three students, who all went to work vigorously. Last year I hired several assistants, and when I returned from France I had to put my hand in my pocket. That is I borrowed money at six per cent. This method of high finance may do for high trajectories, but it can not continue forever. I hear much of the National Research Council, but I do not see any money. I am an elderly man, and have experienced three disillusionments connected with the names of great millionaires. "Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes"—I fear organizations even when they offer me money—much more when they don't! Last year I gave a paper at the American Philosophical Society on the work of our ballistic institute, but I have never had the time to have it published.

I did not get to the front in the war—not till last summer. I had no uniform, and few helpers. So I got no glory, but some debts. A propos of Professor Wilson's letter about the University of Strasbourg, I should like to say that I visited it last year, and was shown all over it, and that the French are making it first class. Professor Pierre Weiss is going to have the best facilities in the world for the study of magnetism. I made about two hundred and fifty lantern slides of the places visited by our mission, and have been giving lectures on it ever since. Strasbourg figures largely in them.

ARTHUR GORDON WEBSTER

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

KNOWLTON'S CATALOGUE OF FOSSIL PLANTS[1]

IN 1898 Dr. Knowlton published "A Catalogue of the Cretaceous and Tertiary Plants of North America." We now have from the same pen a work with the very similar title of "A Catalogue of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Plants of North America." This is a far more comprehensive work than the former, or than its title indicates. To say that it about doubles the number of known species is but a slight indication of the way in which it mirrors the progress that paleobotany has made in America in the past twenty years, for while very many significant new forms are added, many others that existed in name only have disappeared from the literature. Botanical determinations in many cases have been placed on a firmer footing during the interval and geological occurrences are now given with much greater precision, in fact, in so far as the progress of stratigraphic and areal geology is concerned with plant-bearing units, the present work may be said to show the progress made in stratigraphy during the past two decades.

Only those who know the drudgery of such compilations can appreciate the vast labor that has gone into the making of this book. The author has been one of the most influential factors in the progress of paleobotany in this country during the present generation and that he should have found the time to place this epitome of its present status before the public is a cause for sincere congratulation, not alone to him but to all who may have occasion to refer to the work. Fellow geologists will probably not need to have its merits or usefulness called to their attention, but botanists are not so likely to scan the lists of publications of the U. S. Geological Survey.

There is a stratigraphic table, a bibliography, followed by the body of the catalogue arranged alphabetically. In this part references are given to the original description of each genus, type species are indicated and under each species the synonymy, principal citations and geological and geographical distribution are given. Following the body of the catalogue, the included genera are given in their biological arrangement. This is followed by floral lists for each of the North American Mesozoic and Cenozoic plant bearing formations—a most useful feature of wide interest.

EDWARD W. BERRY

[1] Bulletin U. S. Geological Survey, No. 696, 815 pp., 1919 (1920).

NOTES ON METEOROLOGY

THE WEST INDIAN HURRICANE OF SEPTEMBER, 1919

This hurricane, which seems to have been the largest that has occurred in the Gulf of Mexico since the U. S. Weather service was