

Dr. Joor was an enthusiastic collector of Southern plants. Owing to ill-health he was rather reserved, but his zeal for his chosen pursuit knew no bounds. His collections were made chiefly about New Orleans, southern Louisiana and eastern Texas. Mr. H. von Schrenk exhibited some specimens of *Smilax bona-nox* covered with numerous hairs. These hairs seem to occur on this plant only in dry exposed places. He spoke briefly on the spines of *Xanthoxylum clavi-Hercules*, which at first grow on the epidermis of the stem, but are pushed out as the twig grows older by a layer of cork. A new cork layer is added each year, larger in area than the preceding one, so that at the end of a period of years the spine stands at the apex of a cork pyramid an inch or more in height. Mr. Walter Retzer spoke on some features of tricotyledonous plants, exhibiting seedlings of the following plants with three cotyledons: *Trifolium repens*, *Celosia cristata*, *Cosmos bipinnatus*, *Ilex Dahoon*, *Antirrhinum major*, *Verbena hybrida*, *Dianthus chinensis*. Four new members were elected.

HERMANN VON SCHRENK,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

THE *American Journal of Science* for March contains a short but important paper by Professor Michelson describing a spectroscope without prisms or gratings. With only twenty elements consisting of optical glass 5 mm. thick, the resolving power would be 100,000, which is about that of the best gratings. Professor Michelson has tried the experiment with seven elements and found that the Zeeman effect could be readily observed. The number contains a paper by Mr. N. H. Darton on 'Geothermal data from deep Artesian Wells of Dakota,' read at the recent meeting of the Geological Society of America, and an abstract, entitled 'Auriferous Conglomerate of the Transvaal,' by Mr. G. F. Becker of his paper published in the last report of the U. S. Geological Survey.

THE March number of *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* contains as frontispiece a portrait of Lord Lister, which is accompanied by a sketch of his life and work. The important series of Lowell Institute lectures on the

Racial Geography of Europe, by Dr. Wm. Z. Ripley, is completed in the present number with the 14th part entitled 'Urban Problems.' The first article is an illustrated account of 'The African Sahara by Professor Angelo Heilprin.' The number also contains an account of the St. Louis Academy of Natural Sciences, by Professor Frederick Starr, and several other articles of interest.

In addition to the usual articles on Arctic exploration, birds and the Klondike, the popular magazines contain several contributions of interest to men of science. Under the title 'A National Seminary of Learning,' Dr. W J McGee reviews in *Harper's* the work of the scientific institutions and bureaus of Washington as realizing, to a great extent, Washington's wish for a great national university, and in the same journal Mr. H. S. Williams continues his series of articles on science, reviewing anatomy and physiology. The second of a series of articles in the *Cosmopolitan* on the choice of a profession is by Professor E. S. Holden, and reviews the opportunities offered by science to young men. In this connection may also be mentioned an article in the *Homiletic Review* on 'The Value of a Scientific Education for the Pulpit.'

THE *School Science Review*, a monthly journal 'devoted to science for the teachers in the common schools,' has begun publication at Granville, Ohio, succeeding *The Examiner*, of which two volumes had previously been published. The journal is edited by Mr. W. W. Stockberger, of the Doane Academy, Granville, assisted by Messrs. E. E. Richards and C. S. Hoskinson. Such journals indicate a growing interest in the study of science in the schools, and have a mission of increasing importance to perform.

HERR S. KARGER, Berlin, announces the publication, beginning with the present year, of a *Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte auf dem Gebiete der Neurologie und Psychiatrie*, edited by Drs. Mendel, Flatau and Jacobsohn, with the cooperation of a number of specialists.

A *Dermatologisches Centralblatt*, on the usual lines of German Centralblätter, has begun publication from the house of Veit & Comp. Leipzig. It is edited by Dr. Max Joseph, Berlin.