

ordered placed on file. President McMurtrie made a few remarks regarding the thorough work which had been accomplished by the Librarian during the past year, and on motion of Dr. Hart the thanks of the Society were voted to the Librarian for his successful and faithful services.

The editor presented a brief oral report of his work.

Reports received by the Secretary from F. W. Clarke, chairman of the Committee on Atomic Weights and also chairman of the International Committee on Atomic Weights, were presented by the Secretary in the absence of Mr. Clarke, and were read by title and referred to the Committee on Papers and Publications.

The Secretary reported from the Council that that body had considered the question referred to it by the Society at the New York meeting with reference to the passage of H. R. Bill 104, looking to the adoption and use of the metric system, and had decided to recommend that the Society lay the question on the table. By a vote of the Society the recommendation of the Council was adopted and the question was laid on the table.

The Committee on Standards of Instruments of Measure reported progress through Messrs. Munroe and Linebarger, who urged immediate action on the part of the membership with reference to the bill now pending in Congress to establish a National Standards Bureau.

The Secretary presented a motion urging the appointment of a committee to consider the adoption of a permanent badge or pin by the Society. The motion being seconded, it was moved and carried that the whole matter be laid upon the table.

After some announcements W. A. Noyes presented a paper on 'Synthesis of Derivatives of Dimethyl-cyclopentanone] and of Beta Beta Adipic Acid and of Alpha Beta Beta Tri Methyl Adipic Acid.' Dr. Noyes

also presented a paper by himself and W. M. Blanchard on 'A New Hydroxy Dihydro-campholytic Acid.'

After some other announcements Professor A. B. Prescott presented a paper by B. F. Trowbridge, entitled 'Notes on Sugar Beet Analysis.' This was followed by a paper 'On Hematite Crystals,' by Charles E. Munroe.

The remaining papers on the program were read by titles.

On motion of Dr. Alfred Springer, the thanks of the Society were extended unanimously to the Chicago Local Section; the Local Committee of Arrangements for the meeting, the authorities of the various institutions which had extended courtesies to the Society during its meeting, and the proprietors of the various works which had been thrown open to inspection by the visiting chemists.

The Local Committee made some announcements with reference to a proposed excursion to South Chicago on Saturday morning, and the meeting of the Society was then adjourned. In the afternoon the chemists enjoyed an excursion and visit to the Stock Yards Industries, and at 7 p.m. a subscription dinner was given in the banquet hall of the Auditorium Hotel.

ALBERT C. HALE,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

The Mammals of South Africa. By W. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.Z.S., Director of the South African Museum, Cape Town. Vol. I. Primates, Carnivora and Ungulata. With a map and illustrations. London, R. H. Porter. 1900. Medium 8vo, pp. i-xxx+1-324, with map and 80 text cuts.

Smuts's 'Mammalium Capensium,' published in 1832, a small quarto in Latin, is the first and only attempt to present an account of the mammals of South Africa prior to the work here under notice, of which the first volume has just appeared. Hence the desirability of a good

manual of South African mammals is apparent. This, we are happy to say, is now being provided by Mr. Sclater in the form of a large octavo work in two volumes, beautifully printed and well illustrated with, for the most part, excellent text cuts, many of them prepared especially for the work. The region here included is that portion of Africa south of the Cunene and Zambesi rivers.

South Africa has a comparatively rich mammalian fauna, the three orders here treated—the Primates, Carnivora and Ungulata—numbering 95 species and 8 additional subspecies, while the remaining orders—the Chiroptera, Insectivora, Rodentia, Edentata and Cetacea—to be treated in Volume II., will doubtless raise the number to considerably more than 200. In the present work the author informs us he has endeavored 'to collect together all the information at present available on the subject of South African mammals,' but he has been hampered in its preparation by lack of specimens and by paucity of information regarding the life-history of the species. He has, however, laid a good foundation for further additions and given a most excellent and useful summary of the subject. A bibliography of the more important separate works relating to South African mammals occupies pp. xi-xix, and following the synonymy under each species is a paragraph, under the heading 'Literature,' giving further references.

The work is well designed to serve as a convenient manual, the higher groups being defined, and keys are provided to the genera and species, and the descriptions are fairly full. The text is further paragraphed under 'History,' 'Distribution,' 'Habits,' etc., where whatever is known of the species is briefly summarized.

In respect to nomenclature, it is well to note that the twelfth edition of Linnæus, instead of the tenth is taken as the starting point, and that specific names when employed for genera are discarded in their specific sense, so that we have, for example, *Suricata tetradactyla* instead of *Suricata suricatta*, although the latter is the older name; and *Oreotragus saltatrix* instead of *Oreotragus oreotragus*, etc. As usual with English authors, only two genera are recognized in the

family Otariidæ, all the species but one being referred (p. 118) to the genus *Arctocephalus*, the type of which is wrongly given as *A. ursinus*; while the wholly undeterminable name *A. pusillus* (Schreber) is used for the single South African species, instead of the correct name *A. antarcticus* (Thunberg).

This volume is the second in point of issue—Volume I. of the late Dr. Stark's 'Birds of South Africa' being the first—of a 'series in which it is proposed to give an account of the Fauna of Africa south of the Zambesi and Cunéné Rivers,' under the general title 'The Fauna of South Africa,' under the editorship of Mr. W. L. Sclater, the author of the mammal volumes of the series. The second volume of the birds is in course of preparation by Mr. Sclater, from MSS. left by Dr. Stark, who was killed early in the present South African war.

J. A. A.

Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries for the Year ending June 30, 1900. By GEORGE M. BOWERS. Washington, Government Printing Office. 1900. Pp. 191.

The report of the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, for the year ending June 30, 1900, again shows an increase of fish distributed of a round hundred million, consisting chiefly of shad, cod, flatfish, whitefish and lake trout. Whitefish, shad and cod stand at the head of the list, the totals being about 337, 265, and 241 millions, respectively. The year, on the whole, has been a good one and the results commensurate with the steady expansion of operations, while local accidents of climate have, in a few cases, reduced the normal output. In California the drought of last year considerably affected the spawning migrations of the quinnat salmon. On the Rogue river, in Oregon, an innovation in the food of quinnat fry, in the way of using canned salmon scraps, was attempted with promising results. In Michigan, the close season was amended to allow the National Commission to take whitefish and lake trout for fish-cultural purposes, with the result of very large collections at a minimum expenditure. The Commission moreover operated the Michigan whitefish hatcheries at Detroit and Sault Ste., Marie, for which the State did not provide