

jectionable. The phylogenetic history and the ecological significance of the two processes are totally different.

Since the appearance of Goebel's 'Organography' it has been the fashion to urge the morphologists to be humble, but it is not impossible that a clear definition of terms in accord with the facts of phylogeny, such as morphologists have insisted upon, may still be of some value to botanical science.

When it is so easy to use such terms as 'staminate' and 'pistillate,' it seems a pity to permit flowers to be called 'male' and 'female.'

CONWAY MACMILLAN.

PATAGONIAN GEOLOGY.

UNDER the title 'L'age des formations sedimentaires de Patagonie,'* Dr. F. Ameghino has issued a collection of papers relating to this subject published originally in the *Anales de la Sociedad Cientifica Argentina*, Vols. 50-54 (1900-1903). The chief purpose of this series is to refute the views on Patagonian geology expressed by Mr. J. B. Hatcher and myself.

Unfortunately, the representation of my statements as given by Ameghino is in almost every single case more or less inaccurate, sometimes my views are not properly understood, sometimes they appear distorted and even directly altered.

Since it is not worth while to correct all these misunderstandings—this correction being merely a reiteration of what I have said before—I do not think it necessary to go into detail. I only wish to caution any subsequent writer occupying himself with the question of Patagonian geology, not to rely implicitly on Ameghino's representations of my views and statements, but always to consult the original version of them, as laid down in the final report on the 'Tertiary Invertebrates of the Princeton Expedition.'†

A. E. ORTMANN.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

* Buenos Aires, 1903.

† 'Reports of the Princeton University Expeditions to Patagonia,' vol. 4, part 2, 1902.

NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

SIR JOHN ELIOT, who has for a number of years occupied the important position of meteorological reporter to the government of India, and who received the distinction of knighthood on the occasion of the Durbar at Delhi, is to resign at the close of the present year. Mr. Gilbert T. Walker, who has been appointed Assistant Meteorological Reporter to the government of India, is to succeed Sir John Eliot on the latter's retirement. Mr. Walker is a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, where he attained highest honors in mathematics, and where he has taught mathematical physics since 1895. He has published a number of important researches on electricity and magnetism. After his appointment to the position of assistant meteorological reporter, Mr. Walker came to the United States, where he made a study of our methods of work in astronomy and in meteorology, visiting the Harvard and the Yerkes astronomical observatories, the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory, the Weather Bureau in Washington, etc. Mr. Walker sails for India early in May. With his admirable training in mathematics and physics, his great ability to pursue original investigations along these lines, and his wonderful field for work in Indian meteorology, there is no doubt that Mr. Walker will make important contributions to our knowledge of the mechanics of the earth's atmosphere. He may be assured that he takes with him to his new field of labor the best wishes of American men of science for his success in a region where many of those whose names are written large in the history of meteorology have done their work.

DUNN'S 'THE WEATHER.'

'The Weather' (New York, Dodd, Mead & Co. 1902. 8vo, pp. 356) is designed to 'avoid all mathematics, and scientific and technical terms (!), and present the subject in the simplest and most popular form.' The author is E. B. Dunn, for several years local forecast official of the Weather Bureau in New York City. The book endeavors to cover a large

amount of ground, with the result that most subjects are treated very superficially. There are also a great many inaccuracies. The chapters on weather maps and on weather forecasting are on the whole the best. In no way does 'The Weather' rank with the meteorologies of Hann, Davis, Angot, van Bebbler, Mohn, Waldo and others.

NOTES.

THERE has recently been published a 'Catalog der in Norwegen bis Juni 1878 beobachteten Nordlichter, zusammengestellt von Sophus Tromholt' (Christiania, 1902. 4to, pp. 422). This catalogue was prepared for publication by J. Fr. Schroeter, of the University Observatory, Christiania, Tromholt having died on April 17, 1896.

THE volume on Meteorology of the 'International Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' published for the International Council of the Royal Society, is now on sale. It numbers about 200 pages, and costs 15 shillings.

R. DE C. WARD.

GENERAL JAMES T. STRATTON.

AFTER fifty years of professional activity in California, General James T. Stratton, the well-known surveyor, died at his home in Oakland on March 15. General Stratton was born in the state of New York in 1830, and came to California in 1850. After mining for a few years he resumed his professional work in 1853 and made the first official survey of the Alameda Encinal, at that time an uninhabited region. In 1858 he was elected county surveyor of Alameda County and was subsequently identified with the surveys of the large land grants made by the Spanish and Mexican authorities; through the knowledge acquired in this connection, he became a recognized expert on such land grants, their titles and boundary lines. He subdivided more of these, in many cases, immense areas, than any other surveyor in California. He also made the first survey for a railway out of Oakland by the way of Niles and the Livermore Pass to Stockton; these surveys extended to Folsom, Placerville being the objective point.

This work was done for an English syndicate; the project was, however, abandoned because of the civil war. Later the rails were laid on these lines by Stanford and his associates, as the Western Pacific Railroad Company, later merged into the Central Pacific Railroad Company.

In 1873 he was appointed United States Surveyor General for California by President Grant, resigning in 1876 on account of ill health. From 1880 to 1883 he was connected with the State survey general's office, and from the latter date was engaged as a land attorney till 1899. To General Stratton belongs the credit of being the first to make an artificial forest west of the Rocky Mountains, he having in 1869 planted some forty-five acres with Eucalyptus trees of the species *E. globulus* and *E. viminalis*. He was a public-spirited citizen and quiet, unassuming gentleman.

ROBT E. C. STEARNS.

LOS ANGELES,

April 24, 1903.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has offered to give \$1,000,000 for a building for the engineering societies. It is to be situated in New York City, and will provide an auditorium, a library and headquarters for five engineering societies, namely, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society of Electrical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the Engineers' Club.

FINAL contracts have been signed for the purchase from the Schermerhorn estate of the site in New York City for the Rockefeller Institute. The property acquired extends from Sixty-fourth street to a line 50 feet north of Sixty-seventh street from Avenue A to the East River. The price was about \$700,000. The work of construction on the main building will begin about August 1.

By vote of its council the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America will hold its next meeting in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at St. Louis during convocation week, 1903-1904.