

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS.

<i>Pueblo Environment</i> : DR. WALTER HOUGH..	865
<i>Nathaniel Southgate Shaler</i> .....	869

### Scientific Books:—

<i>Frick's Physical Technique, Müller-Pouillet's Lehrbuch der Physik</i> : PROFESSOR J. S. AMES .....	872
---	-----

<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i> .....	873
---	-----

### Societies and Academies:—

<i>The Torrey Botanical Club</i> : DR. C. STUART GAGER. <i>The Philosophical Society of Washington</i> : CHARLES K. WEAD. <i>The Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society</i> : PROFESSOR A. S. WHEELER. <i>The Missouri Society of Teachers of Mathematics and Science</i> : DR. L. D. AMES.....	873
---	-----

### Discussion and Correspondence:—

<i>A Plea to make the Smithsonian Institution a National Institute of Research</i> : DAVID FAIRCHILD.....	876
---	-----

### Special Articles:—

<i>A Machine for compounding Sine Curves</i> : PROFESSOR W. G. CADY.....	877
--	-----

### Quotations:—

<i>The Teaching Profession; The Geological Survey</i> .....	881
---	-----

### Astronomical Notes:—

<i>Suggestions for a Theory of the Milky Way and the Clouds of Magellan; The Magellanic Clouds; The Solar Origin of Terrestrial Magnetic Disturbances; Photometric Determination of the Stellar Magnitude of the Sun; Recent and Coming Total Eclipses of the Sun</i> : PROFESSOR S. I. BAILEY.....	884
---	-----

<i>Fluid Lenses</i> .....	886
---------------------------	-----

<i>The International Geodetic Association</i> .....	887
---	-----

<i>The Congress of the United States</i> .....	887
--	-----

<i>The California Academy of Sciences</i> .....	887
---	-----

<i>The Ithaca Meeting of the American Association</i> .....	888
---	-----

<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	890
--	-----

<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	895
--	-----

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## PUEBLO ENVIRONMENT.<sup>1</sup>

THE southern portion of the Rocky Mountain Highland has two chief geographic features, the one a depression called the Great Interior Basin and the other the Pueblo Plateau. The latter may be subdivided into the Rio Grande Valley, the Colorado Plateau and the Gila Slope, lying in the four political divisions named Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

This plateau, which contains the bulk of the elevation on the western half of the United States, is mainly embraced in the triangle lying between the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains and the Rio Colorado, the western side being bounded by the Great Basin. Its slope is from north to south in the eastern portion where the Rio Grande drains the trough lying just east of the continental uplift, but the main slope is toward the southwest and is drained by the Colorado and its affluents. The plateau lies from four to ten thousand feet above sea level, but there are great contrasts in elevation from 14,000 feet above to 300 feet below the datum. In this region the north and south ranges of the Rockies break up and form a complex of mountains running

<sup>1</sup> Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section H—American Association for the Advancement of Science, New Orleans, December, 1905.