

Wooten has been appointed professor of botany, and T. D. A. Cockerell has been appointed professor of entomology in addition to being Station Entomologist.

ROBERT B. OWENS, for the past seven years professor of electrical engineering in the University of Nebraska, has resigned in order to accept a similar position in McGill University, Montreal. His successor has not yet been appointed.

T. PROCTOR HALL has been appointed professor of physics in Kansas City University.

DR. BLOCHMAN, professor of zoology in the University of Rostock, has been called to Tübingen as successor to the late Professor Eimer; Dr. Fritsch has been appointed Director of the Botanical Museum of the University of Vienna; Dr. D. K. Morris, lecturer in technical electricity in the Mason University College, Birmingham; Dr. D. Frazer Harris, lecturer in physiology in the University of St. Andrew's. Dr. Kerschner, of the University at Innsbruck, has been promoted to a full professorship of histology; Dr. Reitzenstein, of the University of Mühlhausen, has qualified as docent in chemistry in the University at Würzburg; Dr. Kolkwitz, in botany in the University of Berlin; Dr. Klingenberg, in mechanical engineering, in the Polytechnic Institute of Berlin; Dr. Schröter, in botany, in the University at Bonn, and Dr. Rothmund, in physical chemistry, in the University of Munich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF PLACOCEPHALUS (BIPALIUM) KEWENSE IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Two specimens of land-planarians from the Sandwich Islands were sent to the writer from the National Museum for identification which proved to be the interesting Placocephalus (Bipalium) Kewense. They were taken by Dr. Steiniger in November, 1896, on the island of Oahu, at the top of the Pali, near Honolulu. The specimens were small ones, and in the living condition could not have exceeded 150 mm. in length. If we except New Zealand, this form has been known in the Pacific only from Upolu, one of the Samoan Islands, and its occurrence in the Sandwich Islands is of es-

pecial interest in bridging over a large gap in the distribution of so cosmopolitan a form. Doubtless it has also been introduced there, where so much of the vegetation is of foreign origin.*

The writer† has recorded the occurrence of this species in the United States at Cambridge, Mass, and has since received specimens from Baltimore, Md.; Pittsburg and Allegheny, Pa., and Springfield, Ohio, in every case from green-houses. Outside of the tropics the form has been taken only in plant houses. The writer would be grateful for any specimens or information from the Pacific Coast.

W. McM. WOODWORTH.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., August 15, 1898.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

La Theorie Platonicienne des sciences. Par ÉLIE HALÉVY. Paris, Félix Alcan.

It is to be feared that Mr. Halévy and his reviewer have gained admission to the pages of SCIENCE under cover of an *équivoque*. The word 'sciences' in Mr. Halévy's title has perhaps a somewhat broader meaning than that it bears in ordinary English usage. It is rather 'knowledge' than 'science.' Mr. Halévy's book is not an account of Plato's supposed contributions to mathematics and astronomy, or a discussion of his casual utterances concerning the inchoate physical sciences of the fourth century B. C. It deals rather with epistemology than with physical science. Its main thesis is that the Platonic philosophy is the result of a dialectical analysis of the epistemological conditions of the sciences—of the 'knowledges,' of the certainty of human knowledge. The arts and sciences exist. What are the logical presuppositions of their existence and of our sense of certainty regarding them? Whatever philosophy of ideas is involved in the very existence of a body of arts and sciences must be a true philosophy. In constructing such a philosophy out of Plato's dramatic dialogues Mr. Halévy displays great ingenuity and power of consecutive logical thought. He over-refines,

* For the distribution of this interesting form see Colin, A. Sitzungs. Gesell. naturf. Freunde, Berlin, Jahrg., 1892, No. 9, p. 164.

† *American Naturalist*, Vol. XXX., p. 1046, 1896.