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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1897.

RESULTS OF THE BERING SEA CONFERENCES.

CONTENTS:

<i>Results of the Bering Sea Conferences</i>	781
<i>The Psychology of the Personal Equation</i> : TRUMAN HENRY SAFFORD.	784
<i>The Progress and Achievements of Hygiene</i> : GEORGE M. KOBER.	789
<i>Contribution to our Knowledge of Micro-organisms and Sterilizing Processes in the Canning Industries</i> : S. C. PRESCOTT, W. LYMAN UNDERWOOD.	800
<i>American Ornithologists' Union</i> : JNO. H. SAGE.	802
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology</i> :— <i>The Aboriginal Art of Ecuador ; The Berbers of Morocco</i> : D. G. BRINTON.....	803
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry</i> : J. L. H.....	804
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	805
<i>University and Educational News</i>	808
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :— <i>The Mesa Encantada</i> : WILLIAM LIBBEY. <i>Observations on the 'Principle of Identity'</i> : EDWARD F. BUCHNER.	809
<i>Scientific Literature</i> :— <i>Sorauer on the Physiology of Plants</i> : GEORGE F. ATKINSON. <i>Mach's Contribution to the Analysis of Sensations</i> : EDGAR A. SINGER, JR.	810
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :— <i>Entomological Society of Washington</i> : L. O. HOWARD. <i>Biological Society of Washington</i> : F. A. LUCAS. <i>Geological Society of Washington</i> : W. F. MORSELL. <i>The New York Academy of Sciences, Section of Geology</i> : RICHARD E. DODGE. <i>Boston Society of Natural History</i> : SAMUEL HENSHAW.	813
<i>New Books</i>	816

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THE Fur-Seal Conferences recently held at Washington by representatives of the governments of Great Britain, Russia, Japan and the United States are noteworthy in several respects. The high character and fitness of the delegates, the rapidity with which the negotiations were carried to a successful conclusion, and the essential agreement reached on the principal points under discussion, are matters for international congratulation. It will be remembered that Great Britain declined to take part in a joint conference in which Russia and Japan were to be represented. This led to the holding of two distinct conferences—the first with Russia and Japan ; the second with Great Britain and Canada. In the first there were few if any points of dispute, and an agreement was promptly reached whereby the governments of the United States, Russia and Japan pledged themselves to desist from pelagic sealing for a period of one year, pending subsequent negotiations.

In the second conference the conditions were entirely different, the matters under discussion between Great Britain and the

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