

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE MODERN 'DROIT D'AUBAINE.'*

ONE of the dark spots in the dark and middle ages is the treatment of foreigners. Was a ship wrecked upon the French coast? What was saved was saved for the seigneur who owned the shore, or his overlord, the king. The lading and the crew were alike his, to dispose of as he would. If the sailors were uncivil enough to set up a claim to the wreckage, he could kill them. If he preferred, he could sell them as slaves. It was his right—the *droit de naufrage*.

It was on the same principle that down to modern times, if a man happened to die while traveling or living abroad, his estate, in many countries of Europe, was seized and kept by the lord of the manor or the sovereign of the land. His will was disregarded. His natural heirs, unless born on the soil or naturalized citizens, were set aside. All that he left belonged to the governing power.

Quite naturally, as trade between nations became more considerable, the countries which retained this *droit d'aubaine* in its full vigor and severity found few merchants ready to bring cargoes to their ports. The result was successive modifications of the system. Certain trading centers were exempted from its operation. Naturalization was to be easily had by traders, and when obtained relieved them from subjec-

* Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section I., American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Philadelphia.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

authority to undertake it. This he gave without hesitation, and in the most liberal manner, leaving me free to act with the specimen as if it were my own. * * * The work of removing the necessary plates and debris from above the base of the specimen was tedious and difficult, being performed entirely under a ten-power microscope, with tools specially fashioned out of needles and fine steel pens. It was completely successful, however, without any mishap, and disclosed a structure most extraordinary and anomalous, unlike any of the previous suppositions, and wholly at variance with that of any other known erinoid.

It is finally concluded that the genus is intermediate between the great groups of Flexibilia and Camerata; nearest, apparently, to the Reteocrinidæ. The memoir is illustrated by a beautiful plate of drawings by K. M. Chapman and E. Ricker, showing not only all aspects of *Cleiocrinus*, but also *Reteocrinus* and *Glyptocrinus* for comparison.

T. D. A. C.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE *Journal of Experimental Medicine* established by Dr. W. H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, will hereafter be published under the auspices of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and will be edited by Drs. Simon Flexner and Eugene L. Opie. The scope of the *Journal* will suffer no alteration by reason of the change of management, and it is hoped that it may continue to cover, as heretofore, the field of experimental medicine. It is proposed to issue numbers of the *Journal* at bimonthly intervals, six numbers to constitute a volume, which will contain not less than six hundred pages.

THE opening (January) number of volume 6 of the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* contains the following papers:

P. F. SMITH: 'On the linear transformations of a quadratic form into itself.'

E. V. HUNTINGTON: 'A set of postulates for real algebra, comprising postulates for a one-dimensional continuum and for the theory of groups.'

W. A. MANNING: 'On the primitive groups of class 3p.'

L. E. DICKSON: 'The minimum degree τ of resolvents for the p -section of the periods of hyperelliptic functions of four periods.'

G. A. MILLER: 'Determination of all the groups of order 2^n which contain an odd number of cyclic subgroups of composite order.'

E. D. ROE: 'On the coefficients in the quotient of two alternants.'

E. J. WILCZYNSKI: 'General theory of curves on ruled surfaces.'

O. VELEN: 'Theory of plane curves in non-metrical analysis situs.'

The *Museums Journal* of Great Britain for January contains the second part of an article on 'School-Children and Museums,' by Henry Coates and Alex. M. Rodger, and 'The School Nature-Study Union,' under which is given a list of the museums, zoological and botanical gardens, in and about London and the facilities they afford teachers and students. There are a description of the Liverpool Museum as now arranged and a large number of notes about museums. Like *Nature* the *Museums Journal* is particularly strong in its notes, which form a most important portion of any scientific journal.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE fifteenth annual meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences was held in the Hall of Mechanic Arts, State University, Lincoln, January 27-28, and included a business session, sessions for the reading of papers and a social session on the evening of the latter date.

The following papers were presented:

PROFESSOR H. B. DUNCANSON: President's Address: 'The Relation of the State to Scientific Investigation.'

DR. H. H. WAITE: 'The Duty of the State to the Public in the Prevention of Certain Diseases.'

DEAN H. B. WARD: 'Some Observations on the Biological Conditions of Elevated Lakes' (with lantern).

PROFESSOR O. V. P. STOUT: 'An Economical Design for Measuring Flumes.'

DR. G. E. CONDRA: 'The Possible Development of Nebraska's Stone-quarrying Industries.'

PROFESSOR F. D. HEALD: 'Preliminary Note on a Black Rot of Apples.'

DR. R. H. WOLCOTT: 'A New Mite Affecting Greenhouse Plants.'

PROFESSOR B. E. MOORE: 'A Color Study of Cobalt Solutions.'