

the melting point and critical temperature of a number of compounds, and shows how this ratio is constant for certain ones; but these belong to such widely different classes of compounds and the facts at hand are so slight that no generalizations can be drawn.

*Aluminium Alcoholates:* By H. W. HILLYER. When attempts were made to preserve some amalgamated aluminium by keeping it in a solution of mercuric chloride in absolute alcohol, it was found that the aluminium acted quite violently on the alcohol forming aluminium alcoholate. A number of alcohols were found to act in the same way and the subject is now being investigated by the author.

*The Conductivity of Solutions of Acetylene in Water:* By H. C. JONES. The author calls attention to the fact that the results published by Jones and Allen, showing acetylene to be considerably dissociated in water, are not correct. He has repeated the work and finds that it has a very slight conductivity. He attributes the previous error to some unknown impurity. This number contains reviews of the following books:

*Water Supply*, W. P. MASON; *A Dictionary of Chemical Solubilities*, A. M. COMEY; *Milk, Its Nature and Composition*, C. M. AIKMAN.

J. ELLIOTT GILPIN.

#### THE AUK.

THE *Auk* for July (Vol. XIII., No. 3) opens with an article by Herbert K. Job, on 'The Ducks of Plymouth County, Massachusetts,' wherein the author presents the results of many years' observations in a condensed report on the 28 species known to occur. Dr. Walter Faxon gives, with prefatory remarks, a list of nearly 200 drawings of Georgia birds made by John Abbot between 1790 and 1810. Some 160 species are represented, including several which were then unknown to science. Publication, or rather the lack of it, seems to have been Abbot's only bar to immortality as an ornithologist.

Mr. O. Widmann discourses pleasantly on, 'The Peninsula of Missouri as a Winter Home for Birds,' and Mr. A. W. Anthony gives evidence of the breeding of the Black-vented Shearwater off the coast of southern California

with other interesting notes on the habits of this species. In giving his 'Observations on *Histrionicus histrionicus* in Maine,' Mr. Arthur H. Norton writes of a comparatively little known species, while Mr. Ruthven Deane adds a page to the life history of the Passenger Pigeon, in which our interest increases as it 'takes its flight.' Notes from Bermuda, that refuge for feathered waifs and strays, are always of value, and in commenting on the Bermudan avifauna Dr. Prentiss tells of the recent colonization of the Mocking-bird and European Goldfinch. The latter was accidentally introduced in 1893 by escaping from a vessel at St. George's, and so favorable have the conditions proved that already it is quite common. The English sparrow, the most abundant resident species, is spoken of as 'aggressive, offensive and despised.'

Somewhat over a dozen pages are devoted to reviews of recent ornithological books and papers, and about an equal number to records of the capture of more or less rare species or brief original observations of unusual interest.

The colored plate of this issue is an excellent illustration of the handsome Ptarmigan (*Lagopus evermanni*), from Attu Island, described by Mr. D. G. Elliot in the January number.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*Prantl's Lehrbuch der Botanik.* Herausgegeben und neu bearbeitet von DR. FERDINAND PAX. 10th edition. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. 1896. Pp. x+406. M. 4.

*Grundriss der Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschen und der Säugethiere.* DR. OSCAR SCHULTZE. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. 1896. Erste Hälfte Bogen 1-11. Pp. 176. M. 5.

*Studien zu Methodenlehre und Erkenntnisskritik.* FRIEDRICH DREYER. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. 1895. Pp. xiii+223. M. 4.

*Psychologische Arbeiten.* Herausgegeben von EMIL KRAEPELIN. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. Hefte I., II., III. Pp. 488. M. 12.

*Beiträge zur Psychologie und Philosophie.* Herausgegeben von DR. GÖTZ MARTIUS. Leipzig, Wilhelm Engelmann. Bd. I. Heft I. Pp. 159. M. 4.