

Till a great sea-bird, tern or ptarmigan,
Caught by the whiteness of his lonely face,
Swooped low exultantly; huge swish of wings
Measuring his body, as he struck him once.
Thud of the ribbed beak, like a call to arms
Stirring the wounded soldier, etc."

What would not Mr. Chapman give for a moving picture of the author's mental image of a ptarmigan? Would it be in order, since Miss Florence Wilkinson is the writer to whom we are indebted for a description of this new species, to call the Ribbed-beaked Ptarmigan, *Lagopus wilkinsoni*?

HUBERT LYMAN CLARK

SCIENCE AND POLITICS IN CUBA

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have just learned that the new Cuban administration has asked for the resignation of all the Americans on the staff of the Cuban Agricultural Experiment Station. This is purely a political move made to supply more places for the horde of hungry office seekers. No comment is needed when a government is willing to make a political football of its only efficient scientific institution. The following is a list of those who have been so suddenly and unjustly deprived of their positions. I know all of these gentlemen personally and am familiar with their work. Many of them are former colleagues. I take a great pleasure in heartily recommending them to any institutions who may have vacancies in these respective lines.

Dr. N. S. Mayo, Chief, Department of Animal Industry.

Mr. J. S. Montgomery, Assistant, Department of Animal Industry.

Professor Wm. T. Horne, Chief, Department of Vegetable Pathology and Entomology.

Mr. J. S. Houser, Assistant, Department of Vegetable Pathology and Entomology.

Professor R. S. Stark, Chief, Department of Chemistry.

Dr. H. Hasselbring, Chief, Department of Botany.

Professor C. F. Austin, Chief, Department of Horticulture.

Mr. C. F. Kinman, Assistant, Department of Horticulture.

F. S. EARLE

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Laboratory Notes on Industrial Water Analysis. A Survey Course for Engineers. By ELLEN H. RICHARDS, Instructor in Sanitary Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 8vo, pp. iii + 49. Cloth, 50 cents net (2s. net). New York, John Wiley & Sons; London, Chapman & Hall, Limited. 1908.

The book is written for the use of students of engineering and deals with "boiler waters" principally.

Part I. is divided into five laboratory exercises: First, Classification of a Water as "Scale-forming," "Moderately Scale-forming," or "Corrosive"; second, Determination of "Total Solids," "Incrustants," "Iron" and "Sulphates"; third, "Alkalinity," "Magnesium as Hydrate" and "Permanent Hardness"; fourth, "Action Upon Metals," "Oxygen Consumed" and "Dissolved Oxygen"; fifth, "Remedies for Defects Found in Waters." "Only special methods are considered, leaving out the ordinary analytical processes to be found in text-books."

Part II. is devoted to the preparation of "standard solutions" and to sundry tables useful in water analysis.

The following sentence is well worthy of attention, as it points to a fact often lost sight of: "Water unsatisfactory for one purpose may be, or may be made, quite satisfactory for another."

Mrs. Richards has had such extended experience in matters dealing with water examination that anything from her pen is always of value.

W. P. MASON

A Laboratory Guide for Histology. By IRVING HARDESTY, A.B., Ph.D., with a chapter on Laboratory Drawing, by ADELEBERT WATTS LEE, M.D. With 30 illustrations, 2 of which are in colors. Pp. 193. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1908.

That there is a place for such a well-planned, practical series of laboratory outlines for the study of histology and microscopic anatomy as are found in this guide the reviewer has no