

ing) suddenly disappeared, apparently crossing the valley to that range. Lack of facilities and unexpectedly hasty abandonment of the camp unfortunately prevented preservation of skins of the birds.

The Sonora pigeon (at least the bird observed at Tinajas Altas) differs so widely as to be readily distinguishable from the mourning dove in size, in form and relative length of tail, in mode of flight, in greater glossiness of plumage, in the rufous breast and sheeny neck and the absence of the dark spot on the side of the neck, in color of legs and feet and in color of skin and flesh; and it differs from the band-tail pigeon (well-known, *e. g.*, in Kern River Valley, California, where it was seen ingeniously snared by Indians) in more graceful slenderness of body, in mode of flight, in color, in trim and compact feet, red instead of yellowish, and especially in the elongated and mobile tail; and there seem to be no other southwestern forms with which it could be confounded.

W J MCGEE

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
December 13, 1910

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

OWING to the recent death of Dr. Christian A. Herter, editor in chief, inquiries have been made regarding the future of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. It is therefore proper that those who have been interested in the journal should be assured of its continuance in its present form. A statement of certain circumstances connected with the foundation of the journal will give this assurance. In order that it should not become wholly dependent upon one individual, Dr. Christian A. Herter, one of its founders, invited four others to join with him in the formation of a corporation, which should have as its sole purpose the creation, conduct and continuation of the journal. The corporation will now assume full charge of the journal and continue the publication without interruption. It is the purpose of the remaining members of the corporation to adhere to the traditions established by Dr. Herter. The loss of Dr. Herter

from the management of the journal necessitates some reorganization of the editorial staff. This will be undertaken in the immediate future by the corporation. The office of the journal will continue to be at 819 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. Manuscripts may be sent to this address, or to Prof. A. N. Richards, University of Pennsylvania, Medical Department, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE contents of *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* for December, 1910, are as follows: Portrait of Robert Were Fox; "Proceedings of the Berlin Meeting of the Commission on the Magnetic Survey of a Parallel of the International Association of Academies," by Adolf Schmidt; "Proceedings of the Berlin Meeting of the Commission on Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity of the International Meteorological Committee," by Adolf Schmidt; "The Work of the Magnetic Commission of the International Meteorological Committee, 1896-1910," Editorial Review; "Life and Work of Robert Were Fox, 1789-1877," by L. A. Bauer; "On Precursors of Magnetic Storms," by R. L. Faris; "Record of Lightning Stroke at Cheltenham Magnetic Observatory," by R. L. Faris; "The Physical Theory of the Earth's Magnetic and Electric Phenomena, No. II," by L. A. Bauer; Letters to Editor and Reviews.

BOTANICAL NOTES

A MUCH NEEDED BOOK

EVERY botanist who has had to help students who wish to know something as to the names and classification of the commonly grown shrubs in private and public grounds has felt the need of a book of moderate size and cost which deals with these plants. Even Dr. Gray felt this need, and more than forty-seven years ago he brought together a "Garden Botany" supplement to the fourth edition of his "Manual." A little later he compiled the "Field, Forest and Garden Botany," which in spite of its imperfections was very useful to the young botanists of that period, as is the now out-of-date second edition of the same book. When Professor Bailey