

tance for the history of physics, meteorology and physical geography, since it furnishes proof of the existence of atmospheric pressure, and forms the basis of measurements of altitudes with the barometer. But three copies of the original are known to exist.

No. 3. *On the Modification of Clouds*. LUKE HOWARD. London. 1803. 9 pages introduction and 32 pages facsimile with three plates. Price 3 M. = 75 cents.

This was the first successful attempt at a cloud nomenclature on which all later schemes are based. The first edition of the original work is very rare.

A. L. ROTCH.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

##### ENTOMOLOGY.

It is well to draw attention to two admirable brief illustrated papers published last year by Ch. Janet on *Myrmica rubra*, one on the morphology of the skeleton and especially of the postthoracic segments (Mém. Soc. Acad. de l'Oise, xv.), the other on the anatomy of the petiole (Mém. Soc. Zool. France, 1894). We regret we have not space for a full analysis of each, but they will be found of great interest to morphologists and hymenopterists. The clear illustrations are pretty sure to find their way into text-books.

The annual presidential address before the Entomological Society of London by Capt. H. J. Elwes is on the geographical distribution of butterflies and deals largely with those of North America.

Dr. Ph. Bertkau announces that his health obliges him to give up the admirable annual review of entomology which has appeared in the *Archiv für naturgeschichte* since 1838 under different editors—Erichson, Schaum, Gerstaecker, Brauer and Bertkau. Entomologists are under great obligations to Dr. Bertkau for the excellence of his summaries, their completeness and the

promptness with which they have appeared. A still prompter method of rapid publication in all branches of biology is now being planned, which is at the same time a practical combination of all the current reviews—a consummation devoutly to be wished and helped forward.

M. Emile Blanchard was retired November last from the chair of entomology at the Jardin des Plantes, on account of age; his first entomological paper was published nearly seventy years ago; his successor has not yet been announced.

Fire has committed ravages with our entomologists this winter. Mr. J. G. Jack lost his library and collection in Jamaica Plain by the destruction of the building in which they were kept; Prof. C. H. Tyler Townsend lost his valuable dipterological library (nearly complete for America and very full for Europe) by the burning of the warehouse at Las Cruces, N. Mex., while he was absent for a few weeks at Washington; and now comes news that Rev. C. J. S. Bethune's school at Port Hope, Ont., has been burnt to the ground. His loss is estimated at eighty thousand dollars.

##### GENERAL.

AMONG the articles of scientific interest in the popular magazines for March are the following: Hermann von Helmholtz; Thos. C. Martin—*Century*. The World's Debt to Medicine; John S. Billings—*The Chautauquan*. Weather studies at Blue Hill; Raymond L. Bridgman—*New England Magazine*. Heredity; St. George Mivart—*Harper's Magazine*. The Direction of Education; N. S. Shaler—*Atlantic Monthly*.

PROFESSOR CARHART will deliver the address at the dedication of the Hale scientific building of the University of Colorado, on March 7th. His subject is *The Educational and Industrial Value of Science*.

THERE will be held at Vienna between the months of January and May, 1896, an

historical exhibition intended to bring under view the social and industrial condition of the country at the beginning of the century.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made that will probably ensure the union of the Astor Library, the Lenox Library and the Tilden Endowment. This would supply New York with a Library whose property is valued at \$8,000,000.

A COMMITTEE of the English House of Commons has been appointed to consider changes in the system of weights and measures.

MR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT has been awarded the Bigsby Medal of the Geological Society of London.

LORD RAYLEIGH is delivering a course of six lectures on *Waves and Vibrations* at the Royal Institution of London. On April 5th he will lecture on 'Argon.'

THE Massachusetts Horticultural Society invites subscriptions for the erection of a monument in honor of the late Francis Parkman.

DR. KOSSELL, of Berlin, has accepted a call to the Professorship of Physiology at Marburg.

PROFESSOR C. L. DOOLITTLE, of Lehigh University, has been called to the chair of Mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania, and Mr. A. P. Brown has been appointed Assistant Professor of Geology and Mineralogy.

PROFESSOR JOHN B. CLARKE, of Amherst College, has accepted a call to a professorship of Political Economy in Columbia College.

DR. D. HACK TUKE, editor of the *Journal of Mental Science*, and well known for his writings on insanity, died in London, on March 5th, at the age of sixty-eight.

MR. J. W. HULKE, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, died re-

cently at the age of sixty-five. He was eminent as a surgeon and especially as an ophthalmologist.

MR. HYMAN MONTAGUE, known for his writings on numismatics, died in London on the 18th of February, at the age of fifty-one.

PROFESSOR LAUTH, the eminent Egyptologist, died at Munich, on February 11th, at the age of seventy-three.

THE death is announced, at the age of eighty-five, of Sir Henry Rawlinson, the eminent Assyriologist.

MACMILLAN & Co. announce two works on Physical Geography, by Prof. Tarr, of Cornell University—one an elementary and the other an advanced text-book. The same publishers announce: *Louis Agassiz, his Life, Letters and Works*, by Jules Marcou.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, FEB. 23.

MR. F. E. L. BEAL read a paper on the food habits of woodpeckers, based on the examination of more than 600 stomachs. He found that the Hairy and Downy woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus* and *pubescens*) feed chiefly on insects, most of which are harmful species. They also eat wild fruits and seeds. The food of the flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) consists largely of ants. Two stomachs contained each more than three thousand ants, and these insects formed 45 per cent. of all the stomach contents examined. The Flicker also ate other noxious insects and some wild fruit, such as dogwood berries and wild grapes. The Red-headed woodpecker (*Malanerpes erythrocephalus*) feeds largely on insects, all of which are harmful species except a few predacious beetles. The vegetable food of the Redhead comprises wild fruits and some corn and cultivated fruit. The Yellow Bellied woodpecker, or Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*), is