to determine the relation of the present International Metre to the old metre of the archives; and, therefore, the assumption heretofore made that these two bars are identical in length can no longer be accepted.

The second paper was by Mr. A. Lindenkohl, the substance of which was as follows: Recent hydrographic surveys off Montauk Point and off the southern coast of the New England States furnish more exact information concerning the submerged terminal moraines of those regions than preceding ones. The shoal ground which, in the shape of a horseshoe, stretches from Martha's Vineyard to Block Island, is believed to be of glacial origin, and shows that the moraine was laid down on a very uneven floor, and that here the ice sheet pushed out into the sea to a greater distance and depth than elsewhere in the vicinity. A 'drowned' river channel breaking through this shoal ground indicates a subsidence of about 150 feet. The shoal ground between Block Island and Long Island has several dangerous rocky heads; their existence was not suspected until, in 1862, the steamship 'Great Eastern' struck on one of them, since called 'Great Eastern Rock.' About half way between the two islands we meet another sunken river channel, giving evidence of a subsidence of about 130 feet. The moraine which is represented by Cape Cod and the Elizabeth Islands does not appear to terminate at Cuttyhunk, but to extend farther to the southwest, including Brown's shoal, and to connect with the one on the mainland by successive steps, forming barriers across the entrance of Buzzard's Bay, which are pierced by a channel 120 feet deep. This channel points to a sinking of the land of about 80 feet. The subsidence of 150 feet furnishes an estimate of the highest level attained by the land since the glacial period, and those of 130 and 80 feet, respectively, to indicate transitory levels during a period of gradual subsidence.

E. D. PRESTON,
Secretary.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA.

May 24. MR. CHARLES MORRIS, under the auspices of the Anthropological Section, read a paper on the antiquity of man from the standpoint of evolution.

The carnivorous tendencies of certain monkeys were considered by Messrs. Dixon and Morris.

May 31. PROFESSOR H. A. PILSBRY exhibited a fine collection of mollusca from South Australia, presented to the Academy by Mr. Bednall, of Adelaide. They nearly complete the Academy's collection of shells from that region. The mollusca, and probably the other invertebrates of South Australia, are not at all archaic, and do not represent the fauna of an earlier geological period as do the higher orders.

PROFESSOR B. SHARP called attention to a specimen of *Ibacus Peronii* from South Australia, other examples of the same decapod being from China, thus illustrating an important extension of geographical range. The second antennæ, the auditory function of which was dwelt on, are curiously flattened and extended laterally, instead of being lengthened, as is usually the case. The strong spines of the species resemble those of *Palinurus* and are probably of similar protective value. A species of *Pseudosquilla* in the collection from the same region is common to the tropical Pacific.

A paper entitled 'Botanical Observations on Mexican Flora, especially on the Flora of the Valley of Mexico,' by J. W. Harshberger, M.D, was presented for publication.

EDW. J. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

L'Année philosophique, publiée sous la directions de F. PILLON. Paris, Alcan. 1898. Pp. 312.

Introduction to Algebra for the use of Secondary Schools and Technical Colleges. G. CHRYSTAL. London, Adam and Charles Black; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xviii +412+xxv. $1.25.

La fatigue intellectuelle. A BINET et V. HENRE. Paris, Schleicher Frères. 1898. Pp. 338.

Industrial Electricity. Translated and adapted from the French of HENRY DE GRAFFIGNY by A. G. ELLIOTT, B.Sc. London, Whittaker & Co.; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. 152. 75 cents.