

# SCIENCE

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: S. NEWCOMB, Mathematics; R. S. WOODWARD, Mechanics; E. C. PICKERING, Astronomy; T. C. MENDENHALL, Physics; R. H. THURSTON, Engineering; IRA REMSEN, Chemistry; J. LE CONTE, Geology; W. M. DAVIS, Physiography; O. C. MARSH, Paleontology; W. K. BROOKS, C. HART MERRIAM, Zoology; S. H. SCUDDER, Entomology; N. L. BRITTON, Botany; HENRY F. OSBORN, General Biology; H. P. BOWDITCH, Physiology; J. S. BILLINGS, Hygiene; J. McKEEN CATTELL, Psychology; DANIEL G. BRINTON, J. W. POWELL, Anthropology.

---

---

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1897.

---

---

## CONTENTS:

<i>Alfred Marshall Mayer</i> : W. LE CONTE STEVENS.	261
<i>Address of the President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science</i> : SIR JOHN EVANS.	269
<i>Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> : ASAPH HALL, JR.	283
<i>Current Notes on Physiography</i> :—	
<i>The Athabasca Region</i> ; Seneca Co., N. Y.; <i>Drainage Map of Rhode Island</i> ; <i>Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl</i> ; <i>Wadis of Tripoli</i> : W. M. DAVIS.	285
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology</i> :—	
<i>Studies in Mayan Hieroglyphs</i> ; <i>Primitive Decorative Art</i> : D. G. BRINTON	287
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	287
<i>University and Educational News</i>	293
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>The Antecedent Colorado</i> : MARK S. W. JEFFERSON. <i>Amphibia or Batrachia</i> : BURT G. WILDER.	293
<i>Scientific Literature</i> :—	
<i>McCalley's Report on the Valley Regions of Alabama</i> : C. W. HAYES.	296

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

---

---

## ALFRED MARSHALL MAYER.

A MAN of science, whose work was unique in the domain which he had selected, and who will long be held in warm remembrance by a large circle of friends, has lately passed away.

In 1784 there emigrated to America a young German, Christian Mayer, a member of an ancient family in the city of Ulm, in Würtemberg. He made his home in Baltimore, where, by strong intelligence and well directed industry, he amassed a

fortune. To his two sons, Charles F. and Brantz, he gave the best educational advantages of the day. The former became a prominent lawyer, well known in the best social circles of Baltimore on account of his refinement and broad literary culture, while the latter traveled and wrote extensively, his historical work, especially in connection with Mexico, being of high authority and acknowledged value.

On the thirteenth day of November, 1836, a son was born to Charles F. Mayer. At an early age the boy exhibited great mechanical ingenuity and a lively interest in the external world of nature. At St. Mary's College, in Baltimore, he was afforded all the usual facilities for an elementary liberal education, and especially for classical training; but this did not suit his native bent. At the age of sixteen years he gave up the school room, and the following two years were spent chiefly in the workshop and the draughting room of a mechanical engineer. Here was abundant opportunity for acquiring familiarity with the use of tools and developing manipulative skill. At the same time there was a continual stimulus to private study in connection with the daily application of the laws of physics and mechanics. This course of study in applied science was a natural precursor to the resumption of more systematic work, not in the class room, but in the laboratory. A course of