

the requisites of health and comfort and variety of scenery and exercise, while perhaps no other place could supply a greater abundance of the material for study, both marine and terrestrial.

Of course I am unable to give an opinion of value on this subject. I only ask an investigation of this Island of Pines.

J. FRED. CLARKE.

'MOUNT PELEE.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for June 5 Mr. Mark S. W. Jefferson raises a question which is of interest to those who, like myself, are studying the volcanoes of the West Indies: What shall we call the now celebrated volcano on the island of Martinique? Mr. Jefferson seems to be inclined to use the name 'Mount Pelee.'

During a stay of four weeks on the island last year and another visit of like duration this year, I heard the mountain called almost invariably 'Mont Pelé,' very rarely if at all 'La montagne Pelée.' The latter form is that employed on the charts of the island, but the former is the one most commonly used by the French in correspondence and in written descriptions, as well as in conversation, as being more compact. The general tendency among geographers now is toward using geographical names in the way in which they are employed in the region containing the geographical feature, hence it seems to me better to write the correct French 'Mont Pelé,' than the Anglicized 'Mount Pelee,' in which there is little suggestion of the true pronunciation of the name. When but one word is to be used for the mountain, the generally accepted form, 'Pelée' is convenient and is to be recommended as conforming the formal appellation of the volcano. I speak with the more feeling on this topic, because I am one of those who have helped to perpetuate the incorrect combination, 'Mt. Pelée.'

Regarding the origin of the name and its applicability to the mountain it may be remarked that the accepted explanation among Martiniquans is that the term has been derived from the ancient Carib name for the

mountain. When Columbus discovered Martinique he found a Carib town at Le Carbet, nearly two miles south of the present site of St. Pierre. The Caribs were afraid to live any nearer to the volcano on account of their traditions regarding its activity; and they called it the 'bald' or treeless mountain, a name which in itself indicates traditional eruptions. Any one who has seen Mont Pelé since May 8, 1902, will grant that the mountain now merits its name.

EDMUND OTIS HOVEY.

SHORTER ARTICLES.

ON THE LIMITS OF UNAIDED VISION.

It is generally accepted that the sixth stellar magnitude is the limit of naked-eye vision. Though observers with eyes of unusual sharpness may under favorable conditions see stars nearly an entire magnitude fainter, that this is for all practical purposes the limit may be seen from a consideration of the faintest stars given in the various star catalogues and uranometriæ devoted to naked-eye stars. The average magnitude on the scale of the Harvard photometry of the faintest stars visible in several of these catalogues is as follows (*H. C. O. Annals*, Vol. XIV., Part II.):

Ptolemy's Almagest	5.38 M.
Sûfi	5.64 "
Argelander, Uranometria Nova..	5.74 "
Heis, Atlas Cœlestis Novus.....	6.06 "
Houzeau, Uranométrie Générale.	6.40 "
Gould, Uranometria Argentina..	6.71 "

Argelander states that his sixth magnitude comprised stars as faint as he could make out at Bonn; his eye, according to his own estimate, was of moderate sharpness. The faintest class of Houzeau comprised those stars which, under favorable conditions, could not be seen continuously, but only at intervals. Gould found in the clear atmosphere of Cordoba that on very good nights observers of ordinary vision might go even below his seventh magnitude (6.71 M. Harvard phot.), and attributes it mainly to the advantage given by the altitude of the observatory. Several of the observers at the Lick Observatory have, under the most favorable condi-