

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