used and becomes larger an effect is exerted on the germ such that the organ tends to develop to a larger size in the next generation, and this peculiarity will in later generations be developed earlier and earlier in embryonic life, becoming at the same time more stably heritable.

The work is full of interesting facts, is written in a fairly readable style and is accompanied by an extensive 'Litteraturverzeichniss' of over 11 pages. While one may question the validity of the theory and find the explanation of inheritance of acquired characters vague and unsatisfactory, still we can hardly regard such an attempt as this to draw up a new and complete theory of evolution as entirely in vain.

CHAS. B. DAVENPORT.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

American Chemical Journal, October: 'On Some Double Halides of Mercury,' by J. N. Swan. 'The Double Halides of Tin with Aniline and the Toluidines,' by R. L. Slagle. 'On Double Halides of Zinc with Aniline and the Toluidines,' by D. Base. These three papers contain the results of work carried on in the Johns Hopkins University, in the general line which has been under investigation there for a number of years. The field has been thoroughly worked over, and, as a result, many of the compounds described in the literature have been shown to be impure substances or mixtures. 'Sulphonation of the Paraffins,' by R. A. Worstall. The author has found that the sulphonic acid of these hydrocarbons can be easily formed, and he has prepared a number of these acids and their salts. 'The Formation of Hydrazides by the Action of Phenylhydrazine upon Organic Acids in the Cold,' by V. L. Leighton. 'Aliphatic Sulphonic Acids, Ethylenesulphonic Acid,' by E. P. Kohler. The recently discovered gases—'krypton, metargon, neon and coronium'—and 'fermentation without cells' are discussed in the Notes at the end of this number.

J. E. G.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 4, 1898.

AT the opening meeting of the conference general statements concerning the opportunities for advanced geological work in the vicinity of Cambridge were made by the several instructors and two papers were presented.

Dr. J. E. Wolff spoke on 'The Relation of the Granite to the Ore Deposits at Franklin Furnace, New Jersey.' The problem discussed was the relative age of the zinc ores and the granite. According to one theory the ore, granite, limestone and associated secondary minerals are all contemporaneous. While by the other the ore dates from the time the granite was intruded. Dr. Wolff recently observed the contacts between several dikes of granite and the ore body, at the nine hundred and fifty-foot level, Parker Shaft, which were in some cases parallel and in others transverse to the parallel-banded structure of the ore. The granite, in places, showed a finer grain at the contact, a contact zone of garnet and indurated ore, tending to show the intrusion of the granite into the pre-existing ore body.

Dr. R. A. Daly introduced a future illustrated paper on the Volga River, with a sketch of the Physiography of Russia. In travelling across the great basin of Russia one may find evidence of three well defined periods of denudation. The first resulted in the peneplain upon the crystalline foundation which underlies, everywhere and at no great distance from the surface, the Palæozoic and later sediments; the second culminated in Triassic time, and the third is still in progress. The last is marked by a maturely developed peneplain of constant altitude, and remarkable continuity.

J. M. BOUTWELL,
Recording Secretary pro tempore.

NEW BOOKS.

A Text-book of Mineralogy. EDWARD SALISBURY DANA. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall, Limited. 1898. New Edition. Pp. vii + 593. $4.00.

Radiation. H. H. FRANCIS HYNDMAN and SILVANUS P. THOMPSON. London, Swan & Sonnenschein; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xviii + 307.

North America. FRANK G. CARPENTER. New York, The American Book Company. 1898. Pp. 352.