

for the 'Sensations') only through later compilations.

At the risk of appearing tedious in a matter which is by no means of trivial importance, namely, that of accuracy of citation, we may direct attention to the following pertinent comments taken from the introduction to Tannery's work above referred to:

Combien de fois voit-on de nos jours des érudits, et des plus consciencieux, citer telle page et telle ligne d'un volume qu'ils n'ont jamais eu entre leurs mains! C'est la conséquence forcée du système de citations à la mode, et qui, indispensable pour certains ouvrages, n'en est pas moins inutile et, par suite, abusif la plupart du temps. Il y a là un étalage d'érudition aussi facile qu'illusoire; qui s'est donné la peine de vérifier, par exemple, cent citations de suite dans tel ouvrage moderne, même des plus justement renommés, peut savoir seul combien il a chance d'en trouver d'inexactes ou de complètement fausses sur cent autres au hasard.

Then follow these two excellent prescriptions:

(1) Ne jamais citer avec précision un travail sans l'avoir lu intégralement; (2) se borner à l'indispensable, c'est-à-dire aux seuls cas où l'on peut désirer que le lecteur, pour être mieux convaincu, ait effectivement recours à l'ouvrage invoqué.

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POSTSCRIPT.

Through the courtesy of the Editor of SCIENCE it is possible to append a word to the foregoing after proof had already been passed for press. In the issue of SCIENCE for October 21, Dr. Emmons suggests that remarks of mine with reference to him in an earlier article (No. 502) 'seem to flavor of a certain disingenuousness.' This may be construed as implying that the article was contributed subsequently to an exchange of personal letters, in which Dr. Emmons courteously disclosed his authority.

In point of fact this assumption, or implied assumption, is incorrect, my former article having been already in train of publication at the time our correspondence took place. Before it was actually printed there was opportunity to be sure, for certain alterations to be made in the proof, incorporating the later information obtained from Dr. Emmons. But having in the meantime taken pains to verify *his* authority, and finding that

von Zittel too was in error, it seemed best to leave the original text unchanged, and bring up the matter afresh on some future occasion; and had this intention been carried out earlier, it is probable that our esteemed Washington colleague would have no grounds for misapprehension.

C. R. E.

October 22, 1904.

PALÆONTOLOGIA UNIVERSALIS.

THE writer desires to call the attention of American geologists to the fact that this very important work has but 21 subscribers in the United States, while France has 63 and Germany 96. Certainly the geologists and geological libraries of this country are not yet supplied with this publication. Fasciculi I. and II. have been issued; these contain 97 sheets redescribing and refiguring 46 of the old and little known species. It is intended to issue annually from 150 to 160 sheets, treating of about 80 species. The annual subscription price is \$8.00. Subscriptions may be sent to G. E. Stechert, No. 9 East Sixteenth Street, New York City. Those persons or institutions desiring further information regarding this work, with samples of the plates, will be supplied on application to Professor Charles Schuchert, Yale University Museum, New Haven, Conn.

CHARLES SCHUCHERT.

A PROPOSED GEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY.

THE increase in interest and the clearer understanding of the origin of many topographic features have caused a great increase in the number of what may be called technical topographic terms during the past twenty years. Further travel and study along geographic lines in foreign countries have led to the gradual adoption by us of many foreign topographic terms for various forms of relief. This growing body of terms is at present scattered through a large mass of literature, usually inaccessible to most students. The present writer's experience has shown very clearly the need for some authoritative dictionary of topographic terms which shall bring together not only the less well known terms, but also those which are now in frequent but very loose use. To meet this need he began

four years ago to compile a dictionary which should in some way serve, not only to fill the wants just pointed out, but also as a guide to appropriate names for new forms. A further use for such a list is suggested by a foreign term used in a recent government publication, and also *in another sense* in a somewhat earlier private paper by another writer.

The undersigned now wishes to appeal to all those interested in the advancement of the study of geomorphology, to aid in the preparation of this dictionary—already over three hundred terms have been catalogued—by sending to him the following data for any topographic term, in any language, which may be met with in the course of study or reading:

1. The new term, and the inventor or first user of it in the given sense.
2. The etymology of the term, if possible.
3. The publication, volume, page and year, where first used.
4. The original definition, preferably *quoted*.
5. The cited examples of the form or combination of forms to which the inventor, or first user, applied it.

The above need not be written on catalogue cards, but preferably should be typewritten. The latter is not at all a prime requisite, however.

Of course the contributors to the work will be given full credit for the aid they render. Letters should be addressed to

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AMOEBAE FOR THE LABORATORY.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Just at this season many teachers of zoology are looking for Amœbæ for their students, and as I remember well the difficulty that is often experienced in securing them in considerable numbers and of good size, I venture to give a very simple method of obtaining them which I hit upon accidentally two years ago and have found highly satisfactory ever since; it is quite possible that this method is in use by others and it may be that it has been recorded, but if so it has escaped my notice. Two years ago while examining some insect eggs which were attached to the lily-pads on a pond on my

summer place, I noticed numerous amœbæ. So I suggested to my laboratory assistant the following autumn that he get a considerable number of lily-pads and remove the slime which adheres to the under surface with a spatula and put it in a shallow glass aquarium containing water six or eight centimeters deep. This he did, placing the vessel near a window, and in a week or two the amœbæ were very large and abundant on the surface of the sediment at the bottom of the aquarium. We followed the same method this year with equally satisfactory results, so that I believe it to be as reliable as it is simple, and I would strongly recommend it to any one who has had trouble in securing this useful animal.

A. W. WEYSSE.

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DO RHIZOPODS DIE A NATURAL DEATH?

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In various works on zoology and geology statements like the following are usually found, and, so far as I know, have never been questioned: ‘* * * in the oceans Globigerinæ live in countless numbers. Dying, their shells accumulate to form thick layers on the ocean bottom.’

We know that as a rule protozoa do not die a natural death, as that term is used in reference to higher animals. They subdivide and we have two protozoa, these subdivide and there are four, and so on to the end of time. The fact that Globigerinæ protect themselves with a shell which consists of a series of chambers does not prevent them from withdrawing from their shell for purposes of conjugation and reproduction somewhat as do the diatoms. I would be very much obliged if some reader of SCIENCE who has studied the habits of rhizopods would answer the question, given above, in the correspondence department of your journal.

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BODY TEMPERATURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for September 9, Mr. Woods Hutchinson requests references to articles dealing with body temperature. If he has not already seen the vol-