

devoted to the teaching of science in secondary schools, edited by C. E. Linebarger and published at Chicago, Ill. There are twelve associate editors, all teachers in secondary schools, and the contributions given in the first number and promised are chiefly from teachers in secondary schools, though the present number contains contributions from Professor Palmer, of the University of Colorado, and Professor Nichols, of Cornell University. The journal is evidently edited with care, and will exert an excellent influence.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE 314th meeting of the Anthropological Society was held on March 12th.

Dr. J. Walter Fewkes presented some historical documents, consisting of a fac-simile of the map of Padre Menchero (1747) of the territory now embraced in Arizona and New Mexico; a fac-simile of the map of Juan de la Cosa (1500), showing the famous demarcation line of Pope Alexander II. and the discoveries in the New World at that period, and an unpublished manuscript of Antonio Alzate, describing the ruins of Xochicalco, Mexico. The Menchero map, which is rare and little known, gives the locations of the missions in the Southwest, and valuable ethnological data. It was issued at Berlin. The Cosa map was copied during the Columbian Historical Exposition at Madrid in 1892-3 from the original lent by the Vatican. Dr. Fewkes pointed out that Alzate was the first to call attention to the need for preserving the ruins in Mexico.

President W. H. Holmes presented instruments of execution and torture, exhibiting an iron cage found some years ago by workmen engaged in road building in King George County, Virginia. This cage is constructed roughly on the outlines of a human body, and on discovery contained a human skeleton, most of which is still preserved. Mr. Holmes said that no documentary evidence has yet been found of 'hanging in chains' in the United States. He called attention to a similar gibbet found in Jamaica and stated that this form of post-mortem exposure of the bodies of criminals

is English, and was practised as long ago as the twelfth century. The last gibbet was constructed and used in England in 1832. There is no very reliable record of the hanging of living persons in these cages, although tradition has it that such was the practise. At the close of his remarks Mr. Holmes exhibited a large collection of instruments of torture brought to this country from Hanover, Germany, by Anton Heitmuller, of Washington.

The first paper of the evening was entitled 'Ethnology in the Jesuit Relations,' by Mr. Joseph D. McGuire. Mr. McGuire has carefully gone over the collection of Relations, recently published under the editorship of Reuben Goldthwaites, extracting all ethnologic and archeologic data. This paper is the first of a series having in view the rehabilitation of the American Indian at the period of first contact with the white man, as far as can be done by examination of the literature. Mr. McGuire's paper was listened to with much interest.

Mr. W J McGee's paper on the 'Cocopa Indians' occupied the remainder of the session. Mr. McGee went into considerable detail as to the arts and customs of the Cocopas, whom he visited last summer. The custom of burning the house of the deceased, and the communistic division of the property among the friends, exclusive of the relations, in the event of a death, coupled with the periodical removals from the flood-plain of the Colorado to higher ground, and *vice versa*, have exerted a profound repressive influence on the Cocopas. These Indians were found to be at a low ebb numerically and physically, and are without doubt rapidly tending to extinction.

WALTER HOUGH.

THE SCIENCE CLUB OF UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY.

THE last regular meeting of the Club was held February 27th. Arthur E. Bennett described his researches among the prehistoric remains of New Mexico, including skeletons, utensils, pursuits, pottery, decorations, worship, etc. He stated that the plain, mesa and cliff dwellers were really one people. At the next meeting he proposed to discuss the prob-

able cause of extermination of these people. He has spent four summers on the ground.

A second paper, read by Bruce Fink, was an ecologic study of the swamp vegetation of northern Minnesota. *Marchantia*, *Sphagnum*, the conifers, the heaths and the orchids were especially considered. No less than thirteen species of orchids collected in these swamps were exhibited, and it was incidentally stated that fourteen species have been collected within ten miles of the University at Fayette, Iowa.

SCIENCE CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

THE regular monthly meeting of the club was held on March 1st, at 7:30 P. M., President E. A. Birge presiding. The program of the evening consisted of an address by Professor Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins University, on the subject, 'The Outlook in Chemistry.' The speaker emphasized the importance of the researches of such men as Cavendish, Scheele, Priestley, Lavoisier, Berzelius, Liebig and Wöhler. He characterized the work of Lavoisier as revolutionary, and stated that since his time such revolutions have not marked the progress of chemistry. The advance of chemistry, and of other sciences as well, was spoken of as taking place in waves. After the important, fundamental work at the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century came the activity in organic chemistry, while at present a large amount of energy is directed to physical chemistry in particular. After mentioning some of the triumphs of synthetic work in organic chemistry, Professor Remsen expressed the opinion that a long time would still have to elapse before all the various products of organic beings could be prepared in the laboratory. An audience of about five hundred persons listened to the lecture, which abounded in food for thought interspersed with appropriate anecdotes and witticisms.

LOUIS KAHLENBERG.

THE ELISHA MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

At the 133d meeting of the Society, on March 12th, in the Chemical Lecture Room of the

University of North Carolina, the following papers were read:

'A Marsupial Track in the Triassic,' Professor Collier Cobb (by title).

'A New and True Antidote for Carbolic Acid,' Professor E. V. Howell.

'Yellow Fever and Mosquitoes,' Professor R. H. Whitehead.

'The World's Production of Iron and Steel,' Professor Chas. Baskerville.

CHAS. BASKERVILLE,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DATE OF RAFINESQUE'S DEATH.

EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In looking over some back numbers of SCIENCE quite a year old, I have happened upon the interesting letters between Rafinesque and Professor Wagner as given by Mr. T. L. Montgomery in SCIENCE for March 23, 1900. I do not know how I came to miss this item of so long ago, else this note would have been sent you in earlier reply.

The date of Rafinesque's death is correctly given by me in my 'Life and Writings of Rafinesque' as September 18, 1840. I am aware and at the time was aware of the date September 18, 1842, as cited by Mr. Montgomery. I also am aware that all the dates he cites from the various authorities he names are incorrect and all started from the same original error. Evidently an overlooked typographical error in the original publication was the cause.

If Mr. Montgomery had looked carefully at the certified copy of Rafinesque's will, which forms the end of my volume, he would have noted that on November 16, 1840, the signature was attested as being that of Rafinesque by two persons, James Henry Horn and Sam Hood; that on November 28, 1840, James Mease, as executor, was duly sworn for that office and each of the above facts dated in November, 1840. Of course it is hardly necessary to say that wills are not probated two years before a man dies.

The date 1842 is often found in biographical notices of Rafinesque, but all seem to originate in the error of the first notice. I have always imagined that date to be a typographical error. My authority for 1840, as the year, is the will