

Laboratory Apparatus' is noticed by Frederic P. Gorham and 'Methods of staining Flagella,' by W. H. Robey, Jr. Finally an abstract is given of a paper on the 'Action of Drinking-water on Metals,' by Charles Harrington, in which among other interesting points it is noted that the same water may act very differently at different times.

*The Osprey* for June begins with Part VI. of 'Birds of the Road,' by Paul Bartsch; some 'Bird Notes,' by Lady Broome, are reprinted from the *Cornhill Magazine*, and in the fourth part of William Swainson and his Times,' by Theodore Gill, we are told of his literary work. The editor discusses the 'Significance and Etymology of the Word Mammals,' calling attention to the fact that the commonly accepted derivation of the word is incorrect, and that the term Mammalia, from which it comes, was coined by Linnæus in analogy with *animalia*, to describe the class mammalia which he was the first to correctly define.

*The Auk* for July is an unusually large number, containing articles of much interest, not only to the professional ornithologist, but to the general reader. The 'Occurrence of *Larus glaucescens* and other American Birds in Hawaii' is noted by H. W. Henshaw, and this is followed by a graphic and gracefully written article, 'Notes on the Breeding Habits of the American Golden-eye Duck or Whistler,' by William Brewster. The 'Ecology of the Maryland Yellow-throat and its Relatives' is treated at length by William Palmer. 'Notes on a Few Species of Idaho and Washington Birds' are contributed by John O. Snyder, and a 'Description of a New Shearwater from the Hawaiian Islands' is given by H. W. Henshaw. A. W. Anthony tells of the Nesting Habits of the Pacific Coast Species of the Genus *Puffinus*. E. W. Nelson gives 'Descriptions of Thirty New North American Birds,' and Reginald Heber Howe describes 'A New Subspecies of the Genus *Hylocichla*.' 'An account of the Nesting Habits of Franklin's Rosy Gull (*Larus franklinii*), as observed at Heron Lake in Southern Minnesota,' is given by Thomas S. Roberts, and the concluding paper 'Notes on a Collection of Bahama Birds,' is by Outram Bangs.

The articles on nesting habits are all illustrated, the plate showing the burrows of the Wedge-tailed Petrels being remarkably interesting. The customary numerous notes and reviews complete the number.

*THE New York Medical Journal*, long published by Messrs. D. Appleton & Co., has been sold to Mr. R. Elliott, an advertising agent in New York City. It is to be hoped that the Journal will remain under the same editorial management as at present, as it is one of the few American medical journals that have consistently maintained a high standard.

*The Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* for June contains Dr. A. Smith Woodward's full paper on the much-discussed remains of *Grypotherium* (*Neomylodon*) *listai* from Patagonia. The specimens are described in detail and the affinities of the animal made clear. They were found on the floor of a cave, in a large enclosure, associated with cut hay and much excrement, and Dr. Woodward concludes that we can hardly refuse to believe that this great ground sloth was actually kept and fed by an early race of man.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### KITE vs. BALLOON.

EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The high kite-flight described in SCIENCE of July 6, 1900, was exceeded on July 19th, when, by means of six kites attached at intervals to four and three-quarters miles of steel wire, the meteorograph was lifted 15,170 feet above Blue Hill, or 15,800 feet above the neighboring ocean. At the time that the temperature was 78° near the ground, it was about 30° at the highest point reached, the air being very dry and the wind blowing from the northwest with a velocity of 26 miles an hour.

The altitude reached in this flight probably exceeds the greatest height at which meteorological observations have been made with a balloon in America. The highest observations that have been published were made by the late Professor Hazen of the Weather Bureau in an ascent from St. Louis, June 17, 1887, to a height of 15,400 feet.

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