and important group, a group which, above all others, is of prime importance to a very large number who can not, from the nature of their work, occupy themselves with laborious taxonomic research in a more or less alien field.

The reception accorded the circular was extremely gratifying, graphically demonstrating the deep interest taken in nomenclatorial questions not only by systematists, but by zoologists and paleontologists interested in all the varied phases of their subjects; to those who have so kindly acceded to our request and have acquainted us with their personal views we beg to tender our most cordial thanks.

Replies have been received from zoologists and paleontologists resident in the following countries: Algeria, Austria-Hungary, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hawaii, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New South Wales, New Zealand, Norway, Philippine Islands, Portugal, Queensland, Russia, Scotland, South Australia, Sweden, Trinidad, United States, Western Australia and Victoria.

Of these working zoologists and paleontologists 80 per cent. are entirely dissatisfied with the present course of procedure; and this number is by no means inclusive merely of those having only an indirect interest in systematic work, but is made up to a surprising extent of the most prominent systematists; 83 per cent. are more or less dissatisfied with the methods now in vogue; about 18 per cent. believe it best to adhere to the code in its present form, and 15 per cent are convinced that this is the only logical and reasonable course.

The individual replies will, of course, be considered in the light of confidential communications, and therefore no indication will be given as to how any one has answered; when the canvass is concluded a minute analysis of it will be published, together with the names of those who have replied, showing the existing sentiment in the greatest detail for each class of workers, and for workers in the various groups, and a synopsis will be given of all the suggestions which have been sent in, with the proportionate numerical strength of each, each suggestion being duly and specifically accredited to its author or authors, who will have the opportunity of finally revising it before it is sent to press. It is our hope that this canvass now under way will result in the formulation of an amendment to, or a revision of, article 30, by which zoological nomenclature may attain a true stability and henceforth be freed from the constant and perplexing changes now abounding on every side.

We beg that all zoologists and paleontologists who read this notice and who have not yet sent in their decision will do so at once; and that they will favor us with an expression of their views in regard to the best means of attaining a more stable system of zoological and paleontological nomenclature than we have at present.

Owing to press of other duties, Mr. Springer will not be able to continue further the work which he has started; he has therefore requested me to take it up and carry it on to its conclusion, analyzing and preparing for publication the final results. In order that these may be as expressive as possible of the true sentiment of working zoologists and paleontologists as a whole, he joins with me in urging all interested in the subject of nomenclature, no matter in what branch of zoology or paleontology their interest may lie, to submit their opinions, whether for or against the present method of procedure, and to assist us in the formulation of a possible means of escape from the nomenclatorial difficulties which on every side beset the path of the modern naturalist.

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Scientific Books

A College Text-book of Geology. By T. C. Chamberlin and R. D. Salisbury. 8vo, xvii + 978 pp., illustrated. New York, Henry Holt and Company. 1909.

This book seems to be a concentrated form of the three-volume work on geology by the same authors and published by the same company, 1904–1906. Such a boiling down of one's results is usually a tedious process, and

the results are not always satisfactory either to authors or readers. In the present case, the results must be regarded as remarkably satisfactory, when looked at from the point of view of the common run of students. It is to be expected that the book will not satisfy the demands of everybody, but teachers of geology will agree that brevity has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. For example, the condensed statement of the three principal theories regarding the origin of the earth is the best we have seen, though it does not, of course, do away with the necessity of studying their fuller discussion elsewhere. The book is not, however, a simple condensation of the larger work, for the results have been gleaned and added from many papers published since the larger work came out.

In our opinion the authors have done well to lump dynamical and structural geology together and to treat it as a whole.

The chief faults that can be found with the work are matters of editing, and consequently are of no great importance.

The several maps showing the land and water areas at different periods have the rather annoying defect of lacking explanations of the conventional shadings. References are made, to be sure, to preceding cases, but inasmuch as such a book is seldom read consecutively, one finds it pretty tiresome to have to back up, as it were, from page 830 clear to page 445 to be sure that he is interpreting the conventionals properly.

Many of the effective illustrations of physiographic forms used in the larger works are given in this volume also. It seems unfortunate that some of the political boundaries that belong in the originals from which these extracts are taken have been left to mar these excellent illustrations. For example, in Plate XI., opposite page 172, are fragments of two such lines that are entirely meaningless in the plate. In Plate IX., opposite page 156, the international boundary might advantageously be omitted entirely, as it is already omitted in part. In Plate VIII., opposite page 133, the line down the middle of the stream in Fig. 1 might well be cut out. Opposite page 96, Plate I., Fig. 1, is another such line that is over conspicuous and meaningless as the illustration stands. Of course these lines in some instances serve some purpose, in others they do not. The work of cutting them out of the engraving is very little, even if they are not "stopped out" in making the plates.

At page 288 the shading of Fig. 186 to represent the land seems to have been overlooked. At page 240, Fig. 196, a photograph of the Fiescher glacier, is labeled "Aletsch glacier."

The larger work by these authors must long remain as a landmark in North American geology and the work of reference for all serious students and for all teachers and workers. But the "College Text-book" meets the larger demand of a larger number of readers both in our institutions of learning and outside of them.

The appearance of this new and important book again calls attention to the shortcomings of some of our best American publishers. When are we to have in this country a book on geology as well manufactured as Geikie's text-book? We have the geologists competent to prepare the text, but our publishers seem to be afraid that the cost of a really well-made book will shut it out of the market. We can not believe it. It is true that we have more text-books on geology than we need, but not more by such men as Chamberlin and Salisbury than we need.

J. C. BRANNER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CAL.,
December 10, 1909

A Revision of the Entelodontidæ. By O. A. PETERSON. Mem. Carn. Museum, Vol. IV., No. 3, 1909, pp. 41–146, with Pls. LIV.–LXII. and 80 text figures.

In this important memoir Mr. Peterson discusses at length the remarkable group of swine-like forms generally known as the Elotheres. In his introductory remarks, however, the author replaces the more familiar family name Elotheridæ Pomel by that of Entelodontidæ Amyard on the ground of inadequate description, no illustrations and loss of type by Pomel, though the name he proposed may have appeared first.