

SCIENCE

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

FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS.

THE Fifteenth International Congress of Americanists was held at Quebec, September 10 to September 15. While the number of students of early American history and of American ethnology in attendance was not large, the papers presented were of great value, and the local interest in the proceedings was considerable. The congress had an individuality of its own, being attended by many missionaries from all parts of Canada, who contributed to the proceedings reports on the tribes among whom they are laboring; while South America and Central America, which generally occupy by far the greatest parts in the proceedings of the congress, were not so strongly represented.

Delegates to the congress were sent by England, which was represented by Dr. A. C. Haddon and Dr. D. Randall McIver. France sent Professor Léon Lejeal and Comte de Perigny. From Germany, Professor and Mrs. Eduard Seler and Dr. Paul Ehrenreich were present. Mexico was represented by Señor Leopoldo Batres and Señor Santiago Sierra. Unfortunately the representation from the United States was not as good as it should have been. Harvard University and Yale University had sent full delegations, but the number of anthropologists from New York and from Washington was small. No anthropologists from Chicago or from San Francisco were in attendance. The local interest in the congress was well sustained,

catua, the largest genus, fourteen species are recognized, and four additional subspecies are casually mentioned, although the latter seem worthy of a more prominent place. The second subfamily contains only the single species *Calopsittacus novæhollandiæ*. The two plates depict nine species.

Altogether, these first five parts of 'Genera Avium' are very creditable. The arrangement is good, the exposition clear, and while not so ample as some might wish, is yet probably sufficient for the purpose of the publication. The letter press is quite attractive in appearance; and the plates, all of which are colored, are excellent. This work will prove very useful to all who wish to keep abreast of the times, and will be well-nigh indispensable to the working ornithologist.

HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

The American Journal of Science for October contains the following articles:

A. L. DAY AND E. S. SHEPHERD: 'Lime-Silica Series of Minerals,' with optical study by F. E. Wright.

O. C. FARRINGTON: "Analysis of 'Iron Shale' from Coon Mountain, Ariz."

N. T. BACON: 'Phenomena Observed in Crookes' Tubes.'

I. BOWMAN: 'Northward Extension of the Atlantic Preglacial Deposits.'

H. C. BRADLEY: 'A Delicate Color Reaction for Copper, and a Microchemical Test for Zinc.'

A. HILEMAN: 'Elimination and Alkalimetric Estimation of Silicon Fluoride in the Analysis of Fluorides.'

C. BARUS: 'Note on the Actual Drop of Pressure in the Fog Chamber.'

C. BARUS: 'New Method for Standardizing the Coronas of Cloudy Condensation.'

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

STEPHENS'S CALIFORNIA MAMMALS.

IN no part of the world is the effect of segregation and isolation as a factor in species-forming more evident than in California. No other state of our union offers such diversities of physical conditions, or such a variety of barriers to the dispersion of animals. A faunal map of California has been compared

to a crazy quilt, because any such map must recognize the limiting and modifying effects of the different sets of environment connected with the hills, valleys, mountains, lakes and streams of this varied land.

Because of the varying degrees of segregation produced by barriers of mountain and climate, the non-migratory animals of California are especially numerous in species, and many of the recognized species are broken up into numerous subspecies. Each form finds its nearest ally farther on, across the range; and, again, types once differentiated may invade each other's territory, when conditions enable individuals to cross the border.

In a volume called 'California Mammals' (West Coast Publishing Company, San Diego), Mr. Frank Stephens, of San Diego, has brought together compact descriptions of all the mammals thus far recorded from California. The descriptions are carefully written, the accounts of habits are full and accurate, the volume is well printed, and it can not fail to be of great value to the students of California beasts. Two hundred and seventy-six species and subspecies are included in the list. The volume contains also an excellent essay on the 'Life Areas of California.' Under the head of *Homo sapiens americanus*, the most specialized of the indigenous mammals of California, is given a map showing the distribution of the twenty-one linguistic stocks.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

AN IGNORED THEORY OF THE ICE AGE.

LOOKING over the recently issued work on 'Geology' by Professors Chamberlin and Salisbury, I was surprised and disappointed to learn that in this voluminous publication of nearly two thousand pages, many of which are devoted to considerations of causes leading up to the ice age, the name of Dr. Marsden Manson is not to be found.

In a work like this, designed for the use of students and general readers, views antagonistic to generally accepted dogmas and pet theories, should, when endorsed by recognized authority, find fair treatment.