tropical surface currents setting southward are largely turned away from the antarctic regions, so only a scanty portion of the water from such currents reach the frigid latitudes. And through this cause the antarctic lands have become heavily glaciated, and the glaciers are constantly flowing into the sea. This process chills the waters surrounding the antarctic shores and causes them to sink and find their way to the temperate and tropical latitudes in under currents. In this way all of the under-waters of the oceans have acquired a low temperature, and there is much to show that their coldness is being slowly increased, and in consequence a cold epoch is being brought about. There is nothing hypothetical concerning the vast operations of nature which give support to this view of the subject. For it is well known to the navigators of the southern oceans that the belt of strong westerly winds which sweeps the southern seas causes a cold drift current to move around the Antarctic Continent. And it is also well known to science that the chilly waters of the antarctic seas find their way to the temperate and tropical latitudes in cold under-currents.

C. A. M. TABER.

THE SMITHSONIAN TABLE AT THE NAPLES STATION.

IN view of the necessary delay in connection with several applications which have recently been made for the use of the Smithsonian Table at the Naples Station, it may be well to call the attention of zoologists and botanists to the 'Report on the Memorial presented to the Smithsonian Institution regarding an American Table at the Naples Zoological Station,' printed in SCIENCE, XXI., No. 641, June 16, 1893, pp. 328–329.

Candidates will avoid delay in the consideration of their applications if they will bear in mind the following suggestions:

1. Applications should be addressed to Professor S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., and *not* to the Secretary of the Advisory Committee.

2. The candidate should state his entire educational history, give a list of the papers he has published, and if possible send reprints of the same to accompany his application.

3. He should apply for a definite period of time, not exceeding six months, and state the time of year which will be most convenient for him to occupy the table.

4. He should give some definite statement as to the general line of investigation he wishes to pursue while at Naples.

5. If a recent graduate and a person not thoroughly known as an author, he should request his former instructors to write in his behalf to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

If the professors of zoology and botany in the various universities will bear these suggestions in mind they will greatly lessen the correspondence and delay in connection with the consideration of the applications from their students and will at the same time forward the interests of the applicants.

CH. WARDELL STILES,
Secretary Advisory Committee.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

An Introduction to Geology. By WILLIAM B. SCOTT. The Macmillan Co. 1897.

The author of this class-book has attempted, and we think successfully, to provide a brief but complete and sufficiently detailed treatment of geology for the ordinary college student.

He has used as a basis the fuller standard treatises on Geology, has taken as his model Sir Archibald Geikie's 'Class-book;' has written it for American students, selecting examples from American geology; has illustrated the work with reproduced scenes taken by American geologists, and has had help and suggestions from other workers in special fields. The result is, in general, a satisfactory book to put in the hands of a class of students, and particularly well adapted, as it seems to the writer, to supplement a course of lectures in a general college curriculum.

The arrangement of the chapters is not altogether such as a teacher would naturally use, and that some license is given to readjust the chapters is suggested by the remark in the preface: "The order in which the different sections of the book are taken up should depend somewhat upon the season of the year in