Perhaps the earliest use of the actual word "mutation" in this sense is to be found in "Pseudodoxia Epidemica," by Dr. Thomas Browne. I quote from Book VI., Chapter X., "Of the Blackness of Negroes":[2] "We may say that men became black in the same manner that some Foxes, Squirrels, Lions, first turned of this complection, whereof there are a constant sort in diverse Countries; that some Chaughes came to have red legges and bills, that Crows became pyed; All which *mutations*, however they began, depend upon durable foundations, and such as may continue for ever."

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PLEA FOR A STATUE IN WASHINGTON TO PROFESSOR SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In Lafayette Square, opposite the White House in Washington, there are five statutes in bronze, all of heroic proportions. They are of military characters, only one of them being that of an American. Each commemorates deeds of war and bloodshed, and their accessories consist of the implements and munitions of warfare. In the various parts of this city, within and without the majority of the federal and municipal buildings, and in the museums, there are a great many statues—some in stone, some in metal—which have been erected to prominent characters in American history. A few of these are of foreigners, while the majority of them are of our own countrymen. In some instances, the same person had two or more such statues erected in his honor, while General Washington has apparently been favored with a half dozen or more.

Again, these duplications invariably have military men as their subjects; and the greater their exploits were in the way of leading men in battle, in which thousands of their enemies were slain, the more likely are we to find them thus distinguished. It is safe to say that at least eighty-five per cent. of all such statues to be found in the city of Washington are of military men; and it is truly discouraging, as well as disgraceful, to note how very few there are which have been erected to writers or to men of science in any of its many departments.

[2] Second edition, 1650.

On the Smithsonian grounds there is one to Professor Joseph Henry, and Doctor Samuel D. Gross has been similarly honored in a fine statue which appears on the grounds of the Army Medical Museum. A very few others are to be seen about the city or in the public buildings, not half a dozen altogether thus commemorating the works of any of our great astronomers, chemists, biologists, surgeons, artists, inventors and others who have long ago passed away, while their works and discoveries still redound to this nation's credit, advantage and welfare, and that with ever-increasing force and volume.

In line with the city's improvements, there has recently been formed a small, park-like, subtriangular square, at a point where, in the near future, there will be a grand entrance to the National Zoological Gardens. This is situated at the intersections of Sixteenth Street, Columbia Road and Mount Pleasant Street, in a section which promises some day to be one of the most attractive parts of the northwest part of the city.

There could be no better locality than this one, anywhere in the nation's capital, upon which to erect a statue to Professor Baird, nor could any one be selected, from among those who have gone before in science, to more appropriately occupy this spot than he.

Not only was Professor Baird largely responsible for the establishment of the National Zoological Gardens and Park; but, as every scientist is fully aware, from one end of the world to the other, he, of all others, did more during his lifetime to augment and build up American zoological science, to start and encourage the younger members of the profession, and withal to very materially add to the literature of biology as a whole, as he was the author and co-author of several formal volumes on natural history and of over a thousand papers on allied subjects. The establishment of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries is almost wholly due to his energy and foresight; while as secretary of the Smithsonian Institution he has left a record which, for scientific achievement, enterprise and actual accomplishment, has never been in any way ap-

proached, and it will remain unique for many generations to come.

I am sure that the great body of scientific people of this country will be in full sympathy with the proposition here made, and it should not be a difficult matter to select and appoint a committee to carry it out successfully. The sanction of Congress can doubtless be readily secured, and the necessary means for the purpose easily obtained through subscriptions from American scientists and scientific institutions.

R. W. SHUFELDT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BELGIAN PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: It would seem to me that the present time is a particularly appropriate one for our university administrators and other organizations having to do with educational exchanges with Europe to give a special consideration to professors in Belgium. It is well known that in the universities of that country there are many men eminent in the different departments of learning, and in the present necessarily deranged conditions in their own country, an opportunity to teach, or work in laboratories, in America might be particularly welcome. There could naturally be no thought of a completion of the exchange by sending Americans to Belgium at this time.

It might also be a useful thing if some of the generous benefactors of American institutions could establish at least temporary fellowships or scholarships in appropriate American institutions, carrying with them a stipend fully sufficient for academic, traveling and living expenses, for the benefit of young Belgians whose studies are interrupted by the war and who are not called to take arms in behalf of their country.

EDWIN B. FROST

YERKES OBSERVATORY,
September 30

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Middle Triassic Marine Invertebrate Faunas of North America. By JAMES PERRIN SMITH. U. S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper No. 83. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1914. 4°. Pp. 254, pl. I–XCIX.

Many years ago the author of this paper planned, with Professor Alpheus Hyatt, a monographic treatment of the Triassic invertebrate faunas of America. As time went on it became evident that Professor Hyatt's other engagements would prevent the carrying out of this plan. With his advice and assistance Professor Smith prepared a synoptic introduction to the Cephalopod fauna, issued as U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 40.

As the work went on it became evident that the material would be too bulky for a single volume, so the Upper, Middle and Lower Triassic were planned to occupy each a single volume.

That the Middle Triassic part is now first published follows from the fact that the manuscript was nearer completion than the others and contains more new material. The classification is that of the synoptic introduction above cited and is not repeated in detail in the present volume.

The Middle Triassic fauna consists in the main, as here shown, of Cephalopoda, with a few bivalves, brachiopods and echinoderms, but not a single gastropod.

Marine fossils of the Middle Triassic, according to Professor Smith, are known in North America, only from California, central Nevada and British Columbia. The Triassic of the eastern states is all non-marine. The continental deposits of Western America appear to have resulted from arid conditions, but the fossils of the marine sediments were laid down in an arm of the ocean and not in a closed basin like the Caspian Sea. This is indicated by their close relation, faunally, to those of the other Pacific borders and to the ancient sea which in Mesozoic time covered a large part of southern Asia. The Middle Triassic of Western America is divided into two zones, the lower having a mixture of boreal and East Indian types and called after its zone-fossil, *Parapopanoceras;* the upper, with a Mediterranean fauna, plus