

most exhaustive, authoritative and generally excellent treatise upon its subject which has yet appeared, and that it must form the foundation-work for all future studies upon matters connected with peat-moors.

W. F. GANONG.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE January number of the *Botanical Gazette* contains a paper by Rodney H. True and C. S. Oglevee giving the results of studies on the effect of such insoluble substances as sand, starch grains, filter paper, etc., upon the toxic action of electrolyte and non-electrolyte poisons in aqueous solution. It appears that the insoluble body adsorbs the poison solute, thus diminishing the effective concentration of the latter as though it were taken out of solution.—Burton E. Livingston describes the types of soil and of vegetation in the north-central part of the southern peninsula of Michigan (Roscommon and Crawford counties), and discusses the influence which the soil has in determining the distribution of the various plant societies. He concludes that the amount of soil moisture, determined largely by fineness of soil particles, is the main controlling factor here.—A. D. E. Elmer describes a number of new and noteworthy Californian plants.—Edgar W. Olive discusses the morphology of *Monascus purpureus*, taking up the accounts of Barker and Ikeno and giving certain results of his own observations.—B. M. Davis discusses fertilization in Saprolegniales based upon a recent paper by Trow; and also the sexual organs and sporophyte of Rhodophyceæ based upon a recent paper by Wolfe.

The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease for January opens with a paper by Dr. F. X. Dercum, giving an exhaustive and careful report of three cases, one being illustrated, which bear upon the question of the relation of syphilis to spastic spinal paralysis and also indirectly upon the question of Erb's form of spinal syphilis. Dr. S. D. Ludlum contributes an article on the 'Possible Relationship of Neuro-fibrillar Changes to Insanity.' He summarizes the literature bearing on the subject, and reports a series of experiments con-

ducted at Friends' Asylum which leads to the hypothesis of a close relationship between fibrils and mental manifestations. An interesting case of tumor of the occipital lobe with an unusual clinical history is reported by Dr. Philip Zenner; also one of carcinoma of the spine following carcinoma of the breast, the spinal disease being characterized by a phenomenally long course, possibly due to removal of the ovaries some four years before the patient's death. The October meetings of the New York Neurological Society and the Boston Society of Psychiatry and Neurology are reported. The 'Periscope' for the month contains abstracts of the following journals: *Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie*, *Brain*, *Neurologisches Centralblatt*, *Revue de Psychiatrie et de Psychologie Expérimentale*, *Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatrie*, *American Journal of Insanity*, *Journal de Neurologie*, *Archives de Neurologie*, and selected articles from miscellaneous periodicals. The books reviewed in this number are 'Epilepsy and its Treatment,' by Dr. W. P. Spratling; 'La Mimica del Pensiero Studio e Ricerche,' by Dr. Sante de Sanctis; two volumes of 'The Doctor's Recreation Series,' edited by C. W. Moulton; 'Manuel pour l'Etude des Maladies du Système Nerveux,' by Dr. Maurice de Fleury; 'A Manual of Psychology,' by G. F. Stout; 'Trattato delle Malattie Mentali,' by Professor E. Tanzi; 'Lehrbuch der Nervenkrankheiten für Aerzte und Studierende,' by Professor H. Oppenheim; 'Essentials of Nervous Diseases and Insanity,' by Dr. J. C. Shaw; 'Nietzsche,' by P. J. Möbius; 'Mental Defectives, their History, Treatment and Training,' by Dr. M. W. Barr, and 'The Physician's Visiting List for 1905-1906.' The issue closes with two pages of 'News and Notes.'

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

SECTION OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY.

At the meeting of the section held on February 6 the following papers were read by title:

Moissanite, a Carbon Silicide from the Cañon Diablo Meteorite: GEORGE F. KUNZ.