

Examination of the remaining papers reveals the fact that the paleontological writers pay the least attention to descriptive names, for in their six papers, we find that of 59 proposed specific names 5, or less than 10 per cent., are descriptive; 23, or 38 per cent., are personal, and 31, or over 52 per cent., are locality names.

It would be uncharitable, if it were not quite uncalled for, to suggest either of the two most obvious reasons why an author, particularly a young or inexperienced writer, selects personal or locality names for his new species. But I can not avoid the feeling that these reasons occur to our fellow workers in the other fields of zoology, and may have something to do with the feeling, which it is often said they hold, that we systematists are engaged in a lower grade of work than that with which they are occupied.

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THE 6-INCH TRANSIT CIRCLE OF THE U. S. NAVAL  
OBSERVATORY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The following paragraph, which is an essential feature of a paper read by me before Section A, American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Baltimore on December 28, 1908, has been omitted from the abstract of that paper printed in SCIENCE for January 22, p. 154:

"It having been found that the instrument had suffered some damage from gradual deterioration during the five years that it had been out of use, the axis tube and circles and various other parts were sent to Warner & Swasey for repairs with a view to put the instrument in condition to do the fundamental work for which it was originally intended. This work is now nearly finished and the axis and some other parts of the instrument have been returned to the observatory. The pivots have been reground with great care, and elaborate tests have shown them to be very regular in shape and so nearly equal in size that the difference is inappreciable. It is

hoped that the remaining parts of the instrument will be returned to us in a few days, in which case measures will be taken immediately to mount the instrument and commence the work of investigation and observation."

MILTON UPDEGRAFF

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Resultats du voyage du S. Y. Belgica en 1897, 1898, 1899, sous the commandement de A. de Gerlache de Gomery.* Rapports Scientifiques. *Oceanography*, par HENRYK ARCTOWSKI et HUGH ROBERT MILL, 1908. *Physique du Globe*, mesures pendulaires, par G. LECOINTE, 1907. *Zoologie: Turbellarien*, von LUDWIG BÖHMIG, 1908. *Scaphopoden*, von L. PLATE, 1908. *Pennatuliden*, von HECTOR F. E. JUNGENSEN, 1907. *Cirripedia*, by P. P. C. HOEK, 1907. *Geologie: Glaciers*, par HENRYK ARCTOWSKI, 1908.

The reports of the *Belgica* expedition continue to appear, each adding to our knowledge of the Antarctic, its conditions or its fauna. The numbers of which the titles are summarized above are not less interesting than those which preceded them. Space permits but a brief account of their contents.

The soundings and serial temperatures of the sea water taken by the *Belgica* were the first in that region to be observed and corrected by the most modern instruments and methods. Two conclusions are of especial interest. The observations showed that the deeper waters of the Atlantic and Pacific are practically separated by submarine ridges which, extending from the southern end of the American continent to the Antarctic lands, present a barrier to the free circulation of the waters in question. Secondly, it is proved that the surface water of the sea is cooled by the low Antarctic air-temperatures and by floating and melting ice, below which is a warmer stratum which reaches its maximum temperature two or three hundred fathoms below the surface, after which the temperature gradually diminishes until the bottom of the sea is reached. The persistency of the warmer stratum indicates the slowness of changes due to convection, and the existence of currents.