

as in the determination of generic types, elimination is simply the application of the most fundamental of nomenclatural rules, *the law of priority*.

J. A. ALLEN.

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
NEW YORK.

MISREPRESENTATIONS OF NATURE IN POPULAR
MAGAZINES.

IN the December number, 1906, of *The Wide World* E. W. G. Wesson claims to have passed by boat on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. The greater part of his descriptive matter has been taken, paragraph by paragraph from R. B. Stanton's account of the descent made years ago by Stanton's second party, and of the descriptions which are original with Wesson, some are so original as to be totally outside of the realm of truth.

That he never made the journey which he claims to have made is evident, and the magazine which publishes such falsehoods does much harm and discredits itself.

A. R. CROOK.

SPECIAL ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE GASTEROPODA OF THE UNITED STATES—LEIDY.

A CORRECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Through an oversight when preparing a bibliography of the late Professor Joseph Leidy's contributions to science, published (1904) under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and incorporated in a publication under the title 'Researches in Helminthology and Parasitology by Joseph Leidy, M.D., with a bibliography of his contributions to science,' 1904, the writer neglected to incorporate the title to a work on the 'Special Anatomy of the Gastropoda of the United States,' Boston, 1851, pp. 65, plates 16, published in conjunction with the work of Amos Binney and W. G. Binney, entitled 'Terrestrial Breathing Mollusks of the United States and Adjacent Territory of North America,' edited by A. A. Gould, Boston, 1851-9.

The work of Leidy devoted to the special anatomy and physiology of various gastropod mollusks may be found in section 11, Vol. I.

The writer regrets the oversight, particularly as it is a work to which frequent reference is made by investigators along similar lines of research, and more so since the publication was well known and special care was taken to see that it appeared in the original bibliography.

JOSEPH LEIDY, JR.

EARLY TYPES OF MAN IN IOWA.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In connection with the article on the discovery of an early type of man in Nebraska, I wish to call attention to what seem to be similar types from mounds in Iowa. In the proceedings of the Davenport Academy, Vol. VI., is a paper by Professor Frederick Starr on a 'Summary of the Archeology of Iowa,' in which are figured two skulls, said to be of the Neanderthal type. One of these was found in a mound in Chickasaw County and the other in Floyd County. While it is difficult to decide from the illustrations, as to whether these skulls are of the Neanderthal type, it is obvious that they bear striking resemblances to it. It is also suggestive that these skulls should be found west of the Mississippi and in a part of the same geographical area from which comes the Nebraska man.

C. W.

MALAY AND FILIPINO BASKETRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: No doubt this will fall under the eyes of more than one who has examined Malay or Filipino basketry. Everywhere in Malaysia is to be found a knot in coarse or fine splits and stems of tough and pliable plants, used in place of nails, screws, pegs and the like. This knot is practically two round turns and two half hitches. It may be described thus: (1) Pass the free end of the split or other binder toward the right to where the knot is to be tied; (2) then under and around these parts and behind the standing-part; (3) pass the free end again around in the same direction, bringing it this time in front of the standing-part and under the two round turns toward the right; (4) take a half hitch around the standing-part

from down upward and make all tight. Repeat at will, working always toward the right. I am now writing up the Dr. W. L. Abbott basketry, from southwestern Malaysia, and desire to use nomenclature that will stand for the Philippines, where the 'Malay knot' is in vogue. The trouble with the name is twofold, there are other Malay knots and other peoples who use the same knot. Perhaps 'Malay double hitch' would be better, but it is somewhat nautical.

O. T. MASON.

THE RIGIDITY OF THE EARTH.

PROFESSOR SEE'S computation of the mean hydrostatic pressure within the earth, deduced from Laplace's law of density, is doubtless correct. That the modulus of rigidity is equal to the hydrostatic pressure is, however, purely an assumption.

L. M. HOSKINS.

PALO ALTO, Cal.,
November 10, 1906.

THE LIGHTNING-ROD COINCIDENT WITH FRANKLIN'S KITE EXPERIMENT.

A FILE of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for the year 1752 furnishes facts which corroborate my conclusions, in Vol. XXIV., pages 374-376, that the lightning-rod was in use about the time Benjamin Franklin flew his electrical kite. The supposition there discussed, that the news of the successful experiments in France by MM. Dalibard and Delor during the month of May did not reach Philadelphia in June, during which month Franklin is said to have brought down electricity from the clouds, is supported by the fact that a letter from Paris describing the French experiments, and dated May 26, N. S., 1752, was not published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* until August 27 of the same year.

That Franklin did not fly his kite until later in the summer than June is likewise indicated by the circumstance that the first account of the experiment appeared in the *Gazette* of October 19. This account is identical with the oft-quoted letter to Peter Collinson, which was read before the Royal Society in December and printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*, excepting that it lacks the closing statement about the experiments in France with 'points' and their prior use in America.

Finally, my assumption that the directions for erecting lightning-rods, which appeared in *Poor Richard's Almanac* for 1753, must have been written not later than October, 1752, is proved correct by an advertisement in the *Gazette* of October 19, stating that this issue of the *Almanac* was in press and would be published shortly.

The collateral evidence here adduced favors the belief that Franklin performed his kite experiment some two months later than has been supposed, and proves conclusively that at the time when it was first described Franklin had already prepared for publication precise directions for placing lightning-rods upon all kinds of buildings.

A. LAWRENCE ROTCH.

BLUE HILL METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY,
November 15, 1906.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

NOTICE OF A NEW MIOCENE RHINOCEROS, DICERATHERIUM ARIKARENSE.

THE accompanying sketches represent the skull of a species of rhinoceros, *Diceratherium arikarense*, supposedly new, discovered by the geological expedition of 1905, sent from the University of Nebraska by the Hon. Charles H. Morrill to the Loup Fork beds at Agate, Nebraska, on the ranch of Mr. James Cook.

The genus *Diceratherium* was established by Marsh in 1875 on material from the Miocene beds near the John Day River in eastern Oregon, and two species, *armatum* and *nanum*, were recognized. A third species, *advenum*, was based on material from the Eocene (possibly Miocene) of Utah. Difference of horizon, and distance seem to warrant the specific name herein proposed. In comparing numerous individuals such variation was noted as to justify the belief that this group might legitimately enough be divided into several species.

The figures seem sufficiently explanatory, so descriptions will be brief. A pair of anterior protuberances or horn cores constitute the dis-