too willful, while surplus people are almost will-less.

I do not use this argument to show that my position is correct but to make clear what it is on which the contrasted arguments rest. The biologic sociologists are using bold deductive arguments without a verification. Their position has plausibility only by ignoring observational evidence. Deductive medicine with its neglect of diagnosis puts itself in the same position. The one group affirms that what is true of germ cells is true at maturity while the other says what is true of dogs holds for men. This is reasoning, not observation or experiment.

It is said of Agassiz that he took his students out to a great boulder near Cambridge and asked them what they saw on it. Some saw nothing: others saw vague scratches. Only he saw the ice-markings and proof that the boulder was deposited by a glacier. By the methods of to-day instead of these observations we would have exact measurements of the scratches: their depth and length would be carefully ascertained, and finally the Carnegie Institution would be asked to make a grant for weighing the stone. In this way note-books would be filled and a reputation made, but who will say all this is worth as much as what Agassiz saw with his unaided eye? Logic has pitfalls for all of us: we escape from our errors only by shrewd observations and multiple verifications.

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MIASTOR LARVÆ

THESE remarkably interesting larvæ, reproduced by pedogenesis, are available for laboratory work to a marked degree and must be widely distributed as well as allied forms. Very little is known concerning American species, largely because their habitat is one rarely explored by entomologists. They breed mostly in decaying vegetable matter. We have been very successful in finding them under partially decayed chestnut bark of stumps, fence rails and sleepers which have been cut one or two years earlier. European species have been observed under the bark of a variety of trees and even in sugar beet residue. These dipterous maggots with diverging antennæ have a flattened, triangular head quite different from the strongly convex, usually fuscous head of the *Sciara* larvæ occurring in a similar environment. They have a length of from one twentieth to one eighth of an inch and may be found in colonies containing a few large, white larvæ with numerous smaller, yellowish individuals, though the latter appear more common at the present time. Early spring with its abundance of moist bark appears to be the most favorable season for finding the larvæ. The writer would welcome the cooperation of entomologists and others in searching for these forms in different parts of the country. He will be pleased to determine specimens found under various conditions, make rearings therefrom if possible, and thus add to our knowledge of the subfamily Heteropezinæ, a group which should be fairly abundant in North America and one deserving careful study.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Minéralogie de la France et des ses colonies; description physique et chimiques des minéraux; étude des conditions géologiques de leurs gisements. Par A. LACROIX. Paris, Librairie Polytechnique, Baudry et Cie, éditeurs. 1893–1910. Four volumes. 8vo. Pp. xx + 723; 804; vi + 815; iii + 923.

This monumental work, which testifies at once to the untiring industry of the writer and to his thorough mastery of the material he has collected, is destined to rank as one of the most valuable contributions to the science of descriptive mineralogy. It consists of four large volumes, containing in all about 3,300 pages, and illustrated with more than a thousand figures, a large number of which are photographic reproductions of characteristic specimens. The first volume was issued in 1893, and at that time the author believed that the work would be completed in two years' time by the issue of a second volume;