

Die Spiele der Menschen. KARL GROOS. Jena, Gustav Fischer. 1899. Pp. iv + 538. Mark 10.

Zoological Results based on Material from New Britain, New Guinea, Loyalty Islands and Elsewhere, collected during the Years 1895-1897. ARTHUR WILLEY. Cambridge University Press. 1899. Pt. 2. Pp. 121-206. 12s. 6d.

Lectures on the Evolution of Plants. DOUGLAS HOUGHTON CAMPBELL. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. viii + 319. \$1.25.

Mental Arithmetic. J. A. MCLELLAN and A. F. AMES. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. x + 138.

New York State Museum. Forty-ninth Annual Report of the Regents, 1895. Vol. 2, Report of State Geologist, Albany. University of the State of New York. 1898. Pp. 738.

Physical Chemistry for Beginners. DR. CH. VAN DERVENTER. With an Introduction by PROFESSOR J. H. VAN'T HOFF. Translated by BERTRAM B. BOTHROW. New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Co. 1899. Pp. x + 154. \$1.50.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE *Auk* for January is an unusually large number, and consequently is a little late in making its appearance. It commences with Mr. Chapman's discussion of the 'Relationships of *Ammodramus maritimus* and its Allies,' which is followed by Mr. O. B. Warren's 'Chapter in the Life History of the Canada Jay.' Mr. Oberholser has a paper on 'The Blue Honey-Creepers of Tropical America,' for which the new generic name *Cyanerpes* is proposed, and Dr. Gill considers the generic names *Pediocætes* and *Poocætes*, concluding that they must give way to *Pedioecetes* and *Poocetetes*. Many new species and subspecies are described, a New *Hylocichla* by Mr. Oberholser, a number of new forms from Mexico by Mr. Nelson, and several new species and subspecies of *N. A. Fringillidæ* by Mr. Ridgway. Under the caption 'Truth versus Error,' Mr. Elliot and Dr. Allen continue the discussion of the propriety of correcting mis-spelled scientific names. Mr. Witmer Stone presents a long report, very encouraging in parts, on 'The Protection of North American Birds,' and, finally, is the Ninth Supplement to the A. O. U. Check List. This contains a long list of

changes, the most startling of which, perhaps, is at the outset, where the generic name for the Loons is decided to be *Gavia* and the family name *Gaviidæ*.

THE contents of *The American Journal of Science* for February are as follows:

'Contribution to the Study of Contact Metamorphism,' by J. M. Clements.

'Origin of Mammals,' by H. F. Osborn.

'Chemical Composition of Tourmaline,' by S. L. Penfield and H. W. Foote.

'Littoral Mollusks from Cape Fairweather, Patagonia,' by H. A. Pilsbry.

'Thermodynamic Relations for Steam,' by G. P. Starkweather.

'Descriptions of imperfectly known and new Actinians, with critical notes on other species, III,' by A. E. Verrill.

'Volumetric Method for the Estimation of Boric Acid,' by L. C. Jones.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE TEXAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE midwinter meeting of the Texas Academy of Science was held in Austin during the last week of December. The program was as follows:

Tuesday, December 27th.—(1) 'Do the Reactions of the Lower Animals due to Injury indicate Pain Sensations?' Professor W. W. Norman, University of Texas. Numerous experiments upon living animals were described in detail and the conclusion reached that so far as the invertebrates and the lower vertebrates are concerned the reactions due to injury do not necessarily indicate pain. (2) 'Three Recent Gifts to the University of Texas,' Dr. W. J. Battle. The gifts described in this paper consisted of, 1st, a storage amphora from the cellar of the Courts of Justinian in Constantinople; 2d, a stone bearing an inscription recording the gift of a crown to one Lysagoras by the people of Ilium, and 3d, a twelfth century manuscript of the Gospels from the Island of Prinkipos, Sea of Marmora. These interesting objects were presented to the University by the Hon. Alexander Terrell, late Minister of the United States to Turkey.

Wednesday, December 28th.—(1) 'Some New Measurements of Electric Waves,' Regent R. S. Hyer, Southwestern University. This valu-