Corythuca ciliata Say, formerly known as *Tingis hyalina* H. Schf., is, I believe, the one so common on the buttonwood, *Platanus*. I have a species taken from the paper mulberry *Broussonetia* and another species from *Stophylea*, both new to me.

In the family ACANTHIDÆ and sub-family CIMICINA we have *Acanthia lectularia* Linn., which is very abundant and well distributed all over our city. In the family CAPSIDÆ we are quite well represented. *Plagiognathus obscurus* Uhl. is very common. *Episcopus ornatus* Reut is quite rare; I have only taken about a dozen specimens. *Garganus fusiformis* Say is rather common, and *Hyaliodes vitripennis* Say is exceeding rare.

Capsus ater Linn. is also rare, but is conspicuous on account of its shining black color. *Orthops scutellatus* Uhl. is very rare indeed; I have only taken about half a dozen specimens. *Comptobrochis grandis* Uhl. is also very rare. *Poecilocapsus goniphorus* Say. is very common; this has been known as *P. dislocatus* Say and *P. melaxanthus* H. Schf. *P. lineatus* Fabr. is more common than *goniphorus*, and destroys a great variety of plants. *Poeciloscytus basalis* Reut., formerly known as *P. sericeus* Uhl., is also common. *Lygus pratensis* Linn., which much resembles the last, is exceedingly common; this was formerly known as *L. lineolaris* Pol. Beauv, and *L. oblineatus* Say. *Calocoris rapidus* Say. is common, and was formerly known as *C. multicolor* H. Schf. *Neurocolpus nubilis* Say. is very rare with us; I have but three specimens representing it. *Phytocoris eximius* Reut. is also very rare, and a species of *Phytocoris*, not determined, more common. *Lopidea media* Say. is very rare, as is *Resthenia insignis* Say. *Collaria meilleurii* Prov., which Uhler gives as *Trachelomiris meilleurii* Prov., is quite rare. *Leptopterna dolobrata* Linn. is common everywhere where there are grass and weeds. *Miris affinis* Reut., formerly known as *M. instabilis* Uhl., is not common. *Trigonotylus ruficornis* Fall. is rare with us, making about twenty species of CAPSIDÆ taken here, which is probably only about one-third of the species that occur with us.

OBSERVATIONS AT BOSSEKOP.[1]

THE close connection between the Aurora and magnetism induced Herr O. Baschin to accompany Dr. Brendel to Bossekop for the purpose of observing this phenomenon. On January first of this year they entered the Alten Fiord, at the end of which lies Bossekop. It is built on the slope of one of the raised beaches so common on the shores of the fiord and in the adjacent valleys. An elevation of the shore amounting to 43 inches is said to have taken place during the last fifty years, but the calculations are not beyond suspicion. Dr. Brendel succeeded in obtaining photographs of different forms of the Aurora, the only ones at present in existence. Violent magnetic disturbances have often been observed during displays of the Northern Lights, and the close relation of these phenomena is further demonstrated by the fact that the centres of the arcs of light lie on the magnetic meridian, and that the corona, the most splendid form of Aurora, lies in the magnetic zenith. The most remarkable disturbances took place on February 14, accompanied by an unusually gorgeous display of the Aurora, when the magnetic declination was observed to vary more than 12° — the greatest deviation ever noticed — within eight minutes. At the same time the disturbances in Europe and North America were so great that most of the self-registering instruments were unable to record them. It is not possible at present to determine with certainty the cause of these striking phenomena, but it seems probable that the great sun-spot, seventeen times as large as the surface of the earth, which was at the time visible even to the naked eye, was connected with the disturbances mentioned.

The meteorological observations also presented much that was interesting. The temperature on the west coast of Norway does not fall nearly so low as might be expected in such high latitudes. Even at the North Cape the mean of the coldest month is only 23° F., whereas in West Greenland on the same latitude the temperature sinks every winter to — 40°. As, however, the distance from the coast increases, the temperature falls rapidly. The minimum observed at Gjesvar, near the North Cape, is — 2° F.; at Bossekop, 33 miles from the open sea, — 22°; and at Karasjok, further south but 120 miles from the coast, — 60°. Thus the influence of the Gulf Stream, which prevents the fiords from freezing over, does not penetrate inland. The fall of snow in winter is not very large at Bossekop, but also increases towards the interior. In very cold weather the snow does not come down in flakes, but takes the form of crystals of ice, which, having no cohesion, are blown about by every puff of wind.

The Lapps may be divided into two classes, — the very poor fishermen of the coast and the nomadic Lapps of the mountains, who often possess considerable property. Of late years a third class has sprung up, which has settled in two inland places, Karasjok and Kautokeino. At the beginning of March the Lapps gather to a great fair at Bossekop, where many thousand ptarmigan, several tons of reindeer flesh, besides butter and tongues, change hands. Herr Baschin drove to Karasjok in a reindeer sledge, a vehicle that requires a deal of management, in order to inspect the dwellings of the Lapps settled there. The village is situated on a stream of the same name, one of the headwaters of the Tana, the second largest river of Norway, and contains about 200 inhabitants — all, with few exceptions, Lapps. Their dwellings are conical tents, 13 to 16 feet in diameter, with openings at the top to let out the smoke from the fire in the centre. Many Lapps own 2,000 to 3,000 head of reindeer. These people are not so powerful, intelligent, and honest as the Eskimo, and give the Norwegian Government much trouble through their propensity to steal reindeer. In Karasjok Herr Baschin found Balto and Ravna, the two Lapps who accompanied Dr. Nansen on his journey across Greenland, and on his voyage home he inspected that explorer's new vessel, which is being built at Laurvig. It has a nearly semi-circular cross-section, and is rigged as a three-masted schooner. It is of 250 tons register, and is constructed almost entirely of German oak. A small engine will enable it to make six knots an hour during calms.

[1] From the Scottish Geographical Magazine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

**** Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.*

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

Laboratory Teaching.

IN a recent number of *Science* there appeared an excellent article by Professor Chas. F. Mabery upon "Aims of Laboratory Teaching," in which occurred the following sentence: "Probably the earliest attempt in this country to give systematic laboratory instruction, to classes of any magnitude, was made in 1865 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Professor Mabery is surely in error upon this point, as such instruction had been given the students of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Instituie for many years previous to the date quoted. Our present laboratory, which is very complete and accommodates seventy-six students at a time in analytical chemistry, was built in 1862, to replace the one destroyed by fire in that year. Permit me to quote from a letter just received from Professor James Hall, geologist of the State of New York, who graduated from this institution many years ago: "In regard to systematic laboratory instruction in chemistry, I can only say that when I entered the Rensselaer School in 1831 there were already laboratories fitted up for giving systematic instruction in chemistry, and each student of the class