

occupied by *Lemmus insularis* Nillson (= *Microtus agrestis* L.), described in the *Öfversigt K. Vetensk. Akad. Förhandlingar*, Stockholm, I., 33-35, 1844. I therefore propose the name *nesophilus* in place of *insularis* for the Great Gull Island *Microtus*.

VERNON BAILEY.

CHANGE OF NAME FOR *SCIURUS ALBIPES*
QUERCINUS NELSON.

THE name *Sciurus quercinus* which I used for a Mexican squirrel recently described as *S. albipes quercinus* (*Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, June 3, 1898, XII., pp. 150-151), proves to be preoccupied by Erxleben (*Syst. Reg. Anim.* 1777, p. 432). I therefore propose for the Mexican subspecies the name *hernandezii*.

E. W. NELSON.

NOVEMBER 19, 1898.

PROFESSOR JAMES INGRAHAM PECK.

By the death of James Ingraham Peck, Williams College loses an able and beloved professor; the Marine Biological Laboratory, an executive officer of rare ability; American Biology, an investigator of keen perception; and a host of young biological workers, a willing helper and an inspiring friend.

Dr. Peck was born at Seneca Castle, Oneida county, New York, August 10, 1863, and entered Williams College from Canandaigua Academy when twenty years of age. After the completion of his college course he remained for one year as a graduate student, and took a second year of graduate work at Johns Hopkins University. In 1892 he was appointed assistant in biology at Williams College, and in 1894 he was promoted to the position of assistant professor, which office he held until the time of his death, November 4, 1898. He leaves a wife, a woman universally beloved, and a little boy.

Although Dr. Peck was a thorough teacher and a man of unusual popularity

both with students and officers, it was not through his academic work at Williamstown, but rather through his scientific and executive work at Woods Holl, that he was best known.

In 1888 Dr. Peck prepared one of the first serious contributions to the study of Variation that had been made since the time of Darwin. The summer of 1889 he spent at Woods Holl, where he worked upon the habits of the young of certain food fishes. In 1890 he published his *Cymbuliopsis* paper. In 1892 he was again a member of the scientific staff of the Fish Commission Laboratory, where he worked upon the Pteropods and Heteropods collected by the Albatross. The summer of 1893 was spent in preparing his paper on the 'Food of the Menhaden,' and in 1894 he continued his plankton studies and prepared a paper on the 'Sources of Marine Food.' In 1895 he was placed in charge of the Laboratory of the Fish Commission, and in 1896 he accepted the position of Assistant Director of the Marine Biological Laboratory.

For the three years that Dr. Peck was in charge of the general affairs of the Marine Biological Laboratory he worked with untiring energy, and inspired all who visited the Laboratory with a spirit of devotion to science and of loyalty to the institution. During the past summer he worked with unabated energy, denied himself the many opportunities for rest and recuperation that his students and friends besought him to take, and returned to Williamstown entirely unfitted to withstand the strain of severe illness. He literally sacrificed himself for science.

H. C. BUMPUS.

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NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

THE leading article in the last number of the *Chemical News*, is a long criticism of the recent, supposed discovery of a new gas,