

and Sterki. The speaker stated that there are two great groups of *Unios* in North America. The first is characterized by different forms of shells and branchiæ in the male and female. The shell of the latter is swollen in the post-basal region, a character wanting in the male, and the outer branchiæ are developed in this region into a marsupium. The shells of this group are generally highly colored, without a ridge on the dorsal slope, not arcuate, have delicate beak sculpture, and the assemblage is no doubt entitled to generic rank, for which the name *Lampsilis*, proposed by Rafinesque and again by Agassiz, may be used.

In the other great group the shells of male and female are essentially alike, being generally dull in color and arcuate in old age, having usually coarse beak sculpture and a posterior ridge. It is not certain that the sexes are always separate. In one subdivision of this group the shells are oval to oblong, and the embryos are contained in the whole of the outer branchiæ; in the other the shells are heavy, short, often tuberculous, and have the embryos generally distributed throughout all four leaves of the branchiæ. This great group is retained in *Unio*, and it is believed that in anatomical characters it closely agrees with the forms of Europe. The Australasian *Unios* are very much like those of South America in shell and anatomical characters and are classed as a separate genus, *Diplodon*. The two naiad faunas may be relics of an older Northern fauna, which was superseded by more modern forms, or it is possible that they may be parts of a Southern fauna that has migrated along a now sunken Antarctic continent.

Mr. Harry C. Oberholser discussed 'the American Golden Warblers,' with particular reference to their geographical distribution. He recognized twenty forms of this difficult group, one-half of which he considered subspecies. The Boreal and Austral regions of North America and Mexico together possess five forms, probably all races of a single species; the Central American subregion of the Neotropical has four; the Columbian subregion four; and the Antillean subregion seven. Various anomalies of distribution were pointed out and commented upon.

Mr. T. Wayland Vaughan gave some 'Notes on a Monograph of the Eocene Corals of the States,' stating that until recently they had not been well understood, although the United States possessed the richest Eocene coral fauna of any country. The original species came almost entirely from the Jackson stage and Lower Claiborne beds, and the material was often so water-worn as to be unrecognizable. Certain genera are well characterized and easily identified; others are so close as to run together. Virginia and Maryland constitute one fauna, containing their own peculiar species; the Gulf States constitute another, while California contains only three species, all endemic. This fauna as a whole belonged to shallow rather than deep water. No species of the American Eocene can be referred to the foreign Eocene.

F. A. LUCAS,
Secretary.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL meeting of the New York section of the American Chemical Society was held at the College of the City of New York on Friday, April 23d. Dr. C. B. Dudley, President of the Society, presided.

Dr. E. K. Dunham, of Carnegie Laboratory, New York, read a paper on 'The Value of Bacteriological Examination of Water.' The discussion was opened by Dr. W. T. Sedgwick, Director of the Biological Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. J. J. Kinyoun, of the United States Marine Hospital Service; Dr. W. P. Mason, of the Troy Polytechnic Institute; Dr. A. R. Leeds, of Stevens Institute, and others, expressed their views and gave testimony to the independence of chemical and bacteriological methods in the study of water supply.

An important point strongly insisted upon by Dr. Sedgwick is the necessity for a personal investigation of the source from which a sample of water is obtained, and he advises the chemist and bacteriologist to refuse to report without personal investigation of the sources of supply.

DURAND WOODMAN,
Secretary.

ERRATUM: P. 658, col. 1, line 25 for *Mesopith-ecus* read *Nesopithecus*.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS ON THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF TARSIVUS

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