by H. J. H. Fenton; Homocyclic Division, by J. B. Cohen; Heterocyclic Division, by J. T. Hewitt; Stereochemistry, by W. J. Pope; Analytical Chemistry, by A. C. Chapman; Physiological Chemistry, by W. D. Halliburton; Agricultural Chemistry and Vegetable Physiology, by J. A. Voelcker; Mineralogical Chemistry, by Arthur Hutchinson, and Radioactivity, by Frederick Soddy. It will be seen at once that many of these authors are well known authorities in their various fields. The topics chosen for presentation are well selected and the treatment is clear and concise. The copious references to the literature render the book a valuable index for one who wishes to follow any subject further, while the discussions are sufficiently full, in most cases, to be extremely useful to those who read for the purpose of broadening their general knowledge of the science.

W. A. Noyes

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The American Naturalist for November opens with an article on the "Response of Toads to Sound Stimuli" by S. A. Courtis showing that there is very little response to anything save the mating call. But—why should there be? The sound of a bell, a whistle or any similar noise carries with it no association. Why not feed the toad each time the bell is rung and note what the result would be after a month or two? Max Morse contributes "Further Notes on the Behavior of *Gonionemus*," mainly in respect to the influence of light, and Edward W. Berry has a paper on "Pleistocene Plants from Alabama," noting that they indicate a climate about the same as at the present time. Frederic T. Lewis has "A Further Study of Leaf Development," concluding that there is a determinate evolution of leaf forms. E. A. Andrews discusses "Earthworms as Planters of Trees," showing that they do this by gathering seeds, such as those of the maple, with which to plug the openings of their burrows. T. H. Morgan considers "The Cause of Gynandromorphism in Insects." There are various points of interest in the notes and reviews. We think few will agree with Professor Montgomery that physiological evidence is better calculated to show relationships or differences that are anatomical or, what is the same thing, paleontological.

Laboratory Bulletin No. 13, of Oberlin College, is on "The Development of Nestling Feathers," by Lynds Jones. It contains a series of detailed observations, and notes among other things that the first down has no shaft and no quill, the barb vanes passing without interruption into the first definitive feather vanes, the seeming quill being due to the coalescence of the vanes of the down.

The first number of the *Bulletin of the Brooklyn Conchological Club* has just been issued. It contains among other papers articles on "Abnormal Shells" and a "List of Long Island Shells," by S. C. Wheat, and "Suggestions for the Organization of a National Conchological Society," by W. H. Dall.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE CONVOCATION WEEK MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

The American Association for the Advancement of Science and the national scientific societies named below will meet at the University of Chicago during convocation week, beginning on December 30, 1907.

American Association for the Advancement of Science.—December 30–January 4. Retiring president, Professor W. H. Welch, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; president-elect, Professor E. L. Nichols, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; permanent secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.; general secretary, President F. W. McNair, Houghton, Mich.

Local Executive Committee.—Charles L. Hutchinson, chairman local committee; John M. Coulter, chairman executive committee; John R. Angell, Thomas C. Chamberlin, Joseph P. Iddings, Frank R. Lillie, Charles R. Mann, Robert A. Millikan, Charles F. Millspaugh, Alexander Smith, J. Paul Goode, local secretary.

Section A, Mathematics and Astronomy.—Vice-president, Professor E. O. Lovett, Princeton University; secretary, Professor G. A. Miller, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

Section B, Physics.—Vice-president, Professor Dayton C. Miller, Case School of Applied Science;