

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1901.

## CONTENTS:

<i>The Case of Professor Ross</i> .....	361
<i>The Second Meeting of Naturalists at Chicago</i> : PROFESSOR CHAS. B. DAVENPORT.....	370
<i>Annual Meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> : PROFESSOR RICHARD E. DODGE.....	379
<i>Recent Progress in Geodesy</i> : DR. JOHN FILLMORE HAYFORD.....	381
<i>The San Jose Scale</i> : PROFESSOR VERNON L. KELLOGG .....	383
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Scott's Studies in Fossil Botany</i> : PROFESSOR D. P. PENHALLOW. <i>Howard's Study of the Insect Fauna of Human Excrement</i> : PROFESSOR D. T. A. COCKERELL. <i>Books Received</i> .....	386
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i> .....	390
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>Anthropological Society of Washington</i> : DR. WALTER HOUGH. <i>Biological Society of Washington</i> : F. A. LUCAS. <i>The New York Section of the American Chemical Society</i> : DR. DURAND WOODMAN. <i>The Western Philosophical Association</i> .....	391
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Crocodylian Nomenclature</i> : DR. LEONHARD STEJNEGER.....	394
<i>Shorter Articles</i> :—	
<i>Stratigraphical Note</i> : DR. H. M. AMI. <i>The Influence of Light on the Length of the Hypocotyl in Indian Corn</i> : PROFESSOR E. S. GOFF.....	394
<i>Current Notes on Physiography</i> :—	
<i>Alegany County, Maryland; The Philippine Islands; Overdeepened Alpine Valleys</i> : PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS.....	395
<i>Botanical Notes</i> :—	
<i>Elliott's Grasses; Wood's Holl Botany; New Species of North American Trees; Selby's Handbook of Plant Diseases</i> : PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY.....	397
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	398
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	400

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended or review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE CASE OF PROFESSOR ROSS.

IN view of the interest excited in academic and scientific circles by the circumstances connected with the dismissal of Professor Ross from Stanford University, we publish in full the report of the committee of San Francisco Alumni and of a committee of economists. It will be observed that they come to exactly opposite conclusions. The alumni maintain that the dismissal of Professor Ross did not infringe on the right of free speech, while the economists side with Professor Ross in his claim that he is a martyr. It may seem ungracious for men of science, who have in the past suffered for truth's sake and have won the right to free scientific investigation, not to take sides with their colleagues in sociology and economics when they unite to urge the right of academic freedom. But we can not escape the conviction that the report of the three economists is a partisan rather than a judicial document.

A distinction must be made between freedom of speech and license of speech, between the right to investigate and the desirability of using a university as a point of vantage for propagandism. Our universities should be conservative—they should

lots should be severely punished. It seems to the present writer that the excrement nuisance, which now appears in a new and more serious light, cannot be got rid of until city authorities see their way to provide places of public convenience in every ward, so that no one need resort to either the alleys or the saloons to obey the dictates of nature. Dr. Howard has, indeed, provided the municipal reformer with a new and valuable argument, which it is to be hoped he will not fail to use.

From the standpoint of scientific entomology Dr. Howard's paper is of much interest. It records for the first time the breeding habits of a large number of insects, and also adds greatly to our knowledge of their distribution. Three species of flies proved to be new to science; these have been described by Mr. Coquillett in *Entomological News*, January, 1901.

In all the work Dr. Howard was ably assisted by several members of his office force, particularly Messrs. Pratt and Coquillett. To these careful credit is given, in accordance with Dr. Howard's invariable custom. The figures are numerous and clear, 25 species being illustrated, often with the early stages. By some slip, *Drosophila ampelophila* is called '*ampelophaga*' on the plate, but the name is given correctly in the text. *Limosina albipennis* and *L. crassimana*, to judge from the figures, should belong to different genera.

T. D. A. COCKERELL.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*Les phénomènes électriques et leurs applications.*

HENRY VIVAREZ. Paris, Georges Carré et C. Naud. 1901. Pp. vi + 574.

*A Laboratory Guide in Elementary Bacteriology.*

WILLIAM DODGE FROST. Madison, Wis., published by the Author. 1901. Pp. viii + 205.

*Ausgewählte Methoden der analytischen Chemie.* A.

CLASSEN. Braunschweig, Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn. 1901. Vol. I. Pp. xx + 940.

*Essays in illustration of Astral Gravitation in Natural*

*Phenomena.* WILLIAM LEIGHTON JORDAN. New York and Bombay, Longmans, Green & Company. 1900. Pp. xiv + 192.

*General Report of the Investigations in Porto Rico of the*

*United States Fish Commission Steamer Fish Hawk in 1899.* BARTON WARREN EVERMANN. Washington Government Printing Office. 1900. Pp. vi + 350, and 50 Plates.

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

*The Journal of Physical Chemistry.* December. 'Reaction Velocity and Equilibrium,' by Wilder D. Bancroft; 'Differences of Potential between Metals and Non-aqueous Solutions of their Salts,' II, by Louis Kahlenberg. A formula has been deduced by Nernst for the E. M. F. of a galvanic chain of the type

$\text{Ag} | \text{AgNO}_3 (\text{concentrated}) | \text{AgNO}_3 (\text{dilute}) | \text{Ag}$

which shows a fair degree of agreement with the observed values when water is used as a solvent. The author has tested the formula experimentally in a number of cases in which non-aqueous solutions are used, and finds that Nernst's formula does not hold good under these circumstances; 'Solvent Action of Vapors,' by A. T. Lincoln. A study of the solvent action of the vapor of water, benzene and acetone upon salicylic and benzoic acids, and of alcohol vapor upon camphor and naphthalene.

January. 'Gas Polarization in Lead Accumulators,' by C. J. Reed; 'Two Devices for Circulating Liquids at a Constant Temperature,' by Ira H. Derby; 'On the Equilibrium of Chemical Systems,' by Paul Saurel. The translation of the more important parts of a thesis of the same title, presented to the Faculté des Sciences of Bordeaux.

THE first (January) number of Volume II. of the *Transactions* of the American Mathematical Society contains the following papers: 'Invariants of Systems of Linear Differential Equations,' by E. J. Wilczynski; 'Divergent and Conditionally Convergent Series whose Product is Absolutely Convergent,' by Florian Cajori; 'Sets of Coincidence Points on the Non-Singular Cubics of a Syzygetic Sheaf,' by M. B. Porter; 'Note on Non-Quaternion Number Systems,' by W. M. Strong; 'On the Reduction of the General Abelian Integral,' by J. C. Fields; 'Ueber Flächen von Constanten Gauss'scher Krümmung,' by David Hilbert; 'Note on the Functions of the Form  $f(x) \equiv \phi(x) + a_1x^{n-1} + a_2x^{n-2} + \dots + a_n$  which in a given Interval differ the least possible from Zero,' by H. F. Blichfeldt.

THE February number of the *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society contains the fol-

lowing papers: 'Report of the Annual Meeting of the Society,' by the Secretary; 'On Some Birational Transformations of the Kummer Surface into Itself,' by Dr. J. I. Hutchinson; 'Theorems concerning Positive Definitions of Finite Assemblage and Infinite Assemblage,' by Mr. C. J. Keyser; 'Dini's Method of showing the Convergence of Fourier's Series and of other Allied Developments,' by Mr. Walter B. Ford; 'Shorter Notices'; 'Fehr's Application of the Vectorial Analysis of Grassmann to the Infinitesimal Geometry,' by Mr. E. B. Wilson, and 'The Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes,' by Professor E. W. Brown; 'Notes'; 'New Publications.'

*The Plant World* for January comes in a new and improved garb externally and internally. The first article, by Alice Carter Cook, entitled, 'Some Filipino Botany' comprises some curious extracts from Blanco's 'Flora.' C. F. Saunders contributes 'Hints for Beginners in the Determination of Grasses,' and an excerpt from Bulletin 28, Division of Forestry, discusses 'The Threatened Destruction of the Big Trees of California.' E. M. Williams describes 'The Rosy Tricholoma' and C. L. Pollard in the supplement continues 'The Families of Flowering Plants,' treating of various families of the orders Polygonales and Centrospermæ.

*The American Naturalist* for February is a particularly strong number in spite of the absence of 'Editorial Comment and Reviews.' It opens with a long and critical review of 'Scharff's History of the European Fauna' by Leonhard Stejneger, Scharff's work being praised for its admirable suggestiveness and treatment of the subject, though Dr. Stejneger combats, we think successfully, his advocacy of an invasion of Europe from North America by way of Greenland. B. Arthur Bensley discusses 'The Question of an Arboreal Ancestry of the Marsupialia and the Interrelationships of the Mammalian Subclasses,' considering that in spite of all evidence presented, Huxley's theory of a genetic succession of the former representatives of the Monotremata, Marsupialia and Placentalia is still entitled to first consideration. Arnold E. Ortman briefly reviews 'The Theories of the Origin of the Antarctic Faunas and Floras,'

stating that he accepts Hooker's general idea of the former existence of land connection between the southern portions of existing continents. Oldfield Thomas writes of 'The Generic Names *Myrmecophaga* and *Didelphis*,' claiming that the former name justly belongs to the Great Ant-eater and *Didelphis virginiana* to the Virginia opossum. The species *cinereus* and *alstoni* he considers as members of the genus *Marmosa*. Finally Edwin C. Eckel presents 'The Snakes of New York; an Annotated Check List,' giving twenty-five species and subspecies, this being the first paper on the ophidian fauna of New York since Baird's 'Serpents of New York.'

Numbers 62 to 66 of the interesting *Communications from the Physical Laboratory at the University of Leiden* have been received in this country. The preceding numbers of the series are mainly in English. These numbers are in German except No. 65, which is in French. All are reprints from the *Livre jubilaire dédié à M. Prof. Lorentz*.

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY, agents of the New York University Press, will publish early in March, the first number of a scientific quarterly under the title *New York University Bulletin of the Medical Sciences*, edited, under the auspices of the New York University Medical Society, by an editorial committee consisting of B. Farquhar Curtis, M.D., Robert J. Carlisle, M.D., E. K. Dunham, M.D., John A. Mandel and William H. Park, M.D.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE 315th meeting of the Anthropological Society was held on February 12th. Mr. Paul Brockett gave a short paper on 'Ancient Mexican Books,' and exhibited a copy of the Borgian Codex, lately reproduced through the munificence of the Duc de Loubat. With the codex was shown a Japanese book, illustrating the similarity in methods of folding. 'The Unwrapping of a Peruvian Mummy,' by W. H. Holmes and Walter Hough, proved interesting. A mummy pack from Peru was divested of its wrappings and from the swathings of cotton-bolls, leaves and cloth were taken the skeletons