

it is probable that a longitudinal splitting of the chromosomes takes place. Doflein does not find any evidence of such in process. In the absence of conclusive proof it is impossible to decide which of these two accounts is correct.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

The Plant World for August contains, besides short articles, notes and reviews, 'August Days,' by John Burroughs; 'Notes from Western Kentucky,' by Sallie F. Price, and, under the caption 'A Scanty Flora, a description of that of Bird Rock, Gulf of St. Lawrence,' by Henry E. Baum. But three species of plants are found on this islet: *Poa compressa*, *Achillea borealis* and *Plantago maritima*. Pauline Kaufman continues 'Orchids in Central Park,' and John Gifford describes 'The Dwarf Mistletoe, *Razoumofskya Prusilla*.' L. H. Pammel discusses 'Rare Plants and their Disappearance,' the drying up of sloughs and the overpasturing of the woodlot being accountable for the small numbers of the plants mentioned. In the supplement devoted to 'The Families of Flowering Plants,' Charles Louis Pollard describes the Trigonaceæ and other families of the Germinales and begins the description of the Sapindales.

The News Bulletin of the Zoological Society of New York appeared in new form with its last (July) issue, having been reduced to a small quarto about the size of *SCIENCE*. Besides a number of views of animals living in the park, there is a cut showing the state of the monkey house in June. The completion of a restaurant and of the Service Building is announced, and many improvements in the buildings and grounds are noted. Six species of mammals, twelve of birds and eight of reptiles were born in the park this present season. A special feature of the New York Zoo is its collection of reptiles, and the additions to this have been numerous during the first six months of the year.

The Osprey for July brings this periodical nearly down to date, and the August number is promised at an early day. The present issue contains besides shorter articles 'Camping on the Old Camp Grounds,' by Paul Bartsch;

'Stephen's Whip-poor-will,' by J. H. Riley; 'The Malar Stripe of Young Flickers and the Moults,' by William Palmer; 'The Blue Grosbeak in Eastern Kansas,' by Walter S. Colvin, and the sixth instalment of 'The Osprey or Fish-hawk; its Characteristics and Habits,' by Theodore Gill.

SCIENTIFIC journals are not often sold, and it is consequently a matter of interest that the market value of a special journal has been ascertained by the sale of the *Botanisches Centralblatt* to the International Association of Botanists. According to the *Compte Rendu* of the recent congress the price was 37,500 Marks, and the present editor, Dr. Uhlworm retains his position for five years, and if subsequently superseded receives an indemnity. About half the amount has been subscribed, and the balance has been advanced by the publisher, J. E. Brille, of Leipzig, who is to be paid 4 per cent. interest.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

DISCORD AND PSYCHOLOGY.

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: In the issue of *SCIENCE* for August 30 Mr. Max Meyer calls attention, in a discussion of 'Discords and Beats,' to a supposed error in my review of a recent book on physics, where I referred to Mayer's law expressing the duration of the residual auditory sensation as a function of vibration frequency. He is right in thinking it rare to find physicists well up with current psychological literature, a fact necessitated by the immense mass of literature now in all departments. This fact excuses Mr. Meyer for having apparently failed to read the investigations of Professor Mayer on this subject, which were published in the *American Journal of Science* (Oct., 1874, April, 1875, and Jan., 1894). This physicist did not assume that discord was necessarily due exclusively to beats. His own conclusions were tested in 1875 by a trained musician whose deliverances were given without considering anything else than the perception of discord. This was a purely psychological investigation, therefore, so far as musical sensation was concerned. If the psychologists have some time since agreed that discord cannot be defined by beats, this negative conclusion does not estab-