

modifying causes. Driftwood, the fuel supply, and the presence or absence of materials from which to construct the lamp must also be considered. The cause of the large lamps coming down so far in latitude on the east is on account of the dipping of the isotherms. The lamps of Labrador are a case in point. There are three kinds of Eskimo lamps—the house lamp, the small lamp for temporary use by hunters and travellers, and the mortuary lamp.

The second paper, by Mr. René de Saussure, on 'A New Method of Plotting Maps and Charts,' was omitted on account of the author's inability to be present.

The third paper, by Professor J. H. Gore, was entitled 'Gheel, a Colony of the Insane.' This last paper was both highly interesting and instructive, but no abstract of it is available at the present moment.

E. D. PRESTON,  
Secretary.

#### GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

At the regular meeting of January 26, 1898, one of the principal communications was on the Montreal meeting of the Geological Society of America, by Mr. David White and Mr. Whitman Cross, both of the United States Geological Survey, a subject which has already been fully reported in these columns. There was also some discussion of the paper that was read by Mr. Cross at the preceding meeting.

Mr. G. K. Gilbert, United States Geological Survey, gave a description of the Pueblo (Colo.) folio of the Atlas of the United States, a folio just completed. The ground that he went over is fully covered in the printed descriptions to accompany the folio.

W. F. MORSELL.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

#### THE ENGELMANN BOTANICAL CLUB.

The club met at the Shaw School of Botany, St. Louis, on January 13th, thirty-four members present. The following officers for 1898 were elected: President, William Trelease; Vice-Presidents, Geo. W. Letterman, Henry Eggert; Secretary, Hermann von Schrenk.

Professor L. H. Pammel briefly discussed the flora of Iowa, giving an account of the topography and climatology, and their bearing on

the distribution of plants in that State. He spoke of a series of ponds which had dried to such an extent that the collected humus burned when lighted. These ponds had been flooded last year and a surprisingly large number of aquatic plants had apparently survived the drying process.

Mr. J. B. S. Norton spoke on the coloring matter of some Borriginaceæ. He described some specimens of *Plagiobothrys Arizonica*, which stained paper a violet-purple, and attributed this to alkanin. The occurrence of this dye in other North American Borriginaceæ was discussed.

Mr. H. von Schrenk presented some notes on the dry-rot fungus, *Merulius lacrymans*, which had been found in the beams of a building in which the floors had fallen in. He exhibited specimens of the fungus collected in fallen cypress logs in northwestern Mississippi. Some other fungi collected in that region were discussed.

HERMANN VON SCHRENK,  
Secretary.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*The Sun's Place in Nature.* NORMAN LOCKYER. New York and London, The Macmillan Co. 1897. Pp. xvi+360. 12s.

*Various Fragments.* HERBERT SPENCER. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1898. Pp. 208. \$1.25.

*The Mystery and Romance of Alchemy and Pharmacy.* C. J. S. THOMPSON. London, The Scientific Press, Ltd. 1897. Pp. xv+335.

*The Barometrical Determination of Heights.* F. J. B. CORDIRO. New York and London, Spon & Chamberlain. 1898. Pp. 28. \$1.00.

*Traité de zoologie concrète.* YVES DÉLAGE and EDGARD HÉBOUARD. Volume V. *Les vermidiens.* Paris, Schleicher Frères. 1897. Pp. xi+372.

*Le Rationnel.* GASTON MILHAUD. Paris, Alcan. 1898. Pp. 179. 2 fr. 50.

*Energetische Epigenesis und epigenetische Energieformen.* GEORGE HIRTH. Munich and Leipzig, G. Hirth. 1898. Pp. xiv+218.

*Outlines of Sociology.* LESTER F. WARD. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xiii+301. \$2.00.