

mainly to his "Electromagnetic Theory of Light," "one of the most splendid monuments ever raised by the genius of a single individual." All of the early investigators in the theory of energy received a peculiar bias from the fact that the theory of energy was developed from the theory of work—the production of "useful work" being one of the most important problems in the life of nations as of men. Hence the statement that "energy is the capacity of doing work" was evidently received and accepted by scientific men before and during Maxwell's time as expressing an advanced scientific generalization; and even now, when not too critically examined, might pass as equivalent to the statement: Energy is the universal natural agency by means of which work is done. But while the former statement is logically weak and leads to ambiguities and contradictions the latter statement is perfectly definite, consistent with Maxwell's showing that work is a transference of energy and with that broad general principle, the conservation of energy.

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A PECULIAR BREED OF GOATS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: There is a peculiar breed of goats raised in central and eastern Tennessee. When suddenly frightened the hind legs become stiff and the animal jumps along until it recovers and trots off normally or if greatly frightened the front legs become stiff also and the goat falls to the ground in a rigid condition. They have received the name of "stiff-legged" or "sensitive" goats.

The farmers in Tennessee prefer them because they do not jump fences. They are snow white and look like ordinary goats.

We are starting experiments to determine whether this is a dominant or recessive characteristic in comparison with a normal goat.

When this peculiar affliction first appeared I can not say, but it seems to be possessed by all the goats in the section named.

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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

The Natural History of Hawaii: Being an Account of the Hawaiian People, the Geology and Geography of the Islands, and the Native and Introduced Plants and Animals of the Group. By WILLIAM ALANSON BRYAN, Professor of Zoology and Geology in the College of Hawaii. Honolulu, Hawaii, The Hawaiian Gazette Co., Ltd. 1915. Distributors, H. S. Crocker & Co., 565 Market Street, San Francisco; G. E. Stechert & Co., 151 West 22d Street, New York. Price \$5.50.

In 1907 and 1908 the American Association for the Advancement of Science thought seriously of going to Hawaii in the near future for a summer meeting. Prominent citizens of Hawaii joined the association in anticipation of this visit, and invitations from Hawaiian institutions were received in number. The then governor of the Islands, Mr. Frear, called on the Permanent Secretary in Washington, and Professor W. A. Bryan, of the College of Hawaii, attended the Chicago and Dartmouth meetings of the association in 1908, urging the mid-Pacific meeting. But difficulties of transportation arose, and the plan was finally abandoned at least until some future date. Professor Bryan's effort, however, was not without result, since during his visit he gained his charming wife, and has now brought out his great book on the natural history of Hawaii, thus bringing the islands to the continental members of the association to console them for the abandonment of the Hawaiian meeting.

Practically alone among the great scientific societies in this country, the American Society of Naturalists has preserved in its title the old idea of natural history. The old natural history is still talked about and written about, while the old natural philosophy, so-called, has gone out. But the old-fashioned natural history books, with their great charm and interest to a large class of readers, are seldom published nowadays.

This book of Professor Bryan's, however, is a real natural history. It covers in its six hundred pages the whole field. Section I.,