

actual occurrence in these Pleistocene beds is necessary. Mr. Holloman is now keenly alive to the importance of these discoveries, as he was not when we first talked to him; and, as he had previously found and discarded other similar implements before we saw him, he is confident of eventually finding more, as commercial quarrying continues in this deposit. When it is found, he told the writer that he would do all in his power to protect it *in situ*, and wire for authorities to come and view it for themselves. Consequently, as the quarry is now being actively developed, further discoveries are to be expected in this great deposit.

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### THE GEOLOGY OF SONORA

WHILE making a study of the sedimentary rocks in the Cananea Mining District, Cananea, Sonora, Mexico, I found some fossils which Dr. G. H. Girty, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has determined as belonging to the Carboniferous Age. The limestone in which the fossils occur was formerly considered to be Cambrian.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Girty says: "The fossils from Cananea accompanying the letter of February 19 from Dr. Graham John Mitchell are, without much question, of Carboniferous Age, but to assign them within the Carboniferous System with any degree of certainty is impossible. The specimens, all very fragmentary, include cup corals (*Triplophyllum?* and *Lithostroton?*), a strophomenoid (*Schuchertella* or *Derbya*), a *Spirifer* (apparently of the *Rockymontanus* group), and *Hustedia*."

GRAHAM JOHN MITCHELL

### THREATENED EXTINCTION OF THE RUFFED GROUSE

ACCORDING to a recent report of the Department of Fisheries and Game, the ruffed grouse is facing extinction in the state of Massachusetts. Only a few of these magnificent upland game birds have been seen within the past year; and why this is so is not fully known, though it is believed that they have succumbed to a periodic visit of the partridge sickness. The winter and spring of 1926-27 were not sufficiently severe so as to decimate any large numbers of them, nor was the toll of the hunting season unusually large. But with the present mild winter, and a good breeding season, it is hoped that this once common game bird will be able to make sufficient numbers to withstand successfully the depredations of its natural enemies during the coming year. And

<sup>1</sup> *Eco. Geology*, vol. 5, No. 4, June, 1910, page 317.

with a closed season next fall, which the legislature is at present considering, to assist in their fight, it is believed that within a year or two they will be back on a fairly sound basis. It is to be regretted should this bird have to be added to the already long list of vanishing species.

BIRGER R. HEADSTROM

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### WHAT IS A NAME?

SINCE Dr. Holland's recent fatherly note (*SCIENCE*, Feb. 10, p. 161) the differences between us seem reduced to one (I will not quarrel over the word "binomial"):

Is *Limnas ferruginea Chrysippus* (Hübner) as good a name as *Papilio Danaus Festivus Chrysippus* (Linnaeus) or *Sphinx Adscita Phegea*, which every one accepts?

The idea will be expanded in *Entomological News*.

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### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*A treatise on the British Freshwater Algae in which are included all the pigmented Protophyta hitherto found in British freshwaters, by the late G. S. West, M. A., D.Sc., F. L. S., A. R. C. S., professor of botany at the University of Birmingham. New and Revised Edition in great part rewritten by F. E. FRITSCH, Professor of Botany in the University of London. (Cambridge, The University Press) xviii+534 pp., 207 figs. in text. Price 21 shillings. 1927.*

THE first edition of this highly valued treatise, issued nearly twenty-five years ago, has been so long out of print that this new and up-to-date edition will be doubly welcome. Since the microscopic freshwater flora is so cosmopolitan in its distribution this handbook will serve others than British investigators. It will also be useful to zoologists as well as to botanists, since the reviser has included all pigmented or colored flagellates within the Algae. The first fifty pages are given to generalities, such as the ecology, distribution, collection, cultivation, structure, cytology and reproductive processes of the Algae. The author is inclined to minimize the significance of the polymorphism of the unicellular Algae brought about in cultures because of the lack of correlation of such results with the same species in their natural environments. Certain normal well established instances of polymorphic life cycles of both unicellular and multicellular stages do not justify sweeping general conclusions at present as to the extent of comparable polymorphism elsewhere among the Algae.