

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1900.

## CONTENTS:

<i>The International Association of Scientific Societies..</i>	121
<i>Blue Fox Trapping on the Pribilof Islands: F. A. LUCAS.....</i>	125
<i>The Deep Well at Wilmington, N. C.: PROFESSOR J. A. HOLMES.....</i>	128
<i>Granites of the Sierra Costa Mountains in California: OSCAR H. HERSHEY.....</i>	130
<i>The American Psychological Association: DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND.....</i>	132
<i>Section of Anthropology of the American Association: DR. E. W. SCRIPTURE.....</i>	136
<i>The Geological Society of America: PROFESSOR J. F. KEMP, DR. A. S. EAKLE.....</i>	140
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Biedermann's Electro-physiology: G. N. I. S. Korschelt and Heider on the Embryology of Invertebrates: PROFESSOR W. M. WHEELER. The United States Fish Commission. Books Received.</i>	146
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles.....</i>	151
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters: DR. A. S. FLINT. The Kansas Academy of Science: E. H. S. B. Washington Chemical Society: DR. WM. H. KRUG.....</i>	151
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Prevention of Hail: PROFESSOR E. W. HILGARD. Electrical Anæsthesia: DR. E. W. SCRIPTURE.....</i>	153
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i>	
<i>The Chattanooga District; River Spacing and Regional Beveling; An Ancient Plain in Colorado; The Ural Mountains: PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS.....</i>	154
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry: J. L. H.....</i>	154
<i>Notes on Terrestrial Magnetism.....</i>	156
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i>	
<i>The Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons; The Society of American Bacteriologists; Washington Academy of Sciences. General.....</i>	157
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	160

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor, J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

WE are able to publish through the courtesy of the President of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Wolcott Gibbs, the correspondence arranging for the conference of Scientific Societies held at Wiesbaden on the 9th and 10th of October, 1899. We hope to be able to publish later through the courtesy of Professor H. P. Bowditch, delegate from the National Academy of Sciences, an account of the Conference based on the official proceedings. It is scarcely necessary to call attention to the great importance of the plans of the Conference for the advancement of science and for the good understanding between nations to which the advancement of science is largely contributing.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE,  
LONDON, W., April 14, 1899.

SIR: The Royal Society has frequently had occasion to take action in respect to scientific undertakings calling for the coöperation of several countries, and undertakings of this nature show a tendency to increase. The experience of the Society has lead to the belief that it would be very advantageous to the interests of science generally if some machinery could be devised, by means of which suggestions made for international coöperation in scientific enquiries could be thoroughly discussed by the leading men of science from a purely scientific point of view, before definite proposals are made with a view to official action by the Governments of the countries concerned.

was about 43,600,000 cans, one does not wonder that the streams of Alaska are becoming depleted. This depletion, already serious, is caused, not by over-fishing alone, but by 'barricading,' a process whereby the fish are actually prevented from ascending the streams to spawn, and are compelled to remain practically impounded in the lower waters, awaiting the pleasure of the packers. Although barricading is punishable by heavy fine and imprisonment, the laws are not enforced, and an industry now yielding \$3,000,000 annually is threatened with ultimate extinction.

Dr. Hugh M. Smith, in charge of the scientific work of the Commission, and Mr. Barton A. Bean contribute a paper on 'The Fishes of the District of Columbia.' This and similar faunistic papers that the authors have published elsewhere have proved of great convenience to ichthyologists and local naturalists, and will be of no little assistance to students of geographical distribution. A second paper by Dr. Smith is on 'The Southern Spring Mackerel Fishery of the United States.' The paper gives an account of the history and importance of this fishery. It reviews the reasons for the prohibition of the fishery by Congress, in 1888; it gives an account of the fishery subsequent to the five years of closure, that is, since 1892; and considers certain questions that are suggested by the facts connected with this remarkable, and in many ways exceptional, action of Congress. It is to be regretted that the spring mackerel fishery, since the termination of the closed period, shows no improvement; the catches of the last seven seasons have not paid for the expense of equipping the vessels.

The article on 'The Mussel Fishery and Pearl-Button Industry of the Mississippi River,' by Dr. Smith, contains a description of the mussels used in button-making; a history of the mussel fishery, which has developed into an important industry during the present decade, nearly four thousand tons of shells having been collected by the fishermen of the Mississippi River in 1898; and a statistical review of the button industry, since the time of its establishment in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1891. The article concludes with certain timely recommendations, which, if early adopted by the States concerned, will

prevent the destruction of the industry, now threatened by improvidence and avarice.

The eighth article, by Professor C. J. Herrick, is on the 'Peripheral Nervous System of the Bony Fishes.' It is based upon a study of the silverside, and emanates from the biological laboratory of Woods Hole. Since this paper was issued in the form of a reprint, Professor Herrick's magnificent monograph has appeared in the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

Another contribution from the government laboratory is made by Dr. Smith, in his 'Notice of a Filefish new to the Fauna of the United States.' A second capture of this filefish (*Alutera monoceros*) was reported in a recent number of SCIENCE. A third contribution from the laboratory is by the reviewer, and is a brief history of the discovery, disappearance, and final reappearance of the tilefish.

The concluding article is by Charles H. Stevenson, on the 'Preservation of Fishery Products for Food.' It covers more than two hundred pages, is amply illustrated, and is exhaustive in its treatment. The methods of retaining, curing, preserving, storing, packing, and shipping fishery products of the most diverse nature are thoroughly discussed by one who has evidently spared no pains to make his paper of real value.

H. C. BUMPUS.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*Scientific Papers.* JOHN WILLIAM STRUTT, BARON RAYLEIGH. Cambridge University Press, 1899. Vol. I., 1869-1881. Pp. xiv + 562. \$5.00.

*The Kinetic Theory of Gases.* OSKAR EMIL MEYER, translated from the second revised edition by ROBERT E. BAYNES. London, New York and Bombay, Longmans, Green & Co. 1899. Pp. xvi + 472.

*An Introduction to Physical Chemistry.* JAMES WALKER. London and New York, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. x + 335. \$2.50.

*Outlines of Industrial Chemistry.* FRANK HALL THORPE. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1899. New and revised edition. Pp. xvii + 541. \$3.50.

*Minnesota Plant Life.* CONWAY MACMILLAN. St. Paul, Minn. 1899. Pp. xxv + 568.

*The World and the Individual.* JOSIAH ROYCE. Gifford lectures delivered before the University of Aberdeen. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1900. Pp. xvi + 588. \$3.00.