

that within a year a well-equipped ore dressing laboratory will be at the service of the students of mining engineering.

THE widow of the Bavarian Surgeon-General Lotzbeck has given the sum of 20,000 Marks to endow a scholarship for medical students.

PROFESSOR JOHN T. HAYFORD has accepted the directorship of the new school of engineering which Northwestern University will inaugurate in 1909. He will terminate his connection with the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and take up his duties at Evanston in the summer of 1909.

MR. R. E. STONE has resigned an instructorship in botany at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute to accept a professorship of agricultural botany in the University of Nebraska.

DR. CYRUS W. FIELD has resigned his position as assistant director of the research laboratory of the Department of Health, New York City, to accept the position of professor of pathology and bacteriology in the medical department of the University of Louisville.

DR. ARNOLD JACOBI, director of the Natural History Museum in Dresden, has been appointed professor of zoology in the technical high school of that city.

DR. MAX REITHOFFER has been appointed professor of electrical engineering at Vienna.

DR. ALEXANDER SUPAN, head of the Perthes Geographical Institute and editor of *Petermann's Mitteilungen*, has been made professor of geography at Breslau.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE GARTER SNAKES OF NORTH AMERICA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The U. S. National Museum has recently published (Bulletin 61, June 24, 1908) an important and very interesting account of the garter snakes of North America, by Mr. Alexander G. Ruthven. On reading the discussion of the variability in color and scutellation, I was struck by the absence of any reference to Sperry's earlier work along the same line. Again on reading the account of *butleri*, I

was surprised to find no reference to Whittaker's very detailed study of the connection between *butleri* and *brachystoma*. These omissions led me to examine Mr. Ruthven's bibliography, with the rather surprising result of finding the three following papers lacking: F. N. Notestein, 1906. The Ophidia of Michigan with an Analytical Key. Seventh Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 111-125.

W. L. Sperry, 1905. Variation in the Common Garter-Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). Fifth Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 175-179.

C. C. Whittaker, 1906. The Status of *Eutænia brachystoma*. Seventh Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci., pp. 88-92.

Now, of course, it is very possible that I have entirely misunderstood the scope of Mr. Ruthven's bibliography, and that he only intends to include papers to which he refers in his text. He certainly knew of these three papers, as he has been a member of the Michigan Academy of Science since the spring of 1904.

But if his bibliography is complete so far as his own text-references go, I still do not understand why no reference is made to Sperry's and Whittaker's papers. So far as I know, Sperry's paper was the first discussion of variability in a garter snake, based on a large amount of material from a single locality. Some of the conclusions are of such importance that they ought to have been discussed by Mr. Ruthven. Concerning *butleri*, Mr. Ruthven says he has "already expressed the opinion" that Cope's specimen of "*brachystoma*" is identical with *butleri*. As Mr. Ruthven's opinion was not published until March, 1906, and Whittaker's elaborate discussion of the point was presented to the Michigan Academy, at Ann Arbor, in March, 1905, it would seem as though some mention of Whittaker's conclusions ought to have been made by Mr. Ruthven.

Very possibly it may be said that neither Sperry's nor Whittaker's paper was of sufficient importance to warrant notice, but to this I can not agree, and the purpose of this communication is to call attention to what seems to me an unfair neglect of earlier workers.

HUBERT LYMAN CLARK