

1. Let the association keep up all its sections, possibly adding to the number, freely cooperating with special societies, each section showing a willingness to unite in preparing a program with any one or more special societies having a like object.

2. Years ago at meetings of the association, the late W. A. Rogers in Boston and E. S. Morse in Detroit, strenuously advocated the presentation of no papers that did not present the results of original work. Professor Cope often took the same ground, not infrequently helping to reject papers because of their popular nature.

I have recently thought it desirable to have a number of speakers selected by officers of the sections, perhaps with the approval of the council, to present some topic or series of topics in a popular way to attract 'outsiders.' It would hardly be safe to permit any volunteers to present papers on a popular topic.

3. Education, economics, but not philology.

4. Once a year, preferably in winter, till this date has had a fair trial.

5. Meet most of the time in populous regions from Washington to Boston, Detroit, Chicago, where many people are most sure to attend.

6. The association through SCIENCE is now performing a great work. W. J. BEAL.

ERRORS IN NOMENCLATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the *American Naturalist* for February is a paper by Miss E. G. Mitchell purporting to date from Cornell University and expressing acknowledgments to Instructor H. D. Reed and myself. Besides some typographic errors it contains so many incorrect generic and specific names that, in justice to the university and ourselves, Dr. Reed and I feel obliged to disclaim responsibility for them. Two years ago some dissections and observations were made by Miss Mitchell in this laboratory, and she was probably encouraged to complete and publish them. But at that time our concern was with the subject-matter, and we did not undertake to verify the names of the fishes examined. Neither the manuscript nor a proof has been submitted to us recently, as would

have been required before assenting to publication as if from the department. Others, like ourselves, probably query why the paper was not passed upon by the ichthyological editor of the *Naturalist*. A list of corrections has been sent to Miss Mitchell, in Louisiana, with the expectation that she will request their immediate publication. BURT G. WILDER.

ITHACA, N. Y.

May 2, 1904.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

A REFERENCE TO THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES IN AN EARLY LETTER (1796) SIGNED BY BOTH LAMARCK AND GEOFFROY.

AMONG the papers of the elder Peale which were recently dispersed in Philadelphia was a four-page letter in folio, on official paper, signed by Lamarck as director of the Museum of Natural History and by Geoffroy as 'professor and secretary.' The writing is in the hand of Geoffroy, and it is, accordingly, fair to assume the composition and the doing into English were also his. The ideas, however, are subscribed to by Lamarck 'for director' in his characteristic hand.

One might add that manuscripts connected with Lamarck are rare; in fact, few are known which touch upon variation in species, and the present letter may, therefore, be quoted *literatim*, for what it contains of an extra philosophical nature will be at least of human interest as indicating the type of correspondence which such a man as Peale would have read to his colleagues of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

at Paris, 30 Juny 1796
LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ.
MUSÉUM NATIONAL
D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE.

THE PROFESSORS DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY TO MR. PEALES, AT PHILADELPHIA.

Sir,

Mr. Beauvois has transmitted us the letter wick you directed to him, by wick you propose yoursel to enter into a correspondance with the Museum of Natural History of the french Nation. We are pleased to seize an opportunity wick can afford us some communication with a *Naturalist* of your merit. Every thing you announce is