

by experiments on plants of the same species grown at high and low levels, and on minute observations of modifications of structure at high levels, the subject assumes a decidedly botanical flavor. Botanists as well as geographers will therefore find interesting matter in Bonnier's account of his gardens in the Alps and the Pyrenees, where for some years past he has cultivated plants taken from lower lands. The figures illustrating the difference between plants grown from two parts of a single rootstock, one in the Alps, the other in the lowlands, are particularly instructive from the remarkable modifications of the normal form produced by the Alpine habitat.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

WE are extremely glad to state that the report of the death of Dr. George M. Dawson, quoted in the last issue of this journal from the *London Standard*, was false. It was due to confusing the cable dispatch announcing the death of Dr. George Lawson. *Nature* states, in its issue of November 21st, "after a part of last week's issue of *Nature* had been printed off, containing a note announcing the death of Dr. George Dawson, we were rejoiced to be able to stop the press and cancel it, as a cablegram contradicted the rumor." We also should have been able to contradict the accounts contained in the English papers, had we not been compelled to go to press one day earlier than usual owing to the Thanksgiving holiday.

THE administrative council of the Pasteur Institute, at a recent meeting, presided over by M. Bertrand, permanent secretary of the Académie des Sciences, decided to appoint a subscription committee, with a view to the erection of an international monument to perpetuate the memory of Louis Pasteur.

THE first meeting of the General Committee of the Huxley Memorial was called for Wednesday, November 27th, in the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord President of the

Council, in the chair. Resolutions with respect to the form of the memorial were to be submitted to the meeting.

A MEETING of the Council of the Royal Society on December 12th will be devoted to the discussion of the question of Antarctic research. The discussion will be opened by Dr. John Murray, who will be followed by other specialists, each dealing with his own particular branch of science. It is expected that the Council will endorse the report of the Society's Antarctic Committee, urging the necessity for the resumption of Antarctic exploration by means of an adequately equipped Government expedition. It is stated that a well equipped German expedition to the Antarctic continent is now being prepared.

SIR JOSEPH LISTER has been nominated by the retiring president and council for election as president of the Royal Society. The election will take place at the anniversary meeting on November 30th. Prof. Michael Foster has been nominated for reelection as one of the secretaries.

CALVERT VAUX, the landscape architect, was drowned on November 20th. He was born in London about 71 years ago and came to America at the age of twenty-four to become the partner of A. J. Downing. He planned many of the most important parks in America, and New York City is especially indebted to him for the design of Central Park and for his long and able service in the Department of Parks.

THE health committee of the Glasgow Town Council has decided to establish and equip a complete bacteriological department in the sanitary buildings now in course of erection. The laboratory is to be in charge of an expert in bacteriology.

A. M. VILLON died on November 4th, of typhoid fever, at the age of twenty-eight. He was the author of 'Dictionnaire de chimie industrielle' (in course of publication at the time of his death) and other works and editor of 'La revue de chimie industrielle.'

M. DE BERNADIÈRES reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences on November 11th that with the coöperation of the ministers of the marine seven expeditions had been sent out with a view

to the preparation of a magnetic map of the earth. The expedition to Iceland has already accomplished its task in a satisfactory manner, and it is hoped that a map superior to any similar publication may be issued before 1900.

THE next International Medical Congress has been postponed for one year and will be held in Moscow in 1897.

THE paper by Prof. George M. Comstock on 'A Course in Astronomy for Engineering Students,' published recently in this journal (Vol. II. p.502), was read before the Springfield meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

AMONG the papers announced to be read at an extra meeting of the Royal Society on November 28th were 'Mathematical contributions to the theory of evolution; III. Regression, heredity and panmixia,' by Prof. Carl Pearson, and 'Examination of gases from certain mineral waters,' by A. Kellas and Prof. Ramsay.

AN editorial article in the *Lancet* for November 23rd calls attention to the desirability of testing the hearing as well as the eyesight of school children. Weil found 35 per cent. of the pupils in the schools in Stuttgart, and Moure 17 per cent. of those at Bordeaux, more or less deaf in one or both ears. The degree of deafness is very easily determined by requiring the child to repeat words uttered at a measured distance in a quiet room, and unilateral deafness by closing one or other ear with the finger. Words spoken in a conversational tone should be recognized by those whose hearing is normal at a distance of 15 to 20 meters. In many cases deafness and related disorders may be cured by medical or surgical treatment, and in any case it is important that the deafness of a child should not be mistaken for stupidity.

DR. THOMAS DWIGHT's recent notes on the Dissection and Brain of the Chimpanzee 'Gumbo' in the Memoirs of the Boston Soc. Nat. Hist. contains numerous references to other papers showing how large is the amount of individual variation in this species. Although several species of chimpanzee and gorilla have been described it will be interesting to see how they will stand the test of time and more material. Unfortunately specimens of the large an-

thropoids are seldom accompanied by full and sufficient data and not improbably most, if not all, of the species will prove to be subspecies. The large apes seem subject to a large amount of variation. Not only does the orang of Sumatra differ from that of Borneo, though not specifically, but the Bornean oranges differ among themselves in size and color so that they have been divided into three species, mainly on points due to age or sex. Evidently there is much work to be done before the exact status of the large anthropoids can be considered as definitely settled.

AT a meeting of the Engineering Association of the South in Nashville, Tenn., November 13, the retiring president, Prof. Wm. L. Dudley, of Vanderbilt University, delivered an address on 'The Development of Technical Education in the United States.' The following are the officers for the year 1895-96:

Hunter McDonald, President.  
W. G. Kirkpatrick, First Vice-President.  
J. J. Ormsbee, Second Vice-President.  
Lucius P. Brown, Secretary.  
W. M. Leftwich, Treasurer.  
Wm. L. Dudley, E. C. Lewis, H. D. Ruhm, Jno. B. Atkinson, Directors.

IN the November number of *The Nineteenth Century* Mr. Herbert Spencer again criticises Lord Salisbury's president's address before the British Association in 1894. Lord Salisbury's address has perhaps received more attention than its scientific importance warrants, but Great Britain is fortunate in having a Premier who is competent to preside over its Association for the Advancement of Science and whose address deserves scientific criticism.

LEOPOLD VOSS has issued a new edition of Kroll's *Stereoskopische Bilder*, to which new pictures have been added by Dr. R. Perlia. The series consists of twenty-six pairs of colored pictures which may be united by the stereoscope. In some of the slides the principal figure is the same for both eyes while the details are different, and in others two different pictures are to be united, as for example a bird and a cage. The pictures are recommended as useful in exercising the muscles of the eyes of children suffering from strabismus, and in any case make a

useful scientific toy. They are sold at the moderate price of seventy-five cents.

*Nature* states that an International Marine and Fisheries Exhibit will be held at Kiel next year, in connection with a provincial exhibition in Schleswig-Holstein, and will be opened from May 13th to the end of September.

JOHANNES ADOLF OVERBECK, for forty-two years professor of archaeology at the University of Leipzig, died recently, aged sixty-nine years.

M. POINCARÉ reported to the Paris Academy on November 11th that he had found that the moon influences the production and direction of cyclones.

MR. W. R. BROOKS, director of Smith Observatory, Geneva, N. Y., discovered on the morning of November 21st a comet in the southeastern sky. The position was right ascension  $9^h 51^m 50^s$ , and declination S.  $17^\circ 40'$ . The comet has a northerly motion.

WE have received part I. of Vol. V. of the proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, issued on November 18th. The proceedings contain 27 papers, extending to 784 pages and including 75 plates. The work of the Academy is of great interest and importance, more especially as most of the papers are concerned with the fauna, flora and physiography of California. Among the papers are a Review of the Herpetology of Lower California, by John van Denburgh; California Water Birds, by Leverett M. Loomis; The Neocene Stratigraphy of the Santa Cruz Mountains of California, by George H. Ashley; The Fishes of Sinaloa, by David Starr Jordan; Contributions to Western Botany, by Marcus E. Jones, and Explorations in the Cape Region of Baja California, by Gustav Eisen.

DR. JULIUS VON SCHRODER, professor of chemistry at the School of Forestry at Tharandt died on October 27th, at the age of 52. The deaths are also announced of Edward Combes, a well-known Australian engineer; of Lieutenant Otto E. Ehler, the German explorer, who was drowned while making his expedition across British New Guinea; of Oscar Borchert, the African traveler, who died of malarial fever at the Bethlehem Institute, near Ludwigslust,

and of George Edward Dobson, a writer on natural history, who died on November 26, at the age of 51.

MR. F. O. T. DELMAR, of Bayswater, who died on October 14th, has left £100,000 to his trustees to form a fund to be called the Delmar Charitable Trust. Nine-tenths of the annual income from this fund is to be divided between selected charitable institutions in London or its neighborhood, 'having regard to the relative importance and magnitude of each institution.' The testator expresses his desire to benefit in particular the establishments for the care and treatment of epileptic and cancerous patients and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Medical Department of Vanderbilt University was reorganized last spring. A new faculty was elected and a graded course of three years was adopted. The faculty consists of ten professors and twenty instructors, lecturers and assistants. Dr. Wm. L. Dudley is dean of the faculty and Dr. Richard Douglas secretary. Dr. W. M. L. Coplin, late of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, fills the chair of pathology and bacteriology. The department has removed this session into the Medical College building lately erected and furnished at a cost of \$70,000.

THE Chemical Laboratory of the Rose Polytechnic Institute was burned on the morning of November 9th. The walls of the Laboratory and a part of the floor were saved, but the rest of the building and the entire equipment were destroyed. The loss was about \$7,500, of which \$5,000 was covered by insurance. The chemical lecture room is in another building, and provisions has already been made for students of the chemical course to continue their laboratory work. A new equipment has been ordered and the building will be rebuilt as soon as possible.

THE ninth annual convention of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland was held at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., under the presidency