

ence of peneplains on this earth of shifting base levels. Professor F. L. Washburn describes and figures the shoulder girdle of 'A Peculiar Toad,' presenting the abnormality of an extra (left) fore limb. The abundant literature on the subject of the Trenton Gravels receives an addition from Dr. Frank Russell, who describes some 'Human Remains from the Trenton Gravels,' concluding that the skulls which are figured are those of modern Indians, probably of the Lenni Lenapé. A goodly proportion of Notes and Reviews fill out the number.

THE *Journal of the Boston Society of Medical Sciences* for January comprises two parts, each containing a number of excellent plates. Those illustrating the articles on the 'Pathological Histology of Acute Lacunar Tonsillitis,' by J. L. Goodale, and the 'Character of the Cellular Exudation in Acute Keratitis of the Rabbit,' by W. T. Councilman, are particularly fine. Our anti-vivisection friends who discredit the existence of hydrophobia would do well to read the paper by Langdon Frothingham on 'Rabies in the Vicinity of Boston,' where 20 positive cases are noted between March, 1897, and December, 1898. An interesting series of 'Observations on the Effects Produced by the 6-mm. Rifle and Projectile,' by H. G. Beyer, is well calculated to create respect for the new Navy arm.

THE *Botanical Gazette* for February contains the following leading articles: 'New or Little Known North America Trees,' C. S. Sargent; 'The Ecological Relations of the Vegetation on the Sand Dunes of Lake Michigan,' Henry C. Cowles; 'The Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology—Columbia Meeting,' W. F. Ganong. The briefer articles include: 'Notes on the Maximum Thermal Death-point of *Sporotrichum Globuliferum*,' B. M. Duggar; 'Descriptions of Two Willows from Central America,' W. W. Rowlee; 'A Peculiar Case of Spore Distribution,' F. L. Stevens; 'A New Silphium,' Wm. M. Canby.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

SECTION OF PSYCHOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

At the regular monthly meeting of the section, on February 24th, papers were presented

by R. S. Woodworth on the 'Accuracy of Movement,' by F. C. Spencer on the 'Origin and Persistent Influence of Sacred Number Concepts,' and by F. Boas on 'Anthropometric Charts.'

Dr. Boas presented the results of recent investigations, which show that the anthropometric charts now used in the gymnasium by anthropologists are valueless as a means for estimating the development of individuals.

CHAS. B. BLISS,
Secretary.

ONONDAGA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

At the January meeting annual reports of officers and sections were received and the following officers were elected: President, John Van Duyn, M.D.; Vice-President, J. A. Dakin; Secretary, P. F. Schneider; Corresponding Secretary, H. W. Britcher; Treasurer, Miss L. W. Roberts; Librarian, Miss V. L. Jones.

The report of the Geological Section showed considerable progress in the investigation of interesting local problems, and cited the discovery of a vein of quartz crystals in the Corniferous rock at the Onondaga Indian Reservation.

The report of the Botanical Section included new localities for several of the rarer plants of the county. One plant, *Glaucium glaucium*, was reported as new to the county, and two, *Crepis virens* and *Sanguisorba canadensis*, were reported as new to the State. *Selaginella selaginoides* was also found and is probably new to the State.

The report of the Zoological Section contained the result of feeding experiments on the larvæ of *Diedamia inscripta*. During the year upwards of thirty spiders were added to the list of Onondaga county species. Of these, nine species had not hitherto been reported in the State.

H. W. BRITCHER.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THE SO CALLED TOBACCO FERMENTATION?

Thus far it has been generally believed that the rise of temperature and the chemical changes that take place when the cured tobacco leaves are piled up in heaps are due to bacterial action. But careful investigations of the 'fer-