

who are responsible for its inception and successful execution.

THE STUDY OF IOWA SEDGES.

In a recent bulletin of the Laboratories of Natural History of the State University of Iowa, Mr. R. I. Cratty contributes a valuable paper upon the sedges of Iowa.

The list includes the results of about thirty years of work by Iowa botanists, and brings together data relating to ten genera and one hundred and fourteen species. With regard to the nature of the sedge flora of Iowa, the author says that it is "characteristically Eastern and corresponds quite closely with that of the bordering States, and, though lying just east of the Great Plains, but one species, *Carex stenophylla* Wahl., has yet been found which does not occur east of the Mississippi River. The richest portion of the State in sedges is that bordering on this great waterway. This may be accounted for partly because of the greater diversity of soil, surface, woodland and prairie in that region, and partly because the natural agencies for the distribution of seeds and the greater rainfall combine to favor that portion of the State."

NORTH AMERICAN SEAWEEDS.

With the distribution of the eleventh fascicle of *Phytotheca Boreali-Americana* by Messrs. Collins, Holden and Setchell there comes the announcement of a new series, to consist of larger specimens, including such plants as *Nereocystis*, *Laminaria*, *Fucus*, *Agarum*, *Dictyonereis*, etc. The fascicles of this series will be designated by letters, A, B, C, etc., and the specimens numbered with Roman numerals, I., II., III., etc., so as to avoid confusion with the other series. Moreover, the fascicles of the new series will contain twenty-five numbers each, instead of fifty, as in the old series. There will thus be two series running side by side, and the announcement is made that either one may be subscribed for separately or both may be taken simultaneously.

ARTHUR AND HOLWAY'S RUSTS.

Four years ago Dr. J. C. Arthur and Mr. E. W. D. Holway issued fascicle I of a distribution of specimens and figures of the Rusts under the

title 'Uredineæ Exsiccatae et Icones.' A few days ago the second fascicle was received, and it is so noteworthy as to call for a word here. It contains fifty-two packets of specimens, each accompanied by enlarged drawings of the spores, and in addition thirteen photomicrographs taken directly from prepared slides. When we remember that this fascicle is sent to subscribers for three dollars we may realize that it is entirely a labor of love. Its value to students of the Rusts is incalculable.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

COURSES AT THE ÉCOLE D'ANTHROPOLOGIE.

THE following courses, public and gratuitous, are given this winter at the School of Anthropology, Paris: (1) Prehistoric anthropology: its general principles and methods (Professor Capitan). (2) Zoological anthropology: Origin of man (Professor Mahoudeau). (3) Ethnography and Linguistics: French language and culture in the 12th and 13th centuries (Professor Lefèvre). (4) Ethnology: The Basques and Aquitanians (Professor Hervé). (5) Biological Anthropology: The struggle for life (Professor Laborde). (6) Anthropological Geography: America (Professor Schrader). (7) Physiological Anthropology: The sexes (Professor Manouvrier). (8) Sociology: China (Professor Letourneau). An extra course on North Africa will be given by Professor Zaborowski. There are two lectures a day on five days of the week.

THE MEANING OF 'RACE.'

THAT much abused word, 'race,' has been the stumbling-block of many writers. Anthropologists try to make it a zoological term, connoting certain identical physical features. How far this is from general acceptance is illustrated in the presidential address of Mr. Alfred Nutt before the Folk-lore Society. He says: "Outside the record of history, of literature, of art, of systematized thought, the word 'race' is, for me, void of meaning. When I speak of 'race' I have in mind a community which for a definite number of centuries has manifested itself in clearly defined products of the mind—has set

upon the universal human material of speculation and fancy its special stamp and impress. Such a manifestation is by no means necessarily conditioned by blood-kinship."

It is to be regretted that such a divergence of opinion as to the proper signification of this word exists in two branches of the same science. Does it not show the necessity of an improved terminology?

THE EXTINCTION OF THE POLYNESIAN.

A HUNDRED years ago the Hawaiian Islands were said to have had 400,000 native population; now 30,000 is a high estimate. The same fearful diminution has been going on through Polynesia. Dr. Tautain has recently studied its causes in the Marquesas Islands *L'Anthropologie*, 1898, No. 4). The principal are the following: (1) Leprosy, which leads to impotence and sterility; (2) tuberculosis, which is eminently contagious and destructive; (3) syphilis, which is less marked than might be supposed; (4) licentiousness, the consequences of which are very visible in developing metritis and sterility or abortion. This last is the most injurious of all the causes, and Dr. Tautain places it as the principal factor in leading to diminished natality. The total absence of sexual morality operates in many directions to undermine the viability of the race.

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MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory, held at Columbia University, the report of the Treasurer showed that the funds of the institution were in a satisfactory condition. Professor S. F. Clarke, of Williams College, very generously contributed \$400 to defray the expenses of certain necessary alterations and repairs in and about the laboratory buildings, and a rising vote of thanks was given, as an expression of the gratitude of the Board for the very acceptable gift.

The following minute relative to the death of Professor Peck, the Assistant Director, was unanimously adopted:

"The Trustees of the Marine Biological Laboratory have heard with profound sorrow of the death of their colleague, Professor James I. Peck, of Williams College. They wish to record their appreciation of the invaluable service which he rendered to the Marine Biological Laboratory, and especially to express their high regard for the generous and unfailing way in which as Assistant Director he devoted himself to the maintenance and development of the Laboratory. They feel the deepest sympathy with Williams College and with his family in the loss which both have sustained."

By special vote the Board expressed itself as favorable to the establishment of more intimate relations between the Laboratory and the *Zoological Bulletin*. Circulars explaining these relations, and announcements for the forthcoming season, will be issued to members of the Corporation, and to others interested, at an early date.

The election of an Assistant Director was referred to a committee with power, and since the meeting Dr. Ulric Dahlgren, of Princeton University, for three years one of the instructors at Woods Holl in the department of invertebrate zoology, has been appointed to the position.

H. C. BUMPUS,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN and Professor Dean C. Worcester arrived at Vancouver on January 30th, and immediately embarked on the steamship 'Empress of Japan' on their way to the Philippines.

PROFESSOR D. T. MACDOUGAL, of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed to be director of the laboratories of the New York Botanical Garden. He will enter upon the duties of the new position next July, by which time it is believed the new museum building will be ready for occupancy. The laboratory system occupies the greater portion of the upper floor, connecting with the library rooms and the herbarium.

PROFESSOR G. H. DARWIN has been elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society, London.

PROFESSOR MENDELEJEV, of St. Petersburg, has been elected a correspondent in the Section