

admitted the possibility of Triassic rocks in the neighborhood of New London only because *Bathynathus* was found there and was considered as a Triassic dinosaur. Hardly had the letter been posted when I received from Dr. von Huehne his paper on the 'Pelycosaurier im Deutschen Muschelkalk' (*N. Jahrb. f. M. G. u. P. Beilage*, Band XX., p. 343), in which he arrives at exactly the same conclusion as to the nature of the fossil and the age of the beds. Aside from settling the age of the beds of Prince Edwards Island the discovery is of interest in extending the range of these forms which have previously been known from Texas, Vermillion County, Ill., and Bohemia. It is interesting also to note, as pointed out by von Huehne, that Owen in the *Q. J. G. S.*, 1876, pointed out that *Bathynathus* was probably related to the theriodonts. This suggestion has been disregarded in favor of the dinosaurian nature of the fossil and has so kept alive the error in the age of the beds.

E. C. CASE.

A SYSTEM FOR FILING PAMPHLETS.

No system for filing pamphlets will meet the requirements of all workers, but a plan that I have used for some years has proved so satisfactory and met with the approval of so many of my friends that I venture to present a brief outline of it, in order that others may perhaps be benefited. I make no claim for originality except, perhaps, in the size of the boxes.

I use pasteboard boxes very much like those used by the Book Lovers' Library to protect its volumes, ten and one half inches high, seven and one fourth inches deep and one inch thick, the back or edge nearest the wall, as they stand on the shelf, being open.* Each box holds only a small number of pamphlets, and therein lies the chief advantage, as the small boxes facilitate a great subdivision of subjects.

In my series of 'Birds, geographic,' for instance, I have a box for faunal papers for every state in the United States and for some states several boxes, the subdivision in these cases being by authors. Every faunal bird

paper is marked in the corner 'Bg,' followed by a number indicating a country, the United States being, for instance, 4, with each state designated by a decimal number, so that a Pennsylvania faunal bird list would be marked 'Bg 4.9,' the Pennsylvania box bears this label on the back and also one inscribed 'Birds of Pennsylvania.'

I have then a card catalogue of all my separata, etc., arranged by authors with a reference to the box number. It is thus possible to take from the shelf at once all the papers relative to a given subject or by the card list to locate any paper that may not be where I expected to find it or to see if I have a paper by a certain author.

In the case of a composite paper it may be arranged where most frequently sought and a cross reference be entered on a stiff sheet of octavo paper placed in the other box where it might be arranged. In fact, a sheet like this in every box with cross reference titles is of great convenience.

Bound volumes may be arranged in their proper place on the shelves and catalogued just like the pamphlets.

This system permits of endless variations in the method of classification. For my ornithological series I have the following divisions:

Ba, anatomy; Bb, bibliography; c, classification; d, destruction and extinction; e, economic ornithology; f, food; g, geographic lists; h, hybrid, albinos, etc.; l, museum catalogues; m, molt and pterylography; n, migration; o, nests and eggs; s, systematic monographs, etc.; v, song. Bg and Bs are, of course, the large series, the others occupying only two or three boxes each.

The arrangement of pamphlets relating to so broad a subject as ornithology, by authors, is almost useless, as it is impossible to remember all who have written, for instance, on the birds of Pennsylvania. My plan gives you all these papers together on the shelf without consulting the card list, while if the arrangement by authors is needed the cards furnish it.

WITMER STONE.

ACADEMY NATURAL SCIENCES,
PHILADELPHIA.

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