

'Initiation Ceremonies of the Wiradjuri Tribes': R. H. MATHEWS.

'The Development of Illumination': WALTER HOUGH.

THE contents of the *American Journal of Science* for August are:

'Experiments on High Electrical Resistance,' Part II.: O. N. ROOD.

'Mineralogical Notes': A. J. MOSES.

'Motion of Compressible Fluids': J. W. DAVIS.

'Action of Sodium Thiosulphate on Solutions of Metallic Salts at High Temperatures and Pressures': J. T. NORTON, JR.

'Secondary Undulations shown by Recording Tide-gauges': A. W. DUFF.

'Mathematical Notes to Rival Theories of Cosmogony': O. FISHER.

'Studies of Eocene Mammalia in the Marsh Collection, Peabody Museum': J. L. WORTMAN.

'Electromagnetic Effects of Moving Charged Spheres': E. P. ADAMS.

'The Nadir of Temperature and Allied Problems': J. DEWAR.

The *American Geologist* for July contains a 'Sketch of the Life and Work of Augustus Wing,' by Henry M. Seeley. In this article the work of Mr. Wing, the teacher and preacher, in solving the early problems in New England geology is set forth. A portrait accompanies the article. 'Beach Structures in the Medina Sandstone,' is discussed by Professor H. L. Fairchild. The Medina sandstone is described as shallow water deposits, following the conclusions of Dr. James Hall and controverting the theory of Dr. Gilbert, who recently maintained that certain structures in said sandstone are giant ripples formed in deep ocean. The writer compares the structures in question to the beach formations on Lake Ontario at the present time. The article is accompanied by five plates from photographs. 'The Michipicoten Huronian Area,' by S. B. Wilmott, describes an area north of Lake Superior. It is accompanied by a geological map of the region. Mr. Oscar H. Hershey discusses 'The Age of the Kansas Drift Sheet,' and gives reasons why the Kansas drift as well as others of the lower Mississippi is a very old one. 'The Georgia Bauxite Deposits: Their Chemical Constitution and Genesis,' by Thomas L. Watson, is accompanied by a plate showing the distribution of

that mineral in Georgia. 'The Age of the Kansas-Oklahoma Redbeds' is discussed by J. W. Beede. The author put the deposits in question in the Permian. This paper is followed by 'A Short Discussion of the Origin of the Coal Measure Fire Clays,' by T. C. Hopkins, and the usual Comments and Reviews.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

SECTION H. ANTHROPOLOGY. TITLES FOR PRESENTATION AT THE DENVER MEETING.

'Sculptured Stone Images of Man by the Aborigines in Nicaragua': J. CRAWFORD.

(1) 'The Stanley McCormick Hopi Expedition of 1901'; (2) 'The Sacred Bundle of the Osage'; (3) 'Games of the Pawnees'; (4) 'Hand or Guessing Games of the Wichitas': GEORGE A. DORSEY.

'Influences of Racial Characteristics on Socialization': FRANK W. BLACKMAN.

'Exhibit of curves of speech': E. W. SCRIPTURE.

'The Physical Characters of the Various Pueblo Indians, including the Mokis and Zufis': ALES HRDLICKA.

'Current Questions in Anthropology': W J McGEE.

'A Plea for Greater Accuracy and Greater Simplicity in the Writings of the Future regarding the American Aborigines': CHARLES E. SLOCUM.

(1) 'The Teaching of Anthropology in the United States'; (2) 'The Anthropological Collections of Yale University Museum'; (3) 'Twenty Years of Section H'; (4) 'The Sherman Anthropological Collection, recently purchased by the Scientific Society of Holyoke, Mass': GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY.

QUOTATIONS.

PRIORITY IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE MALARIAL PARASITE.

AN unfortunate controversy having arisen on the question of priority in the proof of the mosquito theory of the transference of malarial infection, Major Ronald Ross has published some correspondence on the subject which shows that the claims of some of the Italian observers cannot be substantiated ('Letters from Rome on the New Discoveries in Malaria,' 1900). These eight letters were written by Dr. Edmonston Charles, a resident in Rome, to Major Ross, then in India, and date from November 4, 1898, to January 14, 1899; a letter from Dr. Daniels is included, and they are preceded by a critical

introduction, and terminate with a postscript and bibliography by Ross. At this period the Italians, notably Grassi, Bignami and Bastianelli, were endeavoring to follow Ross's investigations on the development of the malarial parasites in the mosquito, and Dr. Charles acted as an intermediary, informing Ross of the progress made by the Italians, and similarly communicating to the latter Ross's observations and handing them his specimens. In the first letter, Charles asks for specimens for Marchiafava 'of the mosquito in which human malaria develops.' Grassi now denies that Ross ever detected this species. It is pointed out how closely the Italians followed and how well informed they were of the details of Ross's work, yet now Grassi states that his labors were independent of Ross. In the third letter, with regard to the cultivation of crescents in the 'dappled winged mosquito' by Ross, Charles says, "He (Grassi) seemed perfectly satisfied that your description referred to the *Anopheles claviger*." Grassi now contends that he could not identify the malaria-bearing mosquito from Ross's description. Bignami, Grassi and Bastianelli have frequently stated that Ross's first successful experiments with human malaria were unsound, because the insects employed might have already bitten another animal before having been fed on man. Yet in Ross's publication it is clearly premised that the insects had been bred in bottles from the larvæ.—*Nature*.

IMPRESSIONS OF A GERMAN CONGRESS.

AN occasional correspondent, who speaks from experience, has been moved to unburden his soul as to the mode in which discussions are carried on at some German scientific congresses. The picture he draws is not, he declares, exaggerated, but his remarks must be understood as applying only to those congresses which are not divided into sections but in which the discussions take place in plenary session. There is a large room where the congress is to take place, filled with hundreds of our colleagues, of German and other nationalities. These gentlemen are prepared for several days' ennui, but are also resolved not to let it be all dull. They present a very varied ap-

pearance, and produce a very varied impression by the complexity of sound which their conversation, before the commencement of the proceedings, creates. The management consists of a chairman, who is changed at each sitting, and his *confrères*, the president, the secretary, and the other members of the council. The chairman opens the day's proceedings by informing the readers of papers that the time limit, namely, half of an hour for papers, and ten minutes for discussion speeches, will be rigidly adhered to. At first all goes smoothly until a speaker has occupied the attention of the House for twenty minutes or so, when there is heard an ever-increasing buzz of conversation from the back part of the room. Of this the speaker takes no heed, and when the half-hour is past, the chairman merely stretches himself and remains quiet. The next speaker has obviously not been fortunate in the impression that he has made on the House, for the conversation, begun during the last speech, continues, and becomes disturbing. But he, being accustomed to such trivial inconveniences, labors on steadily. The hands of the clock steal slowly onward, and when they register that the speaker has been standing at the desk for nearly twenty minutes, a single cry of 'End!' (*Schluss*) is heard. Soon the air is rent with wild delighted cries of 'End!' and feebly tempered by a few subdued remonstrating '*Gsch.*' The chairman rings his bell. Some order is restored, and he tells the speaker that he has two minutes more. Poor speaker! He has lost the thread of his argument (for papers must be given from memory, not read), he is face to face with the fact that he has but two minutes more to live—as a speaker—and he thereupon invariably pitches himself headlong into his subject, at such an enormous rate, and with so much energy, that it becomes a matter of impossibility to understand what he is speaking of. The noise at the far end of the room continues, and in one minute the second 'sound' of the bell is heard. The chairman now shows his humanity and asks the House to decide whether the speaker shall continue or not. This is done either by direct appeal and an interpretation of the responsive sound, as to what the