

plained the invariable deposition of metallic copper to great depths as Pumpelly's, viz: that it was effected by the reduction of copper salts by the FeO in the universally present chlorite.

T. A. JAGGAR, JR.,
Recording Secretary.

ST. LOUIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

At the meeting of February 3, of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, President Gray in the chair and twenty-two other persons present, Mr. Trelease exhibited several specimens, about three feet square, of a curious silk tapestry, taken from the ceiling of a corn storing loft in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, by Dr. Francis Eschazier, stating that he was informed that the larger specimen had been cut from a continuous sheet over twenty yards wide and about four times as long. The specimens, of a nearly white color, and of much the appearance and feeling of a soft tanned piece of sheepskin, were shown to be composed of myriads of fine silken threads, crossing and recrossing at every conceivable angle, and so producing a seemingly homogeneous texture. Although specimens of the creatures by which they are produced had not been secured, it was stated that there was no doubt that these tapestries are the work of lepidopterous larvæ which feed upon grain, the presumption being that they are made by the larvæ of what has been called the Mediterranean Grain or Flour Moth (*Ephestia Kühniella*). The speaker briefly reviewed the history of this insect and its injuriousness in various parts of the world, and quoted from a report of Dr. Bryce, showing that in Canada, where it became established in 1889, 'a large warehouse, some 25 feet wide, 75 feet long, and four stories high, became literally alive with moths in the short course of six months.'

One name was proposed for active membership.

WILLIAM TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

The fifth annual meeting was held in Lincoln January 2 and 3, at which a considerable number of papers were presented.

Dr. C. E. Bessy discussed the peculiar conditions by which the Buffalo grass had devel-

oped here on the plains from the nearly related Gramma grasses; and also the origin of the present flora of Nebraska in general.

Prof. C. D. Swezey showed by a comparison of early rainfall records in Nebraska with those of recent years that there is no evidence of any progressive change of our climate either towards greater rainfall or towards droughty conditions.

Mr. H. S. Clason presented facts dealing with the primitive civilization in America as indicated by the character of the ruins left.

Prof. F. W. Card showed how much less important were the economic fungi of the West than in the East, owing to our drier climate.

Dr. H. B. Ward described some new and little known animal parasites from Nebraska.

Mr. C. J. Elmore described some fossil diatoms from the State, and Dr. E. H. Barbour gave some facts as to the occurrence of considerable deposits of these organisms, such as give promise of commercial value.

Mr. G. A. Loveland presented an analysis of wind velocity records in the State to show how many hours a day the wind may be depended on for windmill power.

Dr. E. H. Barbour made a report of progress on the peculiar fossil *Dæmonelix*, of which he has now obtained a series of forms from successive horizons, indicating its probable genesis and development.

LINCOLN, NEB., February 4, 1896.

G. D. SWEZEY,
Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

A New View of the Origin of Dalton's Atomic Theory. HENRY E. ROSCOE and ARTHUR HARDEY. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. ix + 190. \$1.90.

The Number Concept, Its Origin and Development. LEVI LEONARD CONANT. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. vi + 218. \$2.00.

The Spraying of Plants. E. G. LODEMAN. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. xvii + 399. \$1.00.

La Théorie Platonicienne des Sciences. ÉLIE HALÉVY. Paris, Alcan. 1896. Pp. xl + 378.