

lated upon having brought out in these latter days such a virile volume.

CONWAY MACMILLAN.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

American Chemical Journal, November: 'On the cause of the retention and release of gases occluded by the oxides of metals:' By T. W. Richards. The author has studied the conditions under which the gases are given off and suggests a theory to account for the observed facts. 'New experiments on the quantitative synthesis of water:' By E. H. Keiser. The author has weighed the hydrogen and oxygen used and the water formed, and obtained figures which gave an atomic weight of 15.88 for oxygen if hydrogen is taken as 1. 'On the metaphosphimic acids:' By H. N. Stokes. The homologous series of compounds of the general formula $(\text{PNCl}_2)_n$ when saponified yield acids; but the higher members do not yield acids of the same general structure as the lower ones, a fact for which the author suggests an explanation based on the Baeyer 'tension theory.' 'The ethers of toluquinone oxime and their bearing on the space isomerism of nitrogen:' By J. L. Bridge and W. C. Morgan. 'On the claims of davium to recognition as a chemical element:' By J. W. Mallet. The evidence seems to be against the existence of this element.

J. E. G.

THE *American Naturalist* for November opens with a paper by Professor Henry S. Williams entitled 'Variation versus Heredity,' maintaining the views previously described by him in *SCIENCE*; Professor William Patten contributes an article on the theory of color vision described by him at the American Physiological Society in 1897 and the American Morphological Society in 1896; Professor W. J. Beal gives examples of peculiar dispersion of seeds and fruits, and Professor C. B. Davenport summarizes the advance of biology in 1896 from the *Année biologique*.

THE first number of the second volume of the *American Journal of Physiology*, issued on November 22d, contains the following articles:

'On the Excretion of Kynurenic Acid:' By Lafayette B. Mendel and Holmes C. Jackson, Ph.B.

'On the Modification of Rigor Mortis resulting from Previous Fatigue of the Muscle, in Cold-Blooded Animals:' By Caroline W. Latimer, M.D.

'On the Relation of the Blood to the Automaticity and Sequence of the Heart-Beat:' By W. H. Howell.

'On the Relation of the Inorganic Salts of Blood to the Automatic Activity of a Strip of Ventricular Muscle:' By Charles Wilson Greene.

MESSRS. ROBERT AIKMAN & Co., Manchester, announce the publication of a new periodical, '*Science Work*,' edited by Mr. Walter Jeffs. It will be issued monthly and is intended to do for science what the *Review of Reviews* is doing in a wider field. The annual subscription is only 2/6—60 cents.

AT the winter meeting of Section H, American Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Ithaca, December 28, 1897, a committee was appointed to found a journal designed to promote the interests of anthropology in America. The committee held several meetings, conferred with publishers, and reported to Section H at the Boston meeting of the Association. It has been decided to undertake the publication, provided a sufficient number of persons indicate their willingness to support the movement by subscribing for the first volume. The journal will be issued in quarterly numbers of about two hundred octavo pages, forming an annual volume of about eight hundred pages, the first number to appear in January, 1899. The subscription price will be \$4. It will embrace: (1) papers pertaining to all parts of the domain of anthropology, the technical papers to be limited in number and length; (2) scientific notes and news pertaining to anthropology, and (3) a current bibliography of anthropology. The new journal will succeed the *American Anthropologist*, of the Anthropological Society of Washington, and the name of this journal may be adopted or a new name selected—'*American Journal of Anthropology*' and '*Anthropology*.' The journal will be published by Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons and conducted by the following editorial board: Dr. Frank Baker, Dr. Franz Boas, Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, Dr. George M. Dawson, Dr. George A. Dorsey, Professor W. H. Holmes, Major J. W. Powell, Professor F. W. Putnam; F. W. Hodge, *Secretary* and *Managing Editor*.