

they seem smaller, and since distant objects also seem smaller, they will seem more distant.

There are two objections to this explanation. 1. The accommodation is for the distance of the real object, as is proved by the distinctness. Why, then, should the object seem farther? 2. Again, distant objects seem smaller only because their retinal images are smaller; but this is not so in the case under consideration.

In justification of his view, Mr. Bostwick says that "in monocular vision an object appears distant or near according as the eye is fixed respectively on something nearer than it or something beyond it." I am familiar with the fact here referred to, but in this case the appearance of greater or less distance is so imperfect that it can hardly be called estimate. It may seem farther or nearer almost at will. It is a matter of fancy, not a sober certainty of rational judgment. In fact, there is no ground for forming any judgment.

Although Mr. Bostwick speaks of his estimate of the distance of the phantom as "distinct," yet I cannot but think that, for want of complete dissociation of the axial and focal adjustments the image is not quite sharp; and that, if he got the same sharp, realistic image which I get, he would see the distance as I see it. Of course, there is no disputing about how things seem to different observers any more than there is about tastes; but nevertheless, there are some things which are normal and reducible to intelligible law, and some not. Mr. Bostwick's case may be abnormal, but I think probably not. I well know how illusive binocular phenomena are. He will, I am sure, pardon me for thinking that with more practice in experiments of this kind he will come to see things as others see them.

JOSEPH LECONTE.

Berkeley, Cal., May 27.

A Rain of Fishes.

DURING a recent thunder-storm at Winter Park, Fla., a number of fish fell with the rain. They were sunfish from two to four inches long. It is supposed that they were taken up by a water-

spout from Lake Virginia, and carried westward by the strong wind that was blowing at the time. The distance from the lake to the place where they fell is about a mile.

THOMAS R. BAKER.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

MACMILLAN & Co. have published a brief biography of the late English anatomist, William Kitchen Parker, written by his son, T. Jeffery Parker. It begins with an account of his birth and early life on his father's farm, and then of his schooling and his apprenticeship, first to an apothecary and afterwards to a surgeon. With his strong inclination for biological studies, it was natural that he should choose medicine as his profession; but it is evident, as indeed his biographer admits, that he had no great love for his profession and only moderate success in the practice of it. His prime interests in life, apart from his family, were two things not often found in conjunction at the present day, science and Wesleyan religion; and he seems to have been equally devoted to both and to have found no incongruity between the two. In biology he was largely self-taught; but a few discerning friends saw that he was capable of important original work, and assisted him in the prosecution of such work. He became a member of the Zoological Society and afterwards a fellow of the Royal Society; but the position that proved the most useful to him was the Hunterian professorship of anatomy and physiology in the Royal College of Surgeons, because it not only gave him the opportunity to lecture on his favorite subjects, but also added to his otherwise moderate income. His principal scientific work, his researches on the skull, is described at some length in this book, and there are briefer notices of his other studies and a bibliography of all his published works. His principal fault as a scientific writer, his son thinks, was his complicated style; his topics being arranged in a disorderly way and his sentences hastily constructed. Yet biologists will doubtless echo the words of the Royal Society that he was "an unworldly seeker after truth . . . whose beneficent influence will ever be felt in a wide-spreading and advancing science."

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For sale or exchange.—One latest complete edition of Watt's Dictionary of Chemistry, in fair condition; one thirty volume edition (9th) of Allen's Encyclopædia Britannica, almost new. Will sell cheap for cash or will exchange for physical or chemical apparatus. Address Prof. W. S. Leavenworth, Ripon College, Ripon, Wis.

Exchange.—One celestial, one terrestrial globe, one lunatettis and charts, celestial maps, diagrams and ephemeris from 1830 to 1893, astronomical works, all in good condition. Will sell cheap or exchange. Make offer. C. H. Van Dorn, 79 Nassau St., New York.

The Rev. A. C. Waghorne, New Harbor, Newfoundland, wishes to sell collections of Newfoundland and Labrador plants, all named by competent botanists. He is going on a missionary journey along the Labrador coast, from the middle of July till October, and in return for much needed aid towards (Episcopal) Church purposes in that region, will be glad to be of service to any botanists who may write to him. Letters posted in the U. S. up to July 1 will reach him at the above address, and if posted later will be forwarded.

For sale.—J. D. Dana's Report on Crustacea of the U. S. Exploring Expedition under Charles Wilkes. Text and plates well bound in three volumes, half morocco, \$75. Samuel Henshaw, Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass.

For exchange—I wish to exchange cabinet skins of Californian birds or mammals for any book on the following list, books if second-hand to be in good order. Manual of Vertebrates, fifth edition, D. S. Jordan; Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, Oliver Davis; Marine Mammals of the West Coast of North America, C. M. Scammon; The United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, Vol. II., Zoology, S. F. Baird. F. Stephens, Witch Creek, San Diego Co., Cal.

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