In the October number of the *Journal of the Linnean Society* the 'Enumeration of all the Plants known from China Proper, Formosa, Hainan, Corea, the Luchu Archipelago and the Island of Hongkong,' by Francis B. Forbes and William B. Hemsley, is carried forward nearly through the Cyperaceæ. As the sequence is that of Bentham and Hooker, it is likely that a few more numbers will see the end of this great work.

In No. 247 of the *Journal of the Linnean Society* (dated October, also) W. and G. S. West publish an interesting paper on the 'Scottish Freshwater Plankton,' which shows that the Scottish phytoplankton 'is unique in the abundance of its desmids.'

CHEMISTRY OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE.

PROFESSOR SNYDER, of the University of Minnesota, has compiled a handy little volume under the title of 'The Chemistry of Plant and Animal Life,' which merits a notice here, since it is an attempt to place within reach of the beginner many of the chemical facts which otherwise are inaccessible to him. It is an elementary treatise and was originally prepared for the students in the school of agriculture of the university. This made it necessary that the treatment should be quite simple, and as nearly non-technical as possible. It is not, therefore, a 'contribution' to science, but it is a contribution to the pedagogics of science. The author has found how to present the subject for the class of students under consideration; a class characterized by great earnestness and a desire to learn all that can be reached, but whose scholastic preparation is somewhat defective. Difficult as is the problem, Professor Snyder has successfully solved it. He first gives about twenty chapters to a simple statement (with experiments) of general chemistry, and follows these with such topics as 'the water-content of plants,' 'the non-nitrogenous organic compounds of plants,' 'the nitrogenous organic compounds of plants,' 'chemistry of plant growth,' 'composition of fodders,' 'composition of wheat,' etc. The book, while a simple one, and no doubt here and there open to the criticism of some confusion of details, is without question one which will be of great service to beginning students, especially in the schools of agriculture. A new edition is under way, and is to appear soon. It should find place in many schools.

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THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION.

THE trustees of the Carnegie Institution have approved the recommendation of the executive committee that $10,000 be granted for twenty tables at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass., for 1904. Applications received prior to February 1, 1904, will be considered, and twenty persons assigned to the tables at the laboratory, for the season of 1904.

The trustees have also approved of an appropriation for two tables at the Naples Marine Biological Station, for which applications will be received and considered up to February 1, 1904.

It is desirable that all applications for research assistantships shall be in the hands of the committee by February 1.

The regulations in regard to the research assistantships are as follows:

It is the purpose of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, among other plans, to encourage exceptional talent by appointing a certain number of research assistants.

These positions will not be those commonly known as fellowships or scholarships; nor is the object of this provision to contribute to the payment of mechanical helpers or of assistants in the work of instruction. It is rather to discover and develop, under competent scrutiny and under favorable conditions, such persons as have unusual ability. It is not intended to provide means by which a student may complete his courses of study, nor to give assistance in the preparation of dissertations for academic degrees. Work of a more advanced and special character is expected of all who receive appointment.

The annual emolument will vary according to circumstances. As a rule, it will not exceed $1,000 per annum. No limitations are prescribed as to age, sex, nationality, graduation or residence. Appointments will, at first, be made for one year, but may be continued.

It is desirable that a person thus appointed should work under the supervision of an investigator who is known to the authorities of the Carnegie Institution to be engaged in an important field of scientific research, and in a place where there is easy access to libraries and apparatus—but there may be exceptions to this.

Applications for appointments may be presented by the head of, or by a professor in, an institution of learning, or by the candidate. They should be accompanied by a statement of the qualifications of the candidate, of the research work he has done, and of that which he desires to follow, and of the time for which an allowance is desired. If he has already printed or written anything of interest, a copy of this should be enclosed with the application.

Communications upon this subject should be distinctly marked on the outside envelope, and on the inside, 'Research Assistant,' and should be addressed to the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Bond Building, Washington, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

As all our readers know, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Naturalists and about twenty affiliated societies are meeting this week at St. Louis. Several of the most important national societies devoted to the biological sciences, or their eastern branches, are meeting in Philadelphia. The American Philosophical Association is meeting at Princeton, and there are more or less local meetings in other cities. At the time of going to press information in regard to these meetings has not reached us; but we shall as usual publish full reports in the issue of next week and in subsequent issues.

M. Emile Bertin has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section for geography.

M. H. Gréhant, professor of physiology in the Paris Museum of Natural History, has been elected a correspondent of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science.

Professor Ludwig Boltzmann, of Leipzig, has been elected an honorary member of the Academy of Sciences at Moscow.

Professor Otto Bütschli, professor of zoology and paleontology of the University of Heidelberg, has been appointed an honorary member of the Universities of St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The honorary doctorate of the University of Marburg has been conferred on Dr. Thedor Tschernyshew, of St. Petersburg, director of the Russian Geological Committee.

The University of Munich has conferred an honorary doctorate of philosophy on Mr. L. Cockayne, of Christ Church, New Zealand.

Mr. A. J. Eveland, a graduate student in geology and mineralogy of the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed geologist to the Mining Bureau established by the United States Government in the Philippine Islands.

Mr. John Shafer, formerly custodian of botany at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburg, has been appointed custodian of the Museum of the New York Botanical Gardens.

Professor Paul Ehrlich, director of the Royal Institute for Experimental Therapeutics at Frankfurt, a/M, will deliver the first course of Herter lectures at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School. Professor Ehrlich's lectures will be in German, and will probably present the results of his researches on immunity.

Dr. G. Sims Woodhead, professor of pathology at Cambridge University and member of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, gave the third Henry Phipps Institute lecture on December 29 at Philadelphia, his subject being 'Paths of Infection in Tuberculosis.'

The Bradshaw lecture was delivered before the Royal College of Surgeons on December 9 by Mr. Henry Morris, the subject being 'Cancer and its Origin.'

A special meeting of the Scottish Geographical Society was held at Edinburgh on December 17, under the presidency of Professor James Geikie. An address was delivered by Sir Thomas H. Holdich on 'The Patagonian Andes.'