

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

The American Journal of Science, for August, contains the following articles:

E. T. ALLEN and J. K. CLEMENT: "Rôle of Water in Tremolite and Other Minerals."

G. C. ASHMAN: "Quantitative Determination of the Radium Emanation in the Atmosphere."

R. W. LANGLEY: "Determination of Small Amounts of Barium in Rocks."

W. G. MIXTER: "Heat of Combination of Acidic Oxides with Sodium Oxide and Heat of Oxidation of Chromium."

I. K. PHELPS and L. H. WEED: "Concerning Certain Organic Acids and Acid Anhydrides as Standards in Alkalimetry and Acidimetry."

I. K. PHELPS and L. H. WEED: "Comparison between Succinic Acid, Arsenious Oxide and Silver Chloride as Standards in Iodimetry, Acidimetry and Alkalimetry."

W. E. FORD and E. W. TILLOTSON, JR.: "Orthoclase Twins of Unusual Habit."

J. V. LEWIS: "Palisade Diabase of New Jersey."

F. B. LOOMIS: "New Horse from the Lower Miocene."

THE contents of *The Auk*, for July, are as follows:

E. S. CAMERON: "Observations on the Golden Eagle in Montana."

J. H. RILEY: "Notes on the Broad-winged Hawks of the West Indies, with Description of a New Form."

RICHARD C. HARLOW: "Recent Notes on Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania."

C. J. PENNOCK: "Birds of Delaware—Additional Notes."

J. A. ALLEN: "The Case of *STRIX* vs. *ALUCO*."

EDWARD J. COURT: "Treganza Blue Heron."

FRANCIS H. ALLEN: "Larus kumlieni and other Northern Gulls in the Neighborhood of Boston."

J. A. ALLEN: "*Columbina* versus *Chæmepelia*."

JAMES H. FLEMING: "The Destruction of Whistling Swans (*Olor columbianus*) at Niagara Falls."

AUSTIN HOBART CLARK: "The Macaw of Dominica."

TYPES OF AMERICAN GRASSES

UNDER this title, Mr. A. S. Hitchcock has recently published in "Contributions from the U. S. National Herbarium," Vol. 12, Pt. 3, the results of his studies of the types of

American grasses described by Linnæus, Gronovius, Sloane, Swartz and Michaux. These studies were made by Mr. Hitchcock in the spring of 1907, at which time he made a detailed examination of American grasses preserved in the larger herbaria of Europe.

The contribution is a noteworthy one and will go far toward fixing names for the American grasses discussed, not alone specifically, but probably in some cases generically as well. The preservation of grass specimens is in most cases satisfactory as they are little subject to insect depredation. In a large majority of instances, Mr. Hitchcock found the type specimen readily and certainly identifiable; in some instances where the author had confused two or more species under one, he was obliged to consider each case upon its merits, and he has presented the evidence on which the type specimen was selected by him. In a few of these cases there is opportunity for difference of opinion, but it seems to the writer that Mr. Hitchcock's decision in such cases should be accepted without further question in all instances in which he has first designated the type.

There are a few species which require transposition of names, as for example, *Cenchrus tribuloides* L., the type of which proves to be the same as *C. macrocephalus* (Doell) Scribn.; the plant which has mostly been known under the name *tribuloides* should bear the name *C. carolinianus* Walter; the study brings out a number of cases in which priority requires the acceptance of earlier published names than those in current use.

It has been perhaps widely assumed that most of the species of the older authors were more comprehensive in including slightly different races than those of recent writers. In some instances this is doubtless true, but in many others the species conception was apparently broad only because the describer had but a single specimen, or at best but few to base an opinion upon. Linnæus proposed some species on specimens which have been regarded by some modern authors as belonging to the same species, the differences being so slight, while on the other hand he some-