

Fourier's series and other topics, including functions of the complex variable. There are numerous references to the author's "Differential Calculus" which is essential to the reading of the present work. Both treatises are based on the method of rates and both enjoy both the advantages and the disadvantages that attend adherence to that method. The work will serve, too, as a welcome auxiliary to Professor Johnson's well known and widely used "Differential Equations."

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SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The American Naturalist for April is devoted to a symposium on "Aspects of the Species Question," being the papers presented at the January meeting of the Botanical Society of America, by Charles E. Bessey and others. The aspects are taxonomic, physiological and ecological and the views of the various authors are naturally more or less colored by the nature of their work. Many will thank C. L. Bristol for his quotation showing the origin of the "Otter Sheep," as information of this kind is most difficult to lay hands on. One may know the general facts and yet be unable to give a definite reference to them.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES are always welcome, and the "Index to Hull (England) Museum Publications, Nos. 1-47," will be of much service in facilitating reference to the many objects in the Hull Museum described during the past six years.

The Museums Journal of Great Britain has a description, by E. Howarth, of "The School Museum System of Sheffield" with details of the circulating collections, stereoscopic views and lantern slides for loan to public schools. The cost of the individual "cabinets" in these collections was stated to be from \$25 to \$75 each, which must be regarded as a pretty liberal sum.

THE *Reports relating to Alaskan Seal Fisheries*, recently issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor, contain much interesting information in regard to the seals of

the Pribilofs, and the Arctic fox. The seal herd has steadily decreased, owing to pelagic sealing and the total number in 1907 was only about 172,000 as against 400,000 in 1897. The greatest destruction is now wrought by the Japanese, who are not bound by any agreement, seal up to the three-mile limit (sometimes within it) and use shot-guns which cause great loss and waste. Owing to the adoption of certain restrictions proposed by the government agents the proportion of active young bulls has increased.

THE *First Biennial Report* of the Louisiana State Museum, covering the period December 10, 1906 to April 1, 1908, has just been issued. It gives a brief account of the origin of the museum and includes a general catalogue of the exhibits of the various departments. These include a fair representation of the fauna of the state, a considerable proportion of commercial products and some extremely valuable and interesting historical material. It is to be hoped that this museum may receive substantial support from the state.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

At the 205th meeting of the society, on April 22, 1908, specimens of "coal bombs" from Walsenburg, Colo.; Las Cerillos, N. M., and the Pennsylvania anthracites were exhibited by David White, who remarked that these nodule-like masses from the midst of coal beds often show a combination of slickensiding and concentricity of structure suggesting tension in one plane rather than pressure in all directions. Such nodules or bombs, found in coals of varying age and kind, are probably more frequent than would be supposed from their rare mention in the literature.

Regular Program

Mineral Deposits of the Cerbat Range and Black Mountains, Mojave County, Arizona:
Mr. F. C. SCHRADER.

The Cerbat Range and Black Mountains are two desert ranges situated about twelve miles apart in the northwestern part of Arizona, southeast of the Big Bend of the Colo-