

The ornamentation on the utensils from the Admiralty, Kaan and adjacent islands is judiciously analyzed, and the conventional modifications of the human figure skillfully explained. The wood-carving of New Ireland and the masks worn in the festivals supply other passages with suggestive matter. The work is a valuable contribution to the anthropology of the regions mentioned. D. G. BRINTON.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—SECTION OF BIOLOGY, MARCH 14, 1898.

MR. BRADNEY B. GRIFFIN reported on the *Nemertina* collected by himself in Puget Sound and Alaska. After briefly reviewing the previous work upon North Pacific *Nemertina*, he urged the priority of Stimpson's generic terms *Emplectonema* and *Diplopleura* in place of *Eunemertes* and *Langia*; he commented upon the occurrence of closely related though distinct species on the west coasts of both Europe and North America. The occurrence of *Cerebratulus marginatus* Renier was recorded. Among the new species described is a new *Carinoma* which occurs abundantly and presents two or three varieties, one of which burrows in the hard clay among Pholads. The remaining new species are distributed as follows: *Carinella* 2, *Amphiporus* 4, *Lineus* 1.

Mr. W. H. Hornaday described the destruction of bird life in the United States, from data which he secured from all parts of the country. Circulars containing the following questions were sent out to trappers, guides, sportsmen and naturalists in all parts of the United States:

(1) Are birds decreasing in your locality? (2) How many birds are there now compared with fifteen years ago? (3) What are the most destructive agents? (4) Are any birds becoming extinct? The answers came from all but four States and Territories and showed surprising agreement. The most destructive agencies are sportsmen, plume-hunters, boys after eggs, pot-hunters, fire, English sparrows, etc.; and through these it has been estimated that there has been a decrease of 46 % during the last fifteen years. It was shown that game and edible birds are becoming scarce, and that

song birds are being used for food in their stead; that plume-birds are becoming extinct, and that destructive agencies are increasing. Mr. Hornaday concluded with an appeal for more drastic measures in our game laws and for their careful execution.

Mr. N. R. Harrington reported on a collection made by himself of Crustacea from Puget Sound, worked up by W. T. Calman, University College, Dundee, Scotland. The paper dealt with sixty-three species, three of which were new, and several little known. Perhaps the most interesting part of the work related to a parasite, *Pseudoniti giardi* n. sp., of which male, female and larva were all described from a single specimen found on *Eupagurus ochotensis*. A new species of amphipod, *Polycheria osborni*, is interesting, because the only other known representative of this genus is found in the Antarctic region. The collection is divided up as follows: *Macrura*, 15 species, thirteen of these being shrimps; *Brachyura*, 34 species; *Iso-poda*, 6 species; *Amphipoda*, 3 species; *Copepoda*, 1 species.

The final paper was given by Mr. H. E. Crampton on his experiments on insect grafting, and upon one case in particular, where the colors of scales of one species were imposed upon the scales of another. GARY N. CALKINS,

Secretary of Section.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*A Text-Book on Roofs and Bridges.* Part IV., *Higher Structures.* MANSFIELD MERRIMAN, HENRY S. JACOBY. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1898. Pp. ix+276.

*Introduction to Electro-Chemical Experiments and Practical Exercises in Electro-Chemistry.* FELIX OETTEL; translated by EDGAR F. SMITH. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston, Son & Co. 1897. Pp. vii+143, 75 cents; and pp. vii+92, 75 cents.

*Alternate Currents in Practice.* Translated from the French of Loppé and Bouquet, by FRANCIS J. MOFFETT. London, Whittaker & Co.; New York, The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. 376. \$5.

*La photographie et l'étude des nuages.* JACQUES BOYER. Paris, Mendel. 1898. Pp. 80.