ticularly true in the case of the familiar, but little studied, "horned toad," *Phrynosoma cornutum,* and undoubtedly many "pairs" which have been shipped north by well meaning collectors have been of the same sex.

In making a study of the stomach contents of Phrynosomas, I have had occasion to open some two hundred specimens, trying always to find some connection between external characters and sex. The problem very quickly was solved; and I can affirm, that for this region at least, and during the spring months, the crescent markings on the back of the female are much brighter yellow than those of the male. The difference is very marked, and little or no practise is required to enable one to distinguish the sexes, even without comparison of specimens.

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CAHOKIA OR MONKS MOUND NOT OF ARTIFICIAL ORIGIN

A study of the materials composing the so-called Monks or Cahokia Mound, in Madison county, Ill., establishes, beyond doubt, that it is not of artificial origin, as has been so generally held but that it is a remnant remaining after the erosion of the alluvial deposits, which at one time filled the valley of the Mississippi, in the locality known as the "Great American Bottoms."

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Geology of the Yang-tze Valley (China). By Yamajiro Ishii. Bulletin of the Imperial Geological Survey of Japan, Vol. 23, No. 2, Tokyo, 1913, pp. 19 + 157.

There are but few inhabited and easily accessible parts of the globe about which there is a smaller fund of geological knowledge than China. For that reason it is gratifying to note that papers on Chinese geology are appearing with increasing frequency. On the other hand, it is regrettable that some of these do not possess either the practical utility or the scientific accuracy that is always needed.

Since it is printed in the Japanese language and characters, Mr. Ishii's paper on the Yang-tze Valley will be of little use to nearly all geologists outside of Japan and China. This applies not only to the text, but also to the titles of maps and diagrams. Although there may be some compelling reasons unknown to the reviewer, such as popular demands in Japan, it would be hard to defend on general grounds, the printing of technical scientific papers in any language which is not in more or less general use in the scientific world. Only a geologist can read a technical geologic paper with full understanding and appreciation. Nearly all educated Japanese and Chinese read English, if not also French or German, so that even a paper intended largely for local use in Japan would be quite as intelligible to its readers if presented in one of the more important European languages and it would at the same time be available for foreign students in general. A popular summary in Japanese might be appended for the edification of the few who read only the mother tongue. It is greatly to be hoped that the future tendency in Japan will be away from the practise exemplified in this bulletin.

In the English summary of 19 pages at the beginning of the bulletin, there is an interesting account of the origin of the name Yang-tze-Kiang. This is followed by paragraphs on "Hydrography," and "Mountains and Plains." Under the heading of "Geology," the following table of stratigraphic divisions is given: (*a*) Quaternary, (*b*) Red Sandstone formation, (*c*) Coal-bearing Sandstone formation, (*d*) Great Limestone formation, (*e*) Sinic or Metamorphic formation, (*f*) Gneiss formation, (*g*) Plutonic rocks, (*h*) Volcanic rocks. The reviewer is obliged to agree with the author's admission (on page 16) that "our classification of the strata in Yang-tze Valley into the Quaternary, red-sandstone formation, coal-bearing formation, etc., as given above, is not the proper method of classification, because the geological age of each member is so indefinite that one formation may represent older Paleo-