

Editorial Staff of the Bulletin: Editor, Walter B. Barrows; Associates, P. A. Taverner, Norman A. Wood.

The afternoon session was held in the university lecture room. The meeting was called to order by Professor Barrows, who addressed the society on 'Recent Advances in Ornithology.' The following program was then presented:

LEON J. COLE: 'In Memoriam—Albert Bowen Durfee' (read by J. Wilbur Kay in the absence of the author).

NORMAN A. WOOD: 'Birds Noted En route to Northern Michigan.'

OTTO MCCREARY: 'Ecological Distribution of the Birds of the Porcupine Mountains, Michigan.'

MAX M. PEET: 'Observations on the Nesting Habits of a Pair of House Wrens.'

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, JR.: 'On the Use in Surgery of Tendons of the Ardeidae and Gruidae.'

NORMAN A. WOOD: 'Some New and Rare Records for Michigan.'

EARL H. FROTHINGHAM: 'A List of Birds from the Michigan Forest Reserve, Crawford County.'

LEON J. COLE: 'The Occurrence of Bewick's Wren, *Thryomanes bewickii* (Aud.), at Grand Rapids (read by Wm. H. Dunham).'

P. A. TAVERNER: 'A Preliminary Notice of an Interesting Migration Route.'

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, JR.,
Secretary.

THE AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Mycological Society met in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Philadelphia, December 28-31. The following officers were elected:

President—Charles H. Peck.

Vice-President—F. S. Earle.

Secretary-Treasurer—C. L. Shear.

The following committee on organization and relation to the other societies was appointed by the president: C. L. Shear, S. M. Tracy and Dr. Roland Thaxter.

The following program was presented:

CHARLES THOM: 'Suggestions for the Study of Dairy Fungi.'

GEO. G. HEDGCOCK: 'A New Disease of the Cultivated Agave.'

J. C. ARTHUR: 'A Study of North American Coleosporiaceae.'

E. J. DURAND: 'Classification of the Geoglossaceae.'

J. C. ARTHUR: 'The Terminology of the Spore Structures in the Uredinales.'

E. A. BURT: 'Generic Characters of North American Thelephoraceae.'

PERLEY SPAULDING: 'Cultures of Wood-Inhabiting Fungi.'

G. F. ATKINSON: 'Two Fungous Parasites on Mushrooms.'

G. F. ATKINSON: 'The Genus *Balansia* in the United States.'

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AUDUBON'S ACCOUNT OF THE NEW MADRID EARTHQUAKE.

WITHIN the last few years there has been a reawakening of interest in the New Madrid earthquakes as evidenced by the papers of Dr. W J McGee in the fourth volume of the Geological Society of America, Dr. G. C. Broadhead in the *American Geologist* in August, 1902, and Professor E. M. Shepard in January-February number of the *Journal of Geology* of the present year. In Broadhead's paper are given abstracts of a considerable number of contemporaneous and other early publications on the earthquake phenomena, but the description by Audubon seems to have been overlooked. As he was one of the few, quite possibly the only, scientist who was in the region at the time, his account is of interest. It is of significance that it agrees very closely with the descriptions of many of the residents, indicating that the accounts are probably not so distorted as has sometimes been thought. Audubon's description is in part as follows:*

Traveling through the Barrens of Kentucky * * * in the month of November [1812],† I was jogging on one afternoon, when I remarked a sudden and strange darkness rising from the western horizon. Accustomed to our heavy storms of thunder and rain I took no more notice of it, as I thought the speed of my horse might enable me to get under shelter of the roof of an acquaintance, who lived not far distant, before it should come up. I had proceeded about a mile, when I heard

* 'Audubon and his Journals,' Vol. II., pp. 234-237, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1897.

† The first of the series of shocks was on December 16, 1811.

what I imagined to be the distant rumbling of a violent tornado, on which I spurred my steed, with a wish to gallop as fast as possible to a place of shelter; but it would not do, the animal knew better than I what was forthcoming, and instead of going faster, so nearly stopped that I remarked he placed one foot after another on the ground, with as much precaution as if walking on a smooth sheet of ice. I thought he had suddenly foundered, and, speaking to him, was on the point of dismounting and leading him, when he all of a sudden fell a-groaning piteously, hung his head, spread out his four legs as if to save himself from falling, and stood stock still, continuing to groan. I thought my horse was about to die, and would have sprung from his back had a minute more elapsed, but at that instant all the shrubs and trees began to move from their very roots, the ground rose and fell in successive furrows, like the ruffled waters of a lake, and I became bewildered in my ideas, as I too plainly discovered that all this awful commotion in nature was the result of an earthquake. * * * The fearful convulsion, however, lasted only a few minutes, and the heavens again brightened as quickly as they had become obscured; my horse brought his feet to their natural position, raised his head, and galloped off as if loose and frolicking without a rider. * * * Shock succeeded shock almost every day or night for several weeks, diminishing, however, so gradually as to dwindle away into mere vibrations of the earth. Strange to say, I for one became so accustomed to the feeling as rather to enjoy the fears manifested by others. * * * The earthquake produced more serious consequences in other places. Near New Madrid and for some distance on the Mississippi, the earth was rent asunder in several places, one or two islands sunk forever, and the inhabitants fled in dismay towards the eastern shore.

M. L. FULLER.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FACILITATING THE WORK OF ZOOLOGISTS.

Two plans have occurred to me which would, I think, considerably lighten the work of zoologists if they could be carried out. As they do not seem wholly impracticable, I venture to present them for consideration and discussion.

1. No generic name is allowed to be used twice in zoology; so that when any name is used a second time, by inadvertence, it falls

as a homonym, and a substitute has to be proposed. As a matter of fact, the literature swarms with such homonyms, and we are constantly finding ourselves under the necessity of making changes because of them. Now that we have Scudder's 'Nomenclator' and Waterhouse's 'Index,' bringing the list of names proposed up to 1900, it ought to be quite possible to overhaul the whole series up to date, and make a list of *all* the homonyms known. If such a list were made in manuscript it might be divided into minor series according to the groups of animals, and each of these sent to a specialist in the group concerned. These specialists might then go carefully over the lists, seeking the advice and assistance of colleagues, and sift out all the names for which substitutes had already been proposed, and those which stood for invalid genera, leaving a residue of homonymous names for valid genera to be dealt with. This residue would have to be again examined to see whether any other names, hitherto placed in the synonymy, could be substituted, and when this could not be done new names should be proposed. This would involve a great deal of work, but it would get rid of the trouble from homonyms once for all, so far as the past is concerned; except, of course, those resulting from names overlooked in the indices. It would save us from the present sense of insecurity regarding names, and from a great deal of duplicated labor in looking up the names in use, lest they should be preoccupied. If the full list were published, it would also prevent the proposal of new substitutes for names which had already been suitably replaced on account of homonymy.

Such a work ought to be cooperative; because it could not be done well—even the first part, of matching names and detecting homonyms—by persons unfamiliar with scientific names; while it would not be reasonable to expect a working zoologist to devote his time to it to the exclusion of his original investigations. If each letter, in the first part of the work, were undertaken by one individual, it would not be long before it might be finished. For the later investigations, specialists would have to be allowed to take their