

Discussion led by Arthur Fairbanks, Professor of Greek, University of Iowa.

'Martineau's Heredity and Philosophy'—Rev. J. R. Brown, of Kansas City.

Discussion led by C. B. McAfee, Professor of Philosophy, Park College.

'The Psychology of Profanity'—G. T. W. Patrick, Professor of Philosophy, University of Iowa.

Discussion led by D. D. Hugh, Professor of Psychology, State Normal School, Colorado.

'The Postulates of the Psychology of Style'—J. D. Logan, Professor of Philosophy, University of South Dakota.

Discussion led by L. A. Sherman, Professor of English Literature and Dean of the College of Arts, University of Nebraska.

'Some Philosophical Problems of the Present Time'—An informal address by J. E. Creighton, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics, Cornell University, and editor of the *Philosophical Review*.

'The Primacy of Will'—Edgar L. Hinman, Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska.

Discussion led by W. M. Bryant, of St. Louis.

'The Psychology of Imitation'—T. L. Bolton, Instructor in Psychology, University of Nebraska.

Discussion led by H. Heath Bawden, Instructor in Philosophy, University of Iowa.

'The Theory of Imitation in Social Psychology'—C. A. Ellwood, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Missouri.

Discussion led by A. Ross Hill, Professor of Philosophy, University of Nebraska.

The meeting next year will be at the University of Iowa under the presidency of the University of Iowa.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

CROCODILIAN NOMENCLATURE.

MR. WILLIAM J. FOX (SCIENCE, February 8, 1901, p. 232) in maintaining that the name *Lacerta crocodilus*, given by Linnæus, has become restricted to the Nile crocodile by its exclusive use for the latter in Hasselquist's 'Reise,' 1762, has apparently overlooked the fact that the types of *Lacerta crocodilus* are still in existence. It has been shown both by Dr. Lönnberg and Mr. Andersson that the specimens which served Linnæus as types for his descriptions belong to the species which is commonly known as *Caiman sclerops*. As the generic name of the latter is also untenable, the species will stand in the future as *Jacaretinga*

crocodilus (Linnæus), while the name of the crocodile of the Nile remains as before: *Crocodylus niloticus* Laurenti.

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,

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SHORTER ARTICLES.

STRATIGRAPHICAL NOTE.

IN SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. XIII., No. 317, January 25, 1901, p. 135, I notice that the order in which the proposed names of the geological formations occurring in the Devonian and Silurian of Antigonish County, Nova Scotia, is given, might lead to a misapprehension of the natural succession of the strata in question. I have much pleasure in drawing attention to the following notes on the names suggested and characteristics of the five geological formations as they appear, in descending order, as follows:

Devonian.

1. THE KNOYDART FORMATION. (Knoydart being the name of a settlement and brook in the vicinity of McArras brook, where this formation is well developed. The word is pronounced as if spelt Kroydiart.)

The Knoydart formation consists of red shales and sandstones, marls and tufaceous strata holding pteraspidian and cephalaspidian fishes associated with crustaceans whose affinities are close to a number of forms described from the Cornstone or Lower Old Red Sandstone of Great Britain, especially as developed in Herefordshire.

This Knoydart formation is thus referred to the 'Old Red Sandstone' or Devonian System.

Silurian.

Unconformably (?) below the Knoydart formation we find just east of the mouth of McArras Brook and along the south shore of Northumberland straits at this point, Silurian strata, holding marine organisms, which may be provisionally divided into *four* distinct formations.

2. THE STONEHOUSE FORMATION. This consists for the most part of dark red thin-bedded, fine-grained, shales or mudstones with a conspicuous and abundant lamellibranchiate fauna,

of which *Grammysia Acadica*, Billings, is a well-known species, together with a number of interstratified, more or less, calcareous band-holding brachiopoda, gastropoda, trilobites and ostracods in abundance.

3. THE MOYDART FORMATION (pronounced Mödiart). This consists for the most part of heavy-bedded, light greenish gray and rusty, or buff-weathering, calcareous strata (in which the 'Red Stratum' of authors occurs) and holds a conspicuous fauna of brachiopods, trilobites, annelids, cephalopods, crinoids, etc. It is followed downward by

4. THE MCADAM FORMATION, which is characterized by dark gray or black fine-grained carbonaceous and oft times splintery shales holding a lamellibranchiate fauna in the upper half of the shale and graptolites in the lower half.

A number of thin lenticular sheets of impure light gray limestone abound in brachiopoda.

5. THE ARISAIG FORMATION. At the base of the Silurian succession, along the Arisaig shore, there occur buff-weathering fine-grained and compact indurated sandstones and shales holding corals (chiefly *Streptelasma*) brachiopods, trilobites, gastropods, etc. These are associated with black carbonaceous and graptolitic shales. The term *Arisaig formation* is suggested and proposed for the lowest Silurian horizon or formation in the section as developed at Beech-hill Cove. The term *Silurian* is here used in the restricted sense as equivalent to the Upper Silurian of Murchison. These formations tabulated would give the following arrangement :

System.	Formation.	Strata.
Devonian.	Knoydart.	Red shales and sandstone, marls and gray sandy shales with tufaceous layers.
Silurian.	Stonehouse.	Red shales and mudstones, with occasional thin bands of limestone.
	Moydart.	Greenish-gray and whitish colored impure limestones.
	McAdam.	Black carbonaceous shales and mudstones.
	Arisaig.	Buff-weathering sandy shales and sandstones, calcareous layers and black carbonaceous shales.

The amount of unconformity, if any, between the Stonehouse and Knoydart formations, *i. e.*, between the Devonian ('Old Red Sandstone') and the Silurian is a point of considerable importance and interest which will receive careful attention. H. M. AMI.

INFLUENCE OF LIGHT ON THE LENGTH OF THE HYPOCOTYL IN INDIAN CORN.

It is well-known that in vegetating plants of Indian corn, wheat and other cereals, the first node of the stem is found near the surface of the ground, regardless of the depth at which the seed was planted. If the seed is deeply planted, the hypocotyl elongates above the seed proportionally lifting the node almost to the surface. If the seed is planted shallow, on the other hand, the node is found at about the same depth.

That the checking of the elongation of the hypocotyl is due to the influence of light is strikingly shown by an experiment recently conducted in the laboratory of the Wisconsin Agricultural College. Kernels of Indian corn were planted by a number of students in galvanized iron seed pans nearly filled with garden loam, after which the pans were kept covered with close-fitting tin covers until the plantlets began to appear when the covers were removed.

In all plantlets which appeared above the soil before the cover of the seed pan was removed, the first node is above the soil, as is clearly shown by the fact that this node bears the cotyledon, while in those that have since appeared, the first node is just at the surface or below it. E. S. GOFF.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY.

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND.

THE first volume of a new series of county reports just begun by the Maryland geological survey gives an excellent description of Allegany county, which occupies a central position in the three western mountainous counties. Among nine chapters, treating subjects that range from geology and soils to climate and forests, the physiography of the county is described by C. Abbe, Jr. The three cycles of erosion, characteristic of a great stretch of the