

as suggested by Oltmanns. The Conjugatæ furnish a perplexing problem, but the speaker preferred to regard this group as forming an order of Chlorophyceæ rather than as a separate class, in view of present evidence.

EDWARD W. BERRY,
Secretary.

THE SCIENCE CLUB OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN.

THE fifth meeting of the club for the year 1904-5 was held in the large auditorium of University Hall, on February 23, at 7:30 P.M. The paper of the evening, by Dr. U. S. Grant, of Northwestern University, dealt with the subject 'The Lead and Zinc Mines of Southwestern Wisconsin.' Dr. Grant presented the main results of a careful survey of this region, which during late years has again become an important factor in the domestic lead and zinc production. The work was done under the direction of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and a full account of the results obtained will be given in the near future in a bulletin published by the survey. The paper was discussed by various members of the university faculty and others, after which a business meeting of the club was held.

F. W. WOLL,
Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

BLUNDERS IN THE SCIENTIFIC RECORDS.

THE systematic zoologist and zoogeographer of to-day who is trying to utilize for generalizations the facts which have been accumulated by previous generations is constantly baffled—and often led astray by the insufficiency of the material gathered, the lack of detail and accuracy in the labeling, and the often downright erroneousness in the recording. The last is particularly vexatious, because once put into print, it is almost impossible to eradicate such errors. The everlasting recurrence in zoogeographical text-books of the allusion to the toad once falsely stated to have come from the Hawaiian Islands, and to the two-handed lizard alleged to inhabit

Colorado, are familiar examples of these undying errors.

A rather flagrant case of erroneous locality record was exposed some time ago. In 1881 Dr. Victor-Lopez Seoane startled the zoological world by describing a boid snake from the Philippine Islands. It was stated to have been collected by his brother at Manila, and to say that the case puzzled the zoographers is to put it mildly. It was soon discovered that it belonged to a West Indian genus, *Epicrates*, and in my 'Herpetology of Porto Rico' (1904) I showed conclusively that the snake must have come from Porto Rico, being identical with *E. inornatus* which is peculiar to that island. Dr. Seoane's brother is a Spanish naval officer, a general in the marine corps, and this circumstance explains the mixing up of the Philippine and the Porto Rican localities.

A parallel to this blunder has just come under my notice. In 1890 Dr. Seoane again described (in the *Mémoires de la Société Zoologique de France*, III., p. 260, pl. vi) a new species from the Philippine Islands, collected by the same brother. This time it was a toad which received its name, *Bufo panayanus*, from the island of Panay, the alleged type locality being Iloilo. He correctly compared it with *B. gutturosus* from Santo Domingo, but failed to profit by this resemblance to the West Indian species, of which he regarded it as the 'oriental pendant.' While recently completing a list of Philippine batrachians and, therefore, looking up the original records, I was struck by the similarity of Seoane's figures to the Porto Rican toad *Bufo lemur* and a comparison with specimens of the latter easily demonstrated their identity. The relationship to *Bufo gutturosus* from Haiti, which is quite close, is thus easily accounted for, and the 'oriental pendant' done away with. *Bufo panayanus* finds a final resting place in the synonymy of *Bufo lemur*, and the list of Philippine batrachians is one species poorer!

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

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