

install, arrange and label it. It would have been impossible to have found any one so well qualified for this task; he seemed to recognize every specimen as it was unpacked and each one became the text of pleasant or exciting memories.

It was not long after Professor Whitfield's assumption of this important charge that the publication of the *Bulletin* of the American Museum was begun, and paleontological papers from his pen appeared upon its pages. It is quite unnecessary to review all of these; they consisted of descriptions of new species, genera, revisions, notes, emendations and figures of hitherto unfigured species, and original identifications and discussions. Perhaps the most important were his descriptions of the fossils of the Fort Cassin beds in Vermont, his admirable treatment of the subject of *Uphantaenia* and *Dictyophyton*, referring these problematic bodies to sponges, a position firmly established by later observations, his detection of a fossil scorpion in the Waterlime beds of New York, his papers on Cretaceous Syrian fossils, on fossil marine algæ, on the Cretaceous Rudistæ of Jamaica and his review of the anomalous genus *Barrettia* from the same island. He occasionally intercalated in these fossil studies a paper upon living forms, as his experimental observations upon *Lymnea megasoma*, a new sponge from Bermuda and a new coral from the Bahamas.

He completed during these years his great work on the fossils of the Cretaceous and Tertiary of New Jersey, a work achieved under very serious difficulties, and with most fragmentary and insufficient material. These memoirs were published by the U. S. Geological Survey. The genus *Whitfieldia*, a member of the meristelloid brachiopods, was named by Professor Davidson after him, and his name as a specific designation appears up and down the pages of paleontographical literature. Unostentatious, of a reserved, almost severe demeanor, animated by an intense love of his science, his life was passed peacefully and pleasantly, amid unruffled domestic relations, in unbroken association

with the objects of his conscientious and unremitting study.

L. P. G.

CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL NATURE-STUDY

THE conference on the teaching of agriculture in the common schools of Illinois was held from March 24 to 26, an enthusiastic session at the University of Illinois at Urbana. This was the first meeting of its kind in the United States, and educators from all over the state of Illinois and neighboring states took part in its sessions. Among those present were D. J. Crosby, U. S. Expert in Agricultural Educational Work, Washington, D. C., and representatives of railroads, members of agricultural faculties from neighboring states, members of the legislature, county superintendents, normal school faculties, farmers' institute officials, rural school directors, domestic science leaders, manual training leaders, practical farmers and land owners, technical men, college and university professors, state departments of public instruction.

The conference was inclined to move slowly along this new line of activity. It took, however, two or three steps that are destined to be very important in the educational work of the schools of the state. It was strongly urged that a course of study in agriculture be planned for the elementary schools of the state. A committee was appointed for this purpose consisting of Professor Fred. L. Charles, University of Illinois; County Superintendent McIntosh, Monticello, Illinois; Miss Alice J. Patterson, State Normal University, Normal, Ill.; Assistant State Superintendent, U. J. Hoffman, Springfield, Ill.

It was arranged that a second meeting of the conference be held next year in connection with the agricultural short course at the University of Illinois, when something over a thousand people of the state will be assembled to study agriculture in its various phases.

The following standing committee was ap-

pointed by the conference to continue the organization and work of the conference: Assistant State Superintendent U. J. Hoffman, chairman; Anna L. Barbre, county superintendent, Taylorville; C. H. Watts, county superintendent, Champaign; Hon. J. B. Burrows, Decatur; Mrs. Scott Durand, Lake Bluff; Alice Jean Patterson, Illinois State Normal University; Professor W. G. Bagley, University of Illinois; Professor Fred. L. Charles, University of Illinois.

The above-mentioned committee presented the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the conference:

Resolved:

1. That this conference request and authorize Professor Fred L. Charles to appoint a representative committee to serve with him as chairman in the preparation of a course of study in agricultural nature-study which may be suitable for the eight grades of the elementary schools of Illinois.

2. That we may request those who are responsible for the conduct of the agricultural short course, that provision be made for a second meeting of this conference during the next annual short course at the university.

3. That this conference appoint a committee of three to enter into communication with the Illinois Farmers' Institute, through its committee on Agricultural Education in the public schools, to bring to its attention the urgent necessity of furnishing to the teachers of the elementary schools of the state all possible aid in the organization and adaptation of agricultural materials suitable to the purposes of these schools, and, further, to request that they take such action as they deem necessary to secure at the next session of the legislature ample funds to equip the University of Illinois, through its college of agriculture and school of education, to carry on the following most essential lines of work: (1) Research in the organization and method of nature-study and agriculture in the elementary schools; (2) the training of specialists within this field; (3) the publication of abundant literature for the use of the public schools; (4) the maintenance of a correspondence bureau to meet the rapidly growing demands from the teachers and elementary school interests of the state; (5) the establishment and maintenance of a bureau for

the preparation and distribution of equipment and materials essential to instruction in this subject; (6) the employment of thoroughly competent demonstration teachers who shall be sent out into the state to assist in the introduction of this study in the elementary schools; (7) such other means of advancing this study as may later appear to be desirable.

The committee of three to communicate with the Farmers' Institute Committee was as follows: Hon. Joseph Carter, Hon. J. B. Burrows, Dean Eugene Davenport.

One interesting result of the work of this conference was the plan to assemble at the university model rural school equipments in agriculture, domestic science, hygiene and public health, and in manual training. The university is very fortunate in already being provided with an equipment in manual training. This model outfit for rural schools was presented to the university by the Bradley Polytechnic Institute of Peoria, and is the product of a study by Professor C. S. Van Deusen.

A statement has gone out to the papers that manual training in the schools had received a set-back in the discussions of this conference. The statement was entirely erroneous, nothing to that effect was even suggested.

*REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION OF THE
PHENOMENA CONNECTED WITH
EUSAPIA PALLADINO*

THE undersigned had three sittings with the Italian medium Eusapia Palladino in the Physical Laboratory at Columbia University in January last. The object in view was to secure and report any evidence of the operation of hitherto unknown forces through her or in her presence.

Though the investigation may fairly be called patient and laborious, no convincing evidence whatever of such a phenomenon could be obtained. Many indications were obtained, however, that trickery was being practised on the sitters. These indications will be more fully stated by the individual investigators.

So far as these sittings afford data for judgment, the conclusion of the undersigned