

ography on the part of the author. The control of topographic form by climate, for example, is sketched rather than described, although the Peruvian Andes exemplify it with an emphasis hardly paralleled elsewhere.

W. M. DAVIS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE.

THE meeting of the Zoölogical Society of London, March 3d, was devoted to a discussion of Zoölogical nomenclature, under the leadership of the veteran ornithologist, P. L. Sclater, who presented the claims of the Stricklandian code in comparison with that of the German Zoölogical Society. Strickland's code, that formulated for the British Association in 1842, differs from the later one chiefly in the following points:

1. The German rules disclaim any relation to botany, so that, according to them, the same generic names may be used for a plant and for an animal. This is contrary to the Stricklandian code, which, however, is practically a dead letter, in this particular, after fifty-four years of trial.

2. Under the German rules the same term is to be used for the generic and specific name of a species if these names have priority.

This is contrary to the Stricklandian code, and also to the usage of many American zoölogists, though practiced by those who accept fully the rules of the American Ornithologists' Union.

The German rules adopt the 10th edition of Linnæus's *Systema Naturæ* as the starting point of zoölogical nomenclature, whereas the other adopts the 12th. The 10th is universally accepted on this side of the Atlantic.

These differences are but trifling, and it is probable that they will all be reconciled through the agency of the nomenclature committee appointed at the Leyden meeting of the International Zoölogical Congress.

THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Nature states that the Toronto Local Committee are assiduously engaged in preliminary

work for the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1897. Meetings of the executive committee are held every fortnight. Besides the executive committee, a number of sub-committees are at work, including those on finance, conveyances, publication and printing, rooms for offices, meetings of the association and committees, hotels and lodgings, press, hospitality, reception and for securing coöperation of other institutes, associations and corporations, postal, telegraph and telephone facilities. The attention of the committee on conveyance has already been called to the desirability of securing from the Canadian Pacific Railroad transportation for such members of the Association as may desire to extend their travels to the Pacific coast, with special reference to the suggestion that a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science may follow the Toronto meeting, if adequate facilities for transportation are assured. This suggestion is based upon the fact that the American Association have already once voted in favor of such a meeting if satisfactory rates could be obtained; and the hope is still entertained that delegates from both British and Australasian Associations might find San Francisco a convenient point at which to meet the American Association. Mr. Griffith, the general secretary of the British Association, is expected to be in Toronto about May 22d, to make arrangements for the meeting, and set out the proper lines of work. The chairman of the local committee is Dr. A. B. Macallum.

ENTOMOLOGY.

It has always been assumed that flowers attracted insects, in large measure at least, by the splendor of their inflorescence. Some recent experiments by Plateau, recorded in the Bulletin of the Belgian Academy, throw doubt upon this assumption. In a considerable bed of showy dahlias Plateau concealed from sight the highly colored rays of some of the flowers exposing only the disk, and in a second series of experiments the disk also but independently, either by means of colored papers or by green leaves secured in place by pins. Butterflies and bees sought these flowers with the same avidity and apparently the same frequency as the fully ex-

posed flowers in the same patch, the bees particularly pushing their way beneath the obstacles to reach them, though not always with success. Plateau concludes that they are guided far more by their perception of odors than by their vision of bright and contrasted colors.

In a second communication to the same Academy Plateau gives the details of another set of experiments to determine whether a wide-meshed net presents any obstacle to the passage of a flying insect which, as far as room was concerned, could easily pass in flight through the interstices. He finds that, while such nets do not absolutely prevent passage on the wing, insects almost invariably act before one they wish to pass as if they could not distinguish the aperture, ending by alighting on the mesh and crawling through. He reasons that through the lack of distinct and sharp vision the threads of the net produce the illusion of a continuous surface, as for us the hatchures of an engraving, seen at a distance.

ASTRONOMY.

THE Royal Astronomical Society have introduced an innovation in their method of issuing the 'Monthly Notices.' These are now to appear in parts, whenever it seems desirable that this should be done. Heretofore the Notices have appeared once each month, so that it has not always been possible to avoid delay in the publication of important papers. It is not intended that there shall be more than one number each month in the future, but this number will be divided, and issued in parts, when necessary.

THE *Astronomical Journal* of March 11, contains an article by Dr. G. W. Hill, on the perturbations of the planet Ceres by Jupiter and the derivation of the mean elements of Ceres.

THE last number of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, dated February 29th, contains the announcement from Dr. Belopolsky of Pulkowa that he has obtained a series of good measures of the motion in the line of sight of the brighter component of 61 Cygni. The observations were made with the 30-inch telescope. The motion relatively to the sun is found to be -7.3 geographical miles. Assuming a parallax of $0''.5$ and a proper motion of $5''.2$, allowing for that

of the sun, Dr. Belopolsky finds that the actual motion of the star is at the rate of 7.6 geographical miles per second. The direction of the motion in space has a position angle of 61° and makes an angle of 140° with the line of sight.
H. J.

GENERAL.

WE have received from the Huxley Memorial Committee a second donation list containing further subscriptions amounting to £761. The total amount is now £2,300. A sufficient sum being thus guaranteed for the fulfillment of the two first objects of the Committee, 'Statue' and 'Medal' Sub-Committees have been appointed to carry on the details, and designs are now being prepared. For the third object, the foundation of Exhibitions, Scholarships or Lectureships has been proposed. For this a considerable sum will be required, and the efforts of the Committee to raise it are being promoted by the organization of Local Committees in all parts of the world.

A BRANCH of the International Committee to erect the monument to Pasteur has been formed in Washington, under the presidency of Dr. D. E. Salmon, of the United States Department of Agriculture. Among the members are Secretary Langley, Surgeons-General Tryon, Sternberg and Wyman, Dr. G. Brown Goode and a representative to be appointed by each of the scientific societies.

The series of Saturday lectures, complimentary to the citizens of Washington, will be continued during the season of 1896, under the auspices of the Joint Commission, and under the direction of a committee consisting of W J McGee, G. Brown Goode and J. Stanley Brown. The addresses will be delivered in the lecture hall of the National Museum, 4:20 to 5:30 p. m., on the dates specified. The series of lectures for 1896 has been arranged with the view of illustrating the relations of life to environment, especially on this continent; and two courses have been provided, the first pertaining chiefly to vegetal and animal life, the second chiefly to human life in its relations to lower organisms as well as to the inorganic world. The first course is as follows (the second will be announced later):

March 21, *The Battle of the Forest*, B. E. Fernow; March 28, *The Adaptation of Plants to the Desert*, F. V. Coville; April 4, *The Spread of the Rabbit*, T. S. Palmer; April 11, *Insect Mimicry*, L. O. Howard; April 18, *The Persistence of Functionless Structures*, F. A. Lucas.

DR. G. F. BECKER, of the U. S. Geological Survey, sailed, March 14th, for Capetown, to make an investigation of the South African gold fields.

MR. F. W. TRUE, of the National Museum, is engaged upon a study of the antlers of American deer. His monograph of the family of moles is just going to press.

KICKING BEAR, one of the finest representatives of the Sioux tribe, and one of the few thoroughly typical examples of the uncontaminated Indian, was thoroughly modeled and photographed at the National Museum on March 13th, and a full figure to be clad in the costume which he now wears on ceremonial occasions will be constructed.

DR. JOHN S. BILLINGS and Prof. Simon Newcomb have been designated by the Secretary of State to represent the United States at the Bibliographical Conference to be held in London at the call of the Royal Society.

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF, of the Russian Navy, the author of a very important work upon the currents and specific gravity of the waters of the northwestern Pacific, during a recent visit to Washington, at an informal meeting at the Smithsonian Institution, on March 16th, explained his methods and results to a number of gentlemen interested in hydrography and deep sea explorations.

THE astronomical work of Dr. S. C. Chandler, of Boston, and especially his studies upon the variations of latitude, have been recognized by the Royal Astronomical Society of London, which conferred upon him its gold medal at its meeting on February 14th.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER J. J. BRICE, U. S. N. (retired), who has been nominated by President Cleveland for the position of U. S. Commissioner of Fisheries, is a citizen of California, and has given much attention to the acclimatization of pheasants. He is interested in angling, and was in 1891 employed under the

late Commissioner MacDonald to make a reconnaissance preparatory to the establishment of fish-cultural stations on the military reservations of the Pacific coast and the Rocky Mountains. It is not understood that he makes any claim to be possessed of proved scientific and practical knowledge of the fishes of the coast.

A COMMEMORATIVE tablet has been placed on a school in Passy to record the former residence of Franklin at that place, then a suburb of Paris. Addresses were made by M. M. Faie and Guillois.

PROF. WILLIAM LIBBEY, of the department of physical geography of Princeton University, is organizing a second expedition to the Hawaiian Islands. He will be accompanied by a number of students and will be absent from the close of the college year to the opening in September.

DURING February, 1373 volumes were added to the New York State Library, the total number of volumes in the library, including traveling libraries and duplicates, being now 318,964.

THE officers for the New York Academy of Sciences for the coming year are: President, J. J. Stevenson; First Vice-President, H. F. Osborn; Second Vice-President, R. S. Woodward; Corresponding Secretary, D. S. Martin; Recording Secretary, J. F. Kemp; Treasurer, C. F. Cox; Librarian, Arthur Hollick.

FRENCH is to be recognized as the official language at the twelfth International Medical Congress to be held at Moscow in August, 1897. At the general assemblies speeches may be delivered in other European languages. The sectional papers and discussions must be either in French, German or Russian. The exclusion of English will probably interfere with the attendance of members from Great Britain and America.

A SERIES of lectures has been arranged to increase interest in the Inter-State park at the Dalles of St. Croix, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Among the lecturers are Mr. Warren Upham, Prof. Henry L. Osborn and Prof. Conway Mac-Millan.

THE New York Board of Fire Underwriters, on the basis of a report prepared by Professor Henry Morton, of the Stevens Institute, has re-

solved not to insure any building in which acetylene gas is regularly used.

A TELEGRAM to the daily papers states that a meteorite, said to be twenty feet in diameter, has fallen on Pine Mountain, which is located on the Kentucky River, about twenty-five miles from Hindman, Ky. A house is said to have been destroyed and the family buried beneath the debris. While no great reliance can be placed on such reports, the one in question perhaps deserves investigation.

WE have received from the publishers J. U. Kern's Verlag, Breslau, and also from the importers, Lemcke and Buechner, New York, the first number of a new quarterly journal, *Centralblatt für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, edited by Dr. G. Buschan, with the co-operation of the leading students of anthropology, including Dr. D. G. Brinton, Dr. Franz Boas and Dr. W. Hoffman. The present number contains, in addition to a preface by the editor and a short article by Prof. Sergi, reviews of 112 books and articles.

THE Cambridge University Press has in preparation, as the second volume of the Cambridge Geographical Series, 'The Geographical Distribution of Mammals,' by R. Lydekker.

THE Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor has arranged a series of lectures for the promotion of the agricultural, horticultural and dairy interests of Westchester county. At Pleasantville, last week, Mr. George T. Powell spoke on apple culture; Mr. M. V. Slingerland, assistant entomologist at Cornell University, on insects; Prof. J. W. Sanborn, Lower Gilmanton, N. H., on 'Intensive Methods of Eastern Farming,' and Mrs. Ann B. Comstock, of Ithaca, on flowers and their insect friends. In the neighborhood of places such as Ithaca, where agricultural instruction is given, improvement in methods of farming and gardening has taken place, and it is the object of the Association to extend such instruction more widely.

It is reported that platinum in quantities sufficient to repay mining has been discovered at Swift Water, a small camp at the foot of Buffalo Peak, Colo.

M. PAUL DE HUMY, a French naval officer,

has invented a process for solidifying petroleum. It is said that common oil has been converted into a solid block as hard as anthracite coal, and that it will burn slowly, giving off intense heat. A ton of this fuel is said to represent thirty times its weight of coal.

THE Paris Society of Geography, which already possesses a large collection of photographs, requests travelers, missionaries and others to send geographical and ethnographical photographs, especially such as are taken in remote and partly unexplored regions.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE annual report of President Eliot, of Harvard University, states that the following gifts and bequests have been made to Harvard University during the past four years:

1891-92.....	\$516,532.20
1892-93.....	551,136.10
1893-94.....	182,890.32
1894-95.....	171,060.92

MISS MARY E. GARRETT, of Baltimore, has endowed a second travelling fellowship of the value of \$500 at Bryn Mawr College. The holder, who must have pursued graduate studies for one year at Bryn Mawr College, is enabled to study for one year at some foreign university.

THERE are this year 160 applicants for the twenty-four fellowships annually awarded by Columbia University—75 in the School of Political Science, 42 in the School of Philosophy, and 43 in the School of Pure Science. The candidates in the natural and exact sciences are distributed as follows: Mathematics, 5; mechanics, 1; astronomy, 2; physics, 7; electricity, 2; chemistry, 6; geology, 5; botany, 5; zoölogy, 9; physiology, 1; psychology, 4.

THE convocation of the University of the State of New York will be held on the last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of June. On Wednesday afternoon the subject for discussion will be 'Aim and Methods in Science Study in Schools below the College,' in which Prof. C. B. Scott, Oswego Normal School; Prof. S. H. Gage, Cornell University, and Prof. C. W. Dodge, University of Rochester, will take part.