

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

JOURNAL OF GEOLOGY, MAY-JUNE, 1897.

UNDER the title 'The Last Great Baltic Glacier,' Dr. James Geikie replies to the recent criticism by Dr. Keilhack.* He gives a brief re-statement of the evidence presented in the *Great Ice Age* for the belief that the great terminal moraines of the Baltic Ridge are products of an independent glacial epoch, quoting Du Pasquier on disputed points.

The post-Pleistocene elevation of the Inyo range and the Waucobe lake beds of California are discussed by C. D. Walcott. A series of well characterized lake beds in the foot hills of the Sierra Nevada are described. The beds contain fossils any of which 'might be recent or Pliocene' as determined by Dall, but of which the probable age is believed to be Pleistocene. The beds have a maximum thickness of 150 feet and in character resemble the ancient sediments of Lake Lahontan. The strata lie at very different levels. There is evidence of faulting and it is believed that there has been recent elevation to the amount of about 3,000 feet. In this connection the Owen Valley earthquake of 1872 is recalled.

In the fifth of his Italian Petrological Sketches, Dr. Henry S. Washington gives a general summary. The composition of the rocks of the Ciminite-Vulsinite-Toscanite series is discussed and its relationships to the Absarokite-Shoshonite-Banakite series as well as to other intermediate groups is illustrated by analyses and tables. The trachydolerites and the leucitic rocks are also discussed as to composition and relationship.

Dr. H. F. Reid gives a summary of the first annual report of the International Committee on Glaciers. Under each country notes relative to the present phase of glaciation is given. Of the Alpine glaciers a considerable number show the phase of increase. In America the glaciers are in general retreating, though some show the contrary phase. In 1896 the glaciers of Cook's Inlet, Chilcat Pass, and the Glacier Bay region, as well as those of Mt. Ranier, Mt. Hood and the Selkirk mountains were all reported as decreasing.

* *Jour. Géol.*, V., 113-125.

A sketch of the Geology of Mexico, based upon the recently issued reports of the Geological Institution of Mexico, is presented by Mr. H. F. Bain.

Among the reviews is an extended discussion, by Mr. C. F. Tolman, of the recent papers by Dr. G. F. Becker on rock differentiation.*

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1897.

PROFESSOR L. M. UNDERWOOD, Chairman, Professor N. L. Britton, Secretary, *pro tem*.

The first paper was by Professor L. M. Underwood, 'Notes on the Ferns of Japan.'

The immediate occasion of this paper was the receipt during the past year of two separate collections of Japanese ferns of about 50 species each.

The insular position of Japan, together with a considerable range of latitude, equalling that from St. Paul, Minn., to Mobile, Ala., gives Japan a larger proportion of ferns than we have in the United States, although the area of the islands is only that of the northeastern States as far as the Virginias, together with about one-half of Ohio.

The ferns are those of temperate climates and agree well with those of the adjacent mainland so far as the latter are known. A few subtropical forms enter the flora, but the really tropical species do not reach the islands.

Many species are common inhabitants of Europe as well as the eastern United States, but the ferns of Japan offer very little support to the once prevalent notion of the great similarity to the flora of the eastern United States. In fact about as many Japanese species have as many near allies in Pacific America as in other portions of the country if we exclude the species quite generally distributed through the north temperate zone.

Discussing the paper, Professor Britton cited a number of instances among spermatophytes, in which species supposed to be common to Japan and eastern North America had been

* *Amer. Jour. Sci.* (4), Vol. III., pp. 21-40, Jan., 1897.