

description was presented at the meeting of the British Association in Cambridge.

Professor Osborn was followed by Professor Britton, who gave a *résumé* of the work accomplished during the summer on the building and grounds at the Botanic Garden in Bronx Park.

Professor Dean reported on a few results on the embryology of the Hag Fish, which he thinks is similar to that of the shark. He also described the appearance of a Central African Lung Fish (*Protopterus*), which was sent to him in a ball of dried mud.

Dr. O. S. Strong and Mr. H. E. Crampton reported briefly of the nature of the work accomplished at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl, bringing out particularly the fact of the cordial relations between the Fish Commission investigators and those of the Laboratory.

Mr. N. R. Harrington related some interesting experiences in connection with his expedition to the Nile valley in quest of *Polypterus bishir*. The expedition, which was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Chas. H. Senff, was undertaken by Mr. Harrington and Dr. Reid Hunt. As guests of the Egyptian government they enjoyed unusual advantages in securing their ends, but only after repeated trials and discomforts and many disappointments did they finally get the fish.

Other brief reports were made by Professor Lloyd (on the botanic gardens of Germany), Dr. Brockway and Mr. Calkins.

GARY N. CALKINS,  
*Secretary of Section.*

GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 11, 1898.

MR. A. W. GRABAU opened the work for the year with a paper on 'Some Methods of Stratigraphical Field-work.' He illustrated practical suggestions on collecting fossils and measuring sections by cases drawn from his detailed study of the Eighteen Mile Creek section, New York. Mr. J. R. Healy described the features studied by the Harvard mining class during its summer visit to the Lake Superior mining region. The party examined the underground workings of thirteen mines, and the open-cut workings in the extensive iron-ore deposits of the Mesabi Range.

OCTOBER 18, 1898.

DR. F. P. GULLIVER delivered a paper on the 'Physiography of the Ural Mountains, and illustrated it with numerous lantern views. The Great Plain of Russia, a plain of denudation, rises gently and constantly from the center of the country into the Urals. It has been traced upon the folded and faulted Devonian strata of the outer ranges, and also upon the more intensely plicated Carboniferous beds and upon the granite of the Central Urals. In addition to this, Dr. Gulliver observed remnants of peneplains at two other distinct levels. The relative attitudes of these levels indicate, first, that the Ural Mountains have been elevated as a whole in the form of an arch with a north-south axis; and second, that this elevation, and the dissection consequent upon it, occurred in at least three distinct stages.

The physiographic features noted on the western side of the continental divide are repeated on the eastern side, with the addition of a steep fall-off from the Ilmen Mountains to the great Siberian peneplain. Richtofen holds that this is a sea scarp cut by the same sea that carved the Siberian plain. Others believe that it is a fault scarp which marks the disjoining of the Siberian plain from one of the upper levels of the Urals.

J. M. BOUTWELL,  
*Recording Secretary pro tempore.*

NEW BOOKS.

*The Psychology of Peoples and its Influence on Their Evolution.* New York, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xii + 236.

*The Fishes of North and Middle America.* DAVID STARR JORDAN and BARTON W. EVERMANN. Washington, Government Printing Office. 1898. Part 4. Pp. xxx + from 1241-2183.

*Laboratory Exercise in Anatomy and Physiology.* JAMES EDWARD PEABODY. New York, Henry Holt & Co. 1898. Pp. x + 79.

*Observations of the Planet Mars during the Opposition of 1894-95, made at Flagstaff, Arizona.* PERCIVAL LOWELL. Annals of the Lowell Observatory, Vol I. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1898. Pp. xi + 391.