

other, Professor H. C. Lord, of the Emerson McMillan Observatory, Columbus, Ohio, and the writer began a series of investigations with a view to determining where it should have fallen. We secured reports from some twenty-five or thirty observers scattered over the states mentioned above; none of them, however, were expressed very definitely in terms of angular measurements, excepting those of Professor Lord and myself, and we evidently had not noted the altitude and azimuth of the meteor at exactly the same point of its descent. Satisfied, however, that if any pieces came to the earth, they must have fallen somewhere between Lexington and a point in Elliott County, Ky., where an observer saw the meteor to the west of him, I was induced to hunt down a rumor that it had fallen in Bath County, and was rewarded by finding that it had indeed come to earth in the extreme southern portion of that county, and had been picked up by the man who saw it strike the ground. The exact point struck was a stone in the road in front of the home of Mr. Buford Staten, five miles due south of Salt Lick, Ky.

The stone (for it is an aerolite) is roughly  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 4$  inches, has a volume of 1,642 c.c., and now weighs, with some pieces chipped off for analysis, 5,725 grms., or about 12 lbs. 10½ oz. It exhibits the usual black crust or varnish, the pittings, the grayish interior, and shows on analysis the disseminated nickeliferous metallic iron.

It is interesting to note that, though the approximate place of this aerolite's fall was not determined by calculations based upon observations giving the azimuths of the point where it appeared to burst as seen from different stations—the meteorite itself having been brought in before our investigations had reached the calculating stage—yet had it not been seen to strike the earth, it is not improbable that it would soon have been found as a result of special search. A projection of the lines of observation in accordance with the azimuths of the Columbus and Lexington determinations (S. 15 degrees W., and N. 81 degrees E.) cross in the southern portion of Bath County, Ky.

*Note.*—Since writing the above the meteorite has been purchased by Mr. Henry Ward for the Ward-Coonley Collection of Meteorites now on deposit in the American Museum of Natural History, New York city.

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#### AN APPLICATION OF THE LAW OF PRIORITY.

THE first serious attempt to make regulations for the nomenclature of zoology was by a committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1842. Since then these rules have been both changed and added to, and may still be modified by the action of future zoological congresses. Nomenclature can never be stable so long as the rules are subject to modification. Why then not apply the law of priority to these rules, and declare that the 1842 rules of the British Association must stand, since they have the priority. Of course there were earlier attempts, just as there were binomials before Linnæus and Darwinism before Darwin, but all acknowledge that the 1842 action was the first serious work on zoological nomenclature. Therefore, following the law of priority, they should not be changed. Additions, of course, should be allowed, and these should also follow the law of priority. This would forever prevent change. The scheme of having a zoological congress to meet at intervals, for the discussion and decision of questions, permits of change; and no one can tell how slight or how great these changes may be in the future. Stability can only be obtained by deciding that something already accomplished can not be changed. NATHAN BANKS.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY.

##### GLACIAL CHANNELS IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

FAIRCHILD's recent work on the 'Pleistocene Geology of Western New York' ('N. Y. State Museum, 20th Rep. State Geol.,' 1900 (1902), 103-139, plates and maps) includes the most complete statement yet made regarding those remarkable channels worn by rivers that followed temporary courses along the depression enclosed by the spurs of the Allegheny plateau on the south and the face of the retreating