Friday, January 29, 1897.

CONTENTS:

Cycle in the Life of the Individual (Ontogeny) and in the Evolution of its own Group (Phylogeny): ALPHEUS HYATT ........................................... 161
The Blackboard Treatment of Physical Vectors: C. BARNES .......................................................... 171

Zoological Notes:

Nansen's Discovery of the Breeding Grounds of the Roey Gull: T. S. PALMER. Origin of Parasitism in the One-bird: O. WIDMAN ................. 175

Current Notes on Physiology:

Branch Streams of the Schuylkill; Hann's Allgemeine Erdkunde; The Topographical Association; Notes: W. M. DAVIS ................. 177

Current Notes on Anthropology:

The Game of Mancala; Oriental Items of Ethnologic Interest: D. G. BRINTON ........................................... 178
Notes on Inorganic Chemistry: J. L. H. .......................... 179
Astronomical Notes: H. J. ............................................. 180
Scientific Notes and News ........................................... 181
University and Educational News ..................................... 185

Discussion and Correspondence:

Simplified Spelling: G. K. GILBERT. An Explanation of the so-called Pseudo-aurora: J. PAUL GOODE .................... 185

Scientific Literature:


Scientific Journals:

Journal of Geology: H. F. B. Terrestrial Magnetism ................... 190

Societies and Academies:

The Scientific Association of Johns Hopkins University: CHAS. LANE POOR. The Anthropological Society of Washington: J. H. MCCORMICK. Washington Section of the American Chemical Society: V. K. CHESTNUT. Boston Society of Natural History; SAMUEL HENSHAW. Geological Club of the University of Minnesota: CHAS. P. BERKEY 192

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CYCLE IN THE LIFE OF THE INDIVIDUAL (ONTogeny) AND IN THE EVOLUTION OF ITS OWN GROUP (PHYLOGENY).*

The organic cycle, as generally understood both by laymen and scientists, and as usually described in literature, is, as a rule, considered from a physiological rather than structural point of view. The development of the young, and the attainment of the adult or comparatively permanent, stage completes the progressive stages. Old age, accompanied by losses of characteristics and functions and consequent weakening of the body, is retrogressive and brings on second childhood, thus completing the cycle in the ontogeny.

My purpose to-night is to show that the cycle is also represented in the life history of the individual by definite structural changes, and that these have direct correlations with the history of the changes in the forms of the group while evolving in time.†

The fundamental discoveries that are

* This paper was in large part read as a general summary of the phenomena of cycles, before the American Academy in Boston, but does not assume to be an exhaustive or even complete account of the literature or theoretical views treated of.