

fauna. The real semi-tropical in Texas occupies an extremely small area, namely, the delta of the Rio Grande from the mouth of the river to the head of the Arroyo Colorado. The latter is an ancient bed of the Rio Grande, and forms the northern boundary of the semi-tropical fauna. Within this area the fauna in question occurs in narrow isolated strips, within the bends of the river, along the various resacas which intersect and meander through this region. The more elevated land separating these strips is occupied by the general fauna of southwestern Texas, but there is a maritime fauna of a more tropical character extending along the coast, probably as far north as Corpus Christi Bay. Finally the fauna of the yucca-covered ridges running parallel with the coast also belong to the semi-tropical region.

Dr. Gill said that Mr. Schwarz's observations on the extremely limited character of this fauna in Texas agree with his own deductions from the study of fishes. The paper was further discussed by Messrs. Ashmead and Howard.

Mr. Ashmead presented a paper on the genera of the Eupelminæ, showing that ten years ago only eight genera were tabulated by Cresson, and only one of these was known to occur in the United States. As a result of recent studies he has found in the United States representatives of 25 genera, several of which are new. He spoke briefly of some of the peculiar forms.

A paper by Mr. C. F. Baker on 'The Affinities of Neolarra,' was read by the Secretary. The writer concluded that this genus does not belong to the Bembecidæ, with which it had been placed by Ashmead, but to the Apidæ. The paper was discussed by Mr. Ashmead, who said that he agreed with Mr. Baker in his conclusions. The speaker in his original description of Neolarra had been led to place it with the Bembecidæ, largely from the fact that the type was in such poor condition that some of its important characters could not be well understood. He further said that he agreed with Haliday in considering the Bembecidæ as rather closely related to the bees on account of the structure of the mouthparts.

L. O. HOWARD,  
Secretary.

#### PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

At the last meeting of the Philosophical Society of Washington the following communications were presented:

1. By Lieutenant W. H. Beehler, United States Navy, on 'The compensation of vibrations and other motions of a vessel at sea for the constant level-base of the Solarometer.' Illustrated by diagrams and a solarometer instrument itself.

2. By E. D. Preston, on 'Some original methods of reducing stars from mean to apparent place.' Illustrated by diagrams showing how results are quickly obtained graphically.

BERARD R. GREEN,  
Secretary.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*The Sun.* C. A. YOUNG. New and Revised Edition. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1895. Pp. xii+363. \$2.00.

*Introduction to the Study of Fungi.* M. C. COOKE. London, Adam and Charles Black. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. x+360.

*Mechanics and Hydrostatics.* R. T. GLAZE BROOK. Cambridge, University Press. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. xiv+208+xxiv. \$2.25.

*Primer of the History of Mathematics.* W. W. ROUSE BALL. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. iv+158. 65 cts.

*Plane and Solid Geometry.* WOOSTER WOODRUFF BEMAN and DAVID EUGENE SMITH. Boston and London, Ginn & Co. 1895. Pp. ix+320. \$1.35.

*The Theory of Social Forces.* SIMON N. PATTON. Philadelphia, American Academy of Political and Social Science. 1896. Pp. 151.

*Ethnology.* A. H. KEANE. Cambridge, University Press. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. xxx+442. \$2.60.

*Principles of Metallurgy.* ARTHUR H. HIRNS. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. xiv+388.

*The Chemists' Compendium.* C. J. S. THOMPSON. London, Whittaker & Co. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. 230. \$1.00.

*Practical Inorganic Chemistry.* G. S. TURPIN. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. vii+156. 60 cents.