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LIFE AND CHEMISTRY.*

CONTENTS.

<i>Life and Chemistry:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES BASKERVILLE	641
<i>Interpretation of a Water Examination:</i> PROFESSOR W. P. MASON	648
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>A New Introduction to the Study of Fishes:</i> DR. THEO. GILL	653
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles.....</i>	661
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>The Geological Society of Washington:</i> DR. GEO. OTIS SMITH. <i>The Biological Society of Washington:</i> E. L. MORRIS. <i>Section of Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry of the New York Academy of Sciences:</i> C. C. TROWBRIDGE. <i>The Science Club of the University of Wisconsin:</i> F. W. WOLL. <i>Meeting of Experimental Psychologists at Clark University</i>	662
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Alternation of Generations in Animals:</i> HAROLD L. LYON. <i>Science and the Newspapers:</i> PROFESSOR G. N. STEWART and C. C. GUTHRIE. <i>A Modest Student of Animal Psychology:</i> PROFESSOR MAYNARD M. METCALF. <i>A New Form of Stereoscope:</i> PROFESSOR JOSEPH JASTROW	666
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>A Revision of the Coccaceae:</i> DR. C.-E. A. WINSLOW and ANNE F. ROGERS. <i>A Connection by Precise Leveling between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans:</i> DR. JOHN F. HAYFORD	669
<i>Botanical Notes:—</i>	
<i>Recent Classifications of the Green Algae; Seaweed Studies; Sargent's Manual of Trees:</i> PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY....	674
<i>The National Academy of Sciences.....</i>	675
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	676
<i>University and Educational News.....</i>	680

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

As I look into the eyes of those before me, I can not but have the feelings of Moleschott in his address at the reopening of the University of Rome when he found himself 'in the face of an audience whom he had nothing to teach, but from whom he had much to learn.'

An imposing knowledge of the distinctions attained by my two distinguished predecessors, perhaps should be depressing; for it is no longer an investment here to forge ahead, but an investment to keep up. On the contrary, their unseen presences stand not as spectres, but as gracious good guardians.

It becomes necessary in the outset to confess to an inner consciousness, that we know. *How* we need not consider for the present further than that the internal thought-centers, association or sense-centers take impressions from the external world and transform them into presentations, which automatically, as it were, frame themselves into concepts. The 'ultimate nature of reality' is not of immediate moment.

Doubtless, man from his earliest experience has speculated on the origin and perpetuation of life, that is, nature. This period is no exception. President Jordan has written, 'whatever else may be said of it, this is certainly the age of deliberate scrutiny of origins and destiny.'

Kant, among many things, wrote 'Only

* Inaugural lecture on the assumption of the head professorship of chemistry in the College of the City of New York, February 28, 1905.