

then, if approved, binding him by contract for a definite time, retaining a part of his wages in the earlier period to insure his remaining the full time agreed upon; one of the difficulties met with being the fact that the average boy has little idea of the binding force of a contract.

The trades-unions apparently exert no important influence either for or against the system. Where they do seek to control at all, it is by restricting the number of apprentices to that proportion which, in their opinion, will give a sufficient number without flooding the trade with unemployed young men or displacing older workmen by their youthful rivals. According to the editors of *The American Machinist*, no foundation has been by them discovered for the sweeping conclusions of the *Century* articles. In so far as the system, once universal, of taking apprenticeship has been given up, the fact is probably due, not to adverse action of trades-unions, but to the fact that modern methods of manufacturing, in many cases, do not well lend themselves to this older way of providing workmen. But "nothing like a complete or general abandonment of apprenticeship has taken place in machine shops, and apprentices can be, and are, taught the trades of machinist, molder, pattern-maker, etc., with entire success and with satisfaction to all concerned, even in shops where modern methods of working and management have been most highly developed."

One of the most important deductions from all this valuable testimony is that it is essential to success that, first of all, boys should be admitted to the privileges of apprenticeship *only* when good natural mechanics, when evidently intended by nature for the work, and when earnest and ambitious, honest and frank and reliable.

These communications and the editor's comments will well repay deliberate study.

R. H. THURSTON.

HENRY L. WHITING.

MR. HENRY L. WHITING, Assistant U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and Chairman of the Massachusetts Topographical Survey Commission, died at his residence in West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, on Thursday, February 4th, the last day of the seventy-sixth year of his life. Mr. Whiting's position as a public officer was in many ways unique; his services in the corps to which he belonged were noteworthy, and he had, in addition, filled many positions of responsibility and dignity, which came to him in recognition of his high character and professional accomplishments. A brief account of a career so remarkable will be of interest to the many who knew him, either personally or through his work, and to all who appreciate a life full of useful activities in faithful and efficient public service.

In the length of that service it is doubtful if his equal is now living. Had Mr. Whiting lived a few weeks longer he would have entered his sixtieth year of continued public service, all as an officer of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, which he entered at an early age. He served some time under Hassler, the first Superintendent, and for many years he stood alone as the only member of the corps who had served under *every* Superintendent of the Survey.

Mr. Whiting was born at Albany, New York. His father was a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Troy. His grandfather was William Bradford Whiting, a colonel in the Revolutionary War and a lineal descendant of Governor William Bradford, of the Plymouth Colony. One of his brothers was a classmate of General Grant at West Point and held high rank in the army at the time of his death; another was graduated at the Naval Academy, was one of Commodore Perry's officer's in the Japan Expedition, himself holding the rank of Commodore at the time of his death. Others of the family were distinguished, but Henry

Lawrence, the youngest, survived them all, except a sister, now residing in Philadelphia.

In the Coast Survey his great work was the development of the topographical operations of that bureau. He was regarded as the father of the system so long and so successfully in use, and every topographer in the service has at some time been under his direction and instruction. He did, indeed, direct at one time the main triangulation of the coast of Florida, but his tastes and instincts were so strong in the direction of topography that he was at an early day given entire charge of that department of the Survey. Besides being actively engaged in field work, he continued throughout most of his life to serve as general topographical inspector.

Of the general conference of the topographers of the Survey held in Washington in 1892 he was chairman, and, although then over seventy years of age, one of its most active and useful members. By detail of the Superintendent, Professor Peirce, Mr. Whiting inaugurated the instruction in land and harbor surveys at Annapolis, and under a similar detail he served for two years as professor of topographical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was consulting engineer for the Massachusetts Harbor Commission for twelve years and a member of the Commission for three years. He was actively related to and a member of other harbor surveys and commissions at various points along the New England coast. With the approval of the Superintendent he was appointed, in 1884, a member of the Massachusetts State Topographical Survey Commission, serving as chairman after the resignation of General Francis A. Walker, in 1892. In 1890 he was appointed a member of the Mississippi River Commission by President Harrison, whose grandfather's inaugural address he had heard from the east front of the Capitol

while temporarily at the office of the Coast Survey after a long period of field duty. He continued to serve on this Commission until his death.

In common with a number of his colleagues in the Survey, Mr. Whiting did important service during the Civil War. Of those officers absent in the field at the time of its beginning he was the first to report in Washington for volunteer service, reaching there by way of Annapolis, after Baltimore was cut off, at the same time with the New York 7th Regiment. During the war he made many topographical surveys for military purposes. On the laying of the French cable it was on his recommendation, the question having been referred to him, that Danbury was selected as the terminal station, his excellent judgment being fully proved by the remark subsequently made by Sir Charles Hartley that it was the most successful ocean cable landing in his experience.

Personally Mr. Whiting was most agreeable and charming. He had the dignity of manners which is usually associated with 'a gentleman of the old school,' along with a simplicity of character and openness of heart that made him beloved by all who came in contact with him. He was a man of splendid physique, as his long and uninterrupted service shows, and even after passing the allotted threescore and ten he never shrank from any duty, however arduous it might be. His activity in the field ceased only with his death, and in 1894 he was, by direction of the Superintendent, in general charge of the resurveys of Boston Harbor, the field work of which was done by a half dozen of his younger colleagues.

During some months before his death the unusually excellent condition of his health and his ever youthful spirit excited comment among his friends; the end of his life had not for several years seemed more remote than on the day and within the hour

in which it came. In his nearly sixty years of continuous public service he achieved a distinction in his profession of which his corps may well be proud, and all who have enjoyed personal relations with him will hold him in loving remembrance. M.

ZOOLOGICAL NOTES.

THE GENERIC NAMES ICTIS, ARCTOGALE AND ARCTOGALIDIA.

IN my Synopsis of the Weasels of North America, published in *North American Fauna*, No. 11, June, 1896, I adopted the subgenus *Ictis* of Kaup, 1829, for the ordinary weasels. This name, however, is untenable for the weasels, being antedated by *Ictis* Schinz, 1824. Schinz, in his 'Naturgeschichte und Abbildungen der Sauge-thiere,' published at Zurich in 1824 (p. 110), gave the name *Ictis* to the Binturong (*Ictis albifrons*), which of course renders it subsequent use for a different group impossible.

The subgenus of weasels to which I applied the name *Ictis* Kaup takes the name *Arctogale* Kaup, 1829, with *Putorius erminea* as the type species. This use of *Arctogale* by Kaup, as stated in my Synopsis of the Weasels already referred to (p. 9), precludes its subsequent use by Peters and Gray (1864), and later authors for the Palm Civets, a genus of the family *Viverridae*, for which latter genus I propose the new name *Arctogalidia*, the type species as before being *A. trivirgata*.

C. HART MERRIAM.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

WOMAN IN SOCIOLOGY.

THE *Revue de Sociologie* for 1896 (No. 7) has a detailed report of the 'Congrès féministe' held at Paris last summer, well worth reading by those interested in the sociological aspect of the 'woman question,' as presented by women themselves.

The crucial question of marriage was dis-

cussed amply, the general tendency being to discard it altogether in favor of free unions, which, it was argued, would generally be monogamic and lasting, in a ripened society.

The closely related question of prostitution was actively debated. Its legal regulation was condemned for many reasons, especially that men have no right to legislate as to what a woman shall do in that respect. The prevailing view was "that a woman should be absolutely free to sell herself or not, as she may choose," to quote the words of one of the (female) speakers.

Co-education proved a stumbling block, strange as that may seem to us. It was considered dangerous and likely to develop mannish women. All agreed that full civil and political rights should be given to women.

ANCIENT MAN IN ENGLAND.

THE President of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain, Mr. E. W. Brabrook, published an article in *The Archaeological Journal* for September last, touching upon the antiquity of the remains of man in Kent. It will be remembered that the stone relics from the chalk plateau of that region were closely studied by the late Sir Joseph Prestwich and others. They are very rude and geologically apparently very ancient, some claiming that they must be pre-glacial. Mr. Brabrook is of opinion that whenever it was that man first discovered the art of chipping stone, it certainly originated in Kent, 'and by all that we can judge from, as early in Kent as anywhere.'

This assertion is none too bold. It does not mean that from Kent this simple art spread over the world, but that in that locality we can trace a real beginning of human culture. Whether it can be followed in an uninterrupted development down to historic times, he considers more doubtful.