

lished in the Minnesota Botanical Studies as a part of the publications of the State Geological and Natural History Survey. Appearing at intervals in the form of a periodical, the 'Studies' are unique among the botanical publications of the country. Here is a case of the endowment of research which is to be commended to other States. Eight titles appear in the current number (Part II., Second Series) including 'Seedlings of certain woody plants, Comparative anatomy of hypocotyl and epicotyl in woody plants, Seed dissemination and distribution of *Razoumofskya robusta*, Observations on Constantinea,' etc., etc.

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THE BRAIN OF HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ.

PROFESSOR DAVID HANSEMAN, of the University of Berlin, has contributed to the *Zeitschrift für Psychologie* (Part I. of Volume XX., issued on March 7th) an account of his examination of the brain of the late Professor von Helmholtz. Death was due to apoplexy and occurred on September 8, 1894, when Helmholtz was 73 years of age. The circumference of the head outside the scalp was 59 cm. and of the skull 55 cm. The width of the skull was 15.5 cm. and its length 18.3 cm. The cephalic index was consequently 85.25, which represents a broad head. The size of the head was about the same as that of Bismarck and slightly smaller than that of Wagner, both of whom had large heads. Darwin's head, on the other hand, was only 56.3 cm. in circumference. The weight of the brain with the coagulated blood was 1700 g. and without the blood about 1440 g., which is nearly 100 g. heavier than the average. It is, however, now generally recognized that the weight of the brain alone is not an index of mental capacity. The convolutions are more important, and here the examination of von Helmholtz's brain showed that the sulci were peculiarly deep and well marked, this being especially the case in those parts of the brain which the researches of Flechsig have shown to be concerned with associations. The frontal convolutions are so deeply cut by numerous sulci that it is difficult

to follow the recognized fissures. The article contains two photographs of the brain taken from plaster casts. The brain itself has not been preserved.

We are informed, both on the authority of von Helmholtz himself and as the result of the post-mortem examination, that he had been in youth somewhat hydrocephalous, which was also the case with Cuvier, who had one of the heaviest (1830 g.) brains known. It has been maintained by Perls, and more guardedly by Edinger, that hydrocephaly in youth is an advantage in enlarging the skull and giving the brain space for growth. Hansemann thinks that the pressure on the brain resulting from slight hydrocephaly is an adequate anatomical explanation of unusual intelligence. He refrains, however, from recommending the making of geniuses by injecting fluid into the skulls of babies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A MEETING of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been called by the President, Professor F. W. Putnam, and the Permanent Secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, on Tuesday, April 18th; at 4:30 p. m., at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.

THE New York Academy of Sciences will hold its annual exhibition and reception on Wednesday and Thursday, April 19th and 20th. As has been the case in other years, the first evening will be reserved for members of the Academy and specially invited guests, while a large number of those interested in science will be invited to be present on the second evening. On Thursday afternoon students of the universities and schools will be invited to attend. Tickets for Thursday afternoon or evening can probably be obtained from Professor William Hallack, Columbia University, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

THE Committee of Organization of the International Geological Congress, which meets at Paris from the 16th to the 28th of August, 1900, is as follows: President, M. Albert Gaudry, professor in the Museum of Natural History; Vice-Presidents, MM. Michel Lévy and Margel Bertrand; General Secretary, M. Charles Barrois.

DR. G. W. HILL has declined to accept the