

was able to show, from curves of magnetic variation based on the records of the magnetic observatory, an apparent variation of the *rate of motion* of the north magnetic pole.

J. R. COLLINS,  
Secretary.

TORONTO, December 23, 1902.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### GUESSES ON THE RELATIVE WEIGHTS OF BILLS AND COINS.

THE question raised in SCIENCE for November 7 as to whether women are capable of making closer estimates than men is an interesting one, but the comparison of results from different colleges is somewhat uncertain. Some of the errors can be eliminated by testing young men and young women from the same state who have always been educated together. The question 'How many one-dollar bills will equal in weight a five-dollar gold piece?' was asked of 76 male and 58 female students of the University of Wyoming with the following results:

Male students: Average guess, 391; median, 56; average variation from the average guess, 516; average variation from the median, 366.

Female students: Average guess, 1,324; median, 50; average variation from the average guess, 2,125; average variation from the median, 1,299.

Since the true number is 7, the guesses of the women are slightly better if we take the median, but the most noticeable point is the much greater variety in the guesses of the women, which is in accordance with the report of Mr. Messenger in SCIENCE for April 25. This agrees well with common observation. Probably most grade books of classes nearly equally divided between the two sexes would show that the highest and lowest marks were given to women.

In the West coin is usually preferred to paper and five-dollar gold pieces are more common than one-dollar bills in Wyoming.

E. E. SLOSSON.

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#### THE PUBLICATION OF REJECTED NAMES.

WITHIN the last few days I have received two papers in which rejected manuscript names are published in such a way as to render them valid, as I understand the rules. As there is evidently a misconception or divergence of opinion, it is worth while to discuss these cases.

1. Mr. Nathan Banks, in his most interesting paper on the 'Arachnida of the Galapagos Islands' (*Proc. Wash. Ac. Sci.*, 1902), cites on p. 50 *Filistrata oceanea* and *Loxosceles galapagoensis* Marx MS., n. spp. On p. 51 he states that these were *nomina nuda*, but that they are identical with his species of the same genera described below. On p. 55 the *Filistrata* is described as *F. fasciata*, and the *Loxosceles* as *L. longipalpis*. It is evident that the Marxian names have 'priority of place,' and it is clearly stated that they pertain to the two species described; it seems to me, therefore, that they are valid.

2. Mr. F. H. Knowlton (*Bull. Torr. Bot. Club*, November, 1902, p. 640) gives an account of a fossil fruit from Vermont which he says Lesquereux named in manuscript *Carya globulosa*. A description of the fruit immediately follows the publication of this name; but on the next page we are told that the fruit belongs to *Cucumites*, and 'in view of the fact that *Carya globulosa* was never actually published, it may be appropriate to name it in honor of Lesquereux, who first detected it. It may be called *Cucumites lesquereuxii*.' On the contrary, *C. globulosa* was just then published, and I do not see how we can avoid calling the plant *Cucumites globulosus*.  
T. D. A. COCKERELL.

E. LAS VEGAS, N. M.  
December 6, 1902.

#### THE IROQUOIS BOOK OF RITES.

I HAVE before me the La Fort manuscript from which my old friend, Horatio Hale, took the text of the condolence song of the 'Younger Brothers.' It varies considerably from his version, partly from haste in copying, and partly because he made the spelling more consistent in some cases. The differences are mostly in the vowels, but some con-