

ington, are given and his deductions are most interesting.

Shortly after reading this article the undersigned came across an old book, printed in London in 1859. This book's title is "Ten Thousand Wonderful Things, Marvelous, Rare, Curious and Quaint." It was compiled by Edmund Fullington King, and is made up of short articles of historic, scientific and otherwise curious phenomena. On page 189 of this book appears the following account of what is described as "An extraordinary problem" with reference to the changing characteristics observed in gallinaceous birds. The article follows:

A CHANGE IN SEX

Connected with the plumage of birds is an extraordinary problem which has baffled all research, and toward the solution of which not the slightest approach has been made. Among certain of the gallinaceous birds, and it has been observed in no other family, the females occasionally assume the male plumage. Among pheasants in a wild state the hen, thus metamorphosed, assumes with the livery a disposition to war with her own race, but in confinement she is spurned and buffeted by the rest. From what took place in a hen pheasant in the possession of a lady friend of the late Sir Joseph Banks, it would seem probable that this change arises through some alteration in the temperament at a late period in the animal's life. This lady paid particular attention to the breeding of pheasants. One of the hens, after having produced several broods, moulted and the succeeding feathers were exactly those of a cock. The animal never afterward laid an egg.

The pea hen has sometimes been known to take the plumage of the cock bird. Lady Tynte had a favorite pea hen which at eight several times produced chicks. Having moulted when about eleven years old, the lady and her family were astonished by her displaying the feathers peculiar to the other sex and appearing like a pied peacock. In this process, the tail, which was like that of the cock, first appeared. In the following year she moulted again and produced similar feathers. In the third year she did the same, and then also spurs resembling those of the cock. The bird never laid after this change of her plumage.

This paragraph in this old book, printed seventy years ago, only goes to prove that there is "nothing new under the sun," although those who observed the phenomena at that day were unable to account for it to the extent that Dr. Riddle has.

I. M. HEMINGER

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

ANTI-EVOLUTION PROPAGANDA IN GEORGIA

THE following extract from the letter of a friend teaching in Georgia, one whose name carries a Ph.D.

degree from the University of Wisconsin and whose reputation for veracity is excellent, may help to explain why the people of Georgia failed to support the recent anti-evolution bill brought before their legislature.

My friend with a perhaps improper curiosity had attended a negro church service during the month of July. I now quote:

The preacher spoke somewhat as follows: "As long as they said us coluhd folks was descended from ape-like animals nobody didn't say nothing. But that's because their hearts wasn't pure. And when Darwin came along and said folks in gen'l was descended from a fossil, then nobody didn't like it. But his heart wasn't pure. And then Voltaire came along and said it too, but nobody didn't pay no attention to him because his heart wasn't pure. And then Thomas Payne came and said we was all descended from fossils. But he didn't make no headway, cause *his* heart wasn't pure. And in Tennessee, Bryan and Darrow and those folks won't do no hurt, for their hearts isn't pure. The Bible don't say we's descended from fossils."

JOHN SMITH DEXTER

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO RICO

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Dynamische Meteorologie. By F. M. EXNER, professor of geophysics at the University of Vienna and director of the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics. 2d Edition, much enlarged. 421 pages, with 104 figures in the text. Vienna, 1925, Julius Springer.

ANY contribution from so careful and conscientious an investigator as Exner is worth having, and the present volume should be in the hands of every serious student of what formerly was called dynamic meteorology; but is now more generally termed aerography—the structure of the atmosphere.

The book first appeared in 1916 and evidently suffered from the loss of touch with British and American progress. The war certainly did advance our knowledge of air structure, even if we consider only the instrumental side of the problem. In one of his papers before the Royal Meteorological Society (April, 1919), Sir Napier Shaw said:

It may be that in the near future no meteorological observatory will be regarded as really complete if it does not possess a cinematograph camera, a searchlight, a range finder and a chronograph, besides a kite balloon, a gun and ammunition, and crews to use them.

There is a decided flavor of war-time experience in the above; and in time of peace we can dispense with some of these; but on the other hand there are new