

Fewkes; Use of Rubber Bags in Gauging Cranial Capacity, by Washington Matthews; Ojibwa Feather Symbolism, by W J McGee. The Girl and the Dogs—An Eskimo Folk-tale with Comments, by Signe Rink.

THE July *Monist* opens with an article by Professor C. Lloyd Morgan on 'The Philosophy of Evolution,' which seeks to reconcile metaphysics with science. Professor Jacques Loeb has a brief discussion of 'Assimilation and Heredity,' maintaining that, since any theory of heredity must be based upon the mechanics of assimilation, we are consequently forced to supplement our purely morphological hypothesis of heredity by a chemical theory. Dr. Paul Topinard devotes some forty odd pages to the treatment of the 'Social Problem,' which he reviews in the light of natural history, anthropology and sociology proper. In 'Gnosticism in Its Relation to Christianity,' Dr. Paul Carus seeks to show that gnosticism, far from having been a heretical Christian sect was a general religious movement of pre-Christian times, and that Christianity sprang from it and survived it by the law of the survival of the fittest.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 21.

MR. LEWIS WOOLMAN described a series of well-borings from Rock Hall, Maryland, indicating the depth at which forty-one forms of diatoms occur. The deposit resembles that for 80 to 100 feet at Wildwood, Maryland. He regarded the deposit as much more recent than miocene. A small bed of the latter is placed between it and the Eocene. There is a considerable mixture of fresh-water diatoms with the marine forms.

MR. D. S. HOLMAN described the fission of three forms of infusorians generated in putrefactive solution.

MR. PHILIP P. CALVERT recounted his recent studies of dragon-flies from tropical America and dwelt on his mode of determining averages of variations in extensive groups. Much the largest proportion of such variation is atavistic, illustrations being given from the genera described.

A paper entitled 'A New Chipmunk from Northeastern China,' by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., was presented for publication.

EDW. J. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, APRIL 27, 1898.

THE first paper, by Mr. Tracy E. Hazen, was entitled 'Notes on the Life History of *Hæmatococcus* and other Fresh-water Algae.' He exhibited a dried specimen of *Hæmatococcus* from Vermont, consisting of a dull red incrustation on rock, from which some of his own cultures had been made. The paper, which will soon be published, described the stages of its life history, and was illustrated by colored drawings. Discussions by Professor Lloyd, Dr. Townsend, Dr. Britton and others followed. The Secretary referred to a gathering of Red Snow made at the Crimson Cliffs of North Greenland by the Peary party two years ago, which exhibits a much more brilliant red than the *Hæmatococcus* of our own neighborhood.

The second paper, by Mrs. Elizabeth G. Britton, was entitled 'An account of the Mosses collected by Mr. Pierre Jay in Peru and Bolivia in 1893.' She exhibited about 60 sheets of these mosses, the specimens shown forming, however, only a small part of the entire collection, which include many species of tropical American genera like *Hookeria* and *Meteorium*, not yet determined. The Bolivian specimens were collected in June and July near La Paz and Yungus, and are largely species of high altitudes and exposed localities. The Peruvian specimens were collected in the vicinity of Cuzco and the tributaries of the Madre de Dois, and are mostly forest species, including showy *Phyllogoniums* and *Porotrichums* and various species of *Entodon* and *Rhizogonium*. The collection promises to be very interesting and will be compared with Dr. Rusby's collections of 1885 and M. Germain's, both of which have recently been enumerated and described by Dr. C. Müller in his *Prodromus of the Mosses of Bolivia* in the *Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano* for 1897.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.