

its numerous variations and mutations, dates back to Miocene time and is abundant to-day along the Atlantic coast, ranging from Florida to Massachusetts, and locally on the southwest coast of Maine and southern shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Chaleur, from low water to 8 fathoms. *Ilyanassa obsoleta* also ranges from Miocene to Recent. Both of these species have been reported from well drillings on Long Island, including east New York City. They are from Pleistocene sediments (Veatch, Merrill, etc.). *I. obsoleta* is to-day one of the common small species of the east coast and ranges from Nova Scotia to Tampa, west Florida, from littoral to 2 fathoms.

The specimens are interesting in that they indicate marine sedimentation within the limits of New York City in Pleistocene or Glacial time. A further and exact study of the sediments of the section at the locality where the shells were discovered might reveal at what stage of that time the marine deposition took place and if the sea occupied the region where the shells were found or if they were transported by flowing water from a near beach and dumped with the drift and boulders. The officials and workmen connected with the Federal Reserve Bank are to be commended for the collection and interest which they have shown, the result of which is the establishment of a new locality of Pleistocene marine sediments in the New York City area.

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EVOLUTION IN WEST VIRGINIA

By special invitation, Honorable William Jennings Bryan recently addressed the legislature of West Virginia while it was in session at Charleston. Following this address Mr. Bryan made a tour of the state and gave anti-evolution addresses in several of the larger cities.

A bill prohibiting the teaching of evolution in all state-supported schools had already been introduced into the legislature. Just before the adjournment of the regular session, in the latter part of April, an advocate of the measure attempted to have the bill brought before the House, but the motion was lost and the bill was never allowed to come to vote.

It is stated that the address of Mr. Bryan in Charleston made practically no impression upon the members of the legislature.

One of the bitterest and most active opponents of the teaching of evolution, a minister of Morgantown, has been called to a higher sphere of usefulness(?) in Cincinnati and it is hoped that the anti-evolution agitation in the state has been permanently disposed of.

A. M. REESE

THE REPORTED ERUPTION OF LASSEN PEAK

SEVERAL times within the early months of this year Lassen Peak has been reported by newspapers of that region as in volcanic eruption. To settle conflicting reports I requested George Olsen and Charley Yori, well-known mountaineers of California and Alaska, to climb snow-clad Lassen Peak and determine the record, if any, made by the fall of volcanic ashes in the winter snow. Their letter of May 2 states: "There has been no eruption, as the snow is clean, no visible ash line in it and the crater where the eruption is supposed to have been has clean snow several feet deep covering the entire bottom of it and all other places where an eruption might have occurred show no sign of an eruption."

J. S. DILLER
Geologist

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

QUOTATIONS

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRAIN WORKERS

SOME three years ago M. Henri de Jouvenel, one of the French delegates to the League of Nations, succeeded in establishing in France a *Confédération des travailleurs intellectuels*. This was the first national association of brain workers and now has 150,000 members; similar associations have been formed in eight other countries. A meeting of representatives of these associations was held recently at the Sorbonne, the headquarters of the University of Paris, with the countenance of the French government and under the honorary presidency of M. Léon Bourgeois, one of the most universally respected of French statesmen. It was attended also by "observers" from nine other countries.