol. 3; American Field, vol. 1 to 21; American Geologist, vol. 1 to 6; American Machinist, vol. 1 to 4; Art Amateur, vol. 1 to 7, Oct., '4; Art Interchange, vol. 1 to 9; Art Union, vol. 1 to 4, Jan., '44, July, '45; Bibliotheca Sacra, vol. 1 to 46; Godsey's Lady's Book, vol. 1 to 20; New Englander, vol. 11; Zoologist, Series 1 and 1, Series 8 vol. 1 to 14; Allen Armendale (a novel). Raymer's "Old Book" Store, 243 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

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Theories of Price Regulation," by Arthur T. Hadley; on "Massachusetts and the Saybrook Platform," by Williston Walker; and on "Labor Troubles between 1834 and 1837," by Evans Woollen, together with a few pages of comment and a number of book reviews. The articles are essentially of the same quality as those that have appeared on similar topics elsewhere in this country during the past ten or twenty years, but we fail to find in them anything new or striking. The appearance of this new *Review*, indeed, raises the question whether this subject of political science is not in danger of being run into the ground by our young and ambitious writers. The *Review* is published by Ginn & Co., of Boston, at 75 cents a number or \$3 a year.

—Professor W. O. Atwater, in an instructive article in *The Forum* for June, points out the curious fact, that, in the extraordinary applications of science to practical problems in recent years, one of the most important fundamental problems has been strangely overlooked, viz., the scientific study of food. The coming man will avoid four mistakes that are now largely made: (1) he will not buy as expensive kinds of food as are now generally bought, because some of the least expensive foods are the most nutritive and palatable; (2) with further scientific information the coming man will value foods in proportion to their

nutritive qualities; (3) if foods are bought and eaten with reference to their nutritive qualities, and not to mere fashion or habit, it would require a much less quantity to keep a man in his best working condition than is now generally consumed; (4) there will be a revolution wrought in the present way of cooking, which is both wasteful and primitive and far behind our advancement in almost every other art. Professor Atwater gives the results of practical studies in diets made to show these conclusions. And he asks: "Has man yet reached his highest development? The poorer classes of people — and few of us realize how numerous they are — the world over are scantily nourished. The majority of mankind live on a nutritive plane far below that with which we are familiar. We may hope for the best culture, not of the intellectual powers, but of the higher Christian graces in the minds and hearts of men, in proportion as the care of their bodies is provided for. Happily, with advance of knowledge comes the improvement of material conditions. May we not hope that the future development of our race will bring that provision for physical wants which is requisite for the best welfare of mind and soul?" President Dwight, in his article, also in the *June Forum*, on the recent action of Yale College in admitting women to its advanced courses, makes an eloquent discussion of the higher education of women in the United States.

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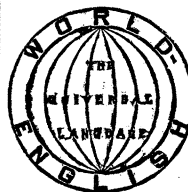
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It goes without saying, that the demand for scientific literature is limited, when compared with that for literature which is more to the public taste, so that the receipts of most of the Scientific Journals, in this country, do not pay quite for their printing and paper, to say nothing of the other items of expense. We say this merely to emphasize the fact, that generous and prompt support must be accorded this move if it is to succeed.

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