

mosses from the Cape of Good Hope,* dedicated to N. B. Ward, Esq. The genus and one species, *W. hygrometrica*, were fully described and figured. If it be said in extenuation that the work in which it occurs is somewhat difficult of access, this can not be said of Endlicher's 'Genera Plantarum,' which is in all libraries, and where (p. 1345) the genus is redescribed and is duly entered in the index. The author of this two-fold achievement is a member of the Committee on Botanical Nomenclature! LESTER F. WARD.

DELUC'S 'GEOLOGICAL LETTERS.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: With all due respect for the opinions of Dr. Emmons and Sir Archibald Geikie, I am unable to see why von Zittel was not scrupulously exact in his handling of facts when crediting Deluc with prior use of the term 'geology' as compared with de Saussure. The latter uses it but twice, defining it as 'la Théorie de la Terre,' in the earliest edition of his work, published in 1779. The second authorized edition of Deluc's 'Letters' (it had already been pirated) appeared also in 1779, the term 'geology' occurring in the body of the work an equal number of times (vol. I., pp. 4, 5), and again in a footnote on p. 7, where it is observed that the word 'cosmology' is more generally used in an equivalent sense.

It is worth noting that this footnote, which purports to be of identical† tenor with the first edition, scarcely justifies the assertion that Deluc 'could not venture to adopt the term geology because it was not a word in use.' More to the point is a passage where the author expressly designates the work in hand as a *treatise on geology*: 'Je vis que je faisais un Traité, et non une esquisse de Géologie.'

* 'Wardia: a New Genus of Mosses, discovered in Southern Africa,' by W. H. Harvey and W. J. Hooker; *Companion to the Botanical Magazine*, Vol. II., London, 1836, pp. 183-184, pl. xxv.

† The text reads as follows in the 1779 edition: "Je répète ici, ce que j'avois dit dans ma première *Preface*, sur la substitution du mot *Cosmologie* à celui de *Géologie*: * * * c'est que l'usage ordinaire a consacré le premier de ces mots, dans le sens où je l'emploie."

He constantly refers to it later under the abbreviated title of 'Lettres Géologiques,* and intitulated another of his productions 'Traité élémentaire Géologie.' It appears, therefore, that beginning with 1778, a year before de Saussure's work saw the light, and continuously thereafter, Deluc employed the term geology in its modern sense; hence he is entitled to generous consideration for having helped bring the name our science now bears into familiar use. Deluc, in pointing out the etymological propriety of 'geology' no doubt furnished a suggestion which de Saussure immediately caught at, since he twice employs the term, as Dr. Emmons has said, 'without any explanation or apology,' and alludes also to 'the geologist,' as is natural. Von Zittel seems to me to have exercised very candid judgment in this matter, and one must be a very 'strict constructionist' indeed who can deny Deluc's claims to priority.

Almost simultaneously with the authors just considered, the celebrated Werner appears to have been instrumental, to some extent, in popularizing the term geology. Werner's definition of this and cognate words is given by one of his distinguished pupils, d'Aubuisson, from whose 'Traité de Géognosie' we extract the following (vol. I., p. 2): "Werner remarque, en outre, que les noms composés de *logos*, tels que *zoologie*, *minéralogie*, etc., désignent l'universalité de nos connaissances sur un objet; et, d'après cela, la *géologie* comprend, selon lui, non seulement la *géognosie*, mais encore la *géographie*, l'*hydrographie*, la *géogenie*, etc."

C. R. EASTMAN.

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UNIVERSITY REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On reading the article 'University Registration Statistics' (SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. XX., No. 552, December 30, 1904), it occurred to me that it would be interesting to know the average number of students to each teacher, in the institutions mentioned. The 'Total Registration' (not including the 'Summer Sessions'), divided by

* Compare, for instance, his frequent correspondence in the *Journal de Physique*.