

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1898.

COLOR-VISION.*

CONTENTS:

<i>Color-Vision</i> : PROFESSOR FRANK P. WHITMAN...	305
<i>A Half Century of Evolution, with Special Reference to the Effects of Geological Changes on Animal Life (III.)</i> : PROFESSOR ALPHEUS S. PACKARD...	316
<i>Reports of Committees of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i> :—	
<i>Sixteenth Annual Report of the Committee on Indexing Chemical Literature</i> : DR. H. CARRINGTON BOLTON, CHAIRMAN.....	323
<i>Report of the Committee on Standards of Measurement</i> : PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART, SECRETARY....	326
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology</i> :—	
<i>Initiation Ceremonies in Australia; The Tarascan Language; Anthropological Pessimism</i> : PROFESSOR D. G. BRINTON.....	328
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry</i> : J. L. H.....	328
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> :—	
<i>Color-Vision</i> : C. L. F. <i>Experiments with Kites at Blue Hill Observatory; The Prevention of Consumption; General</i>	329
<i>University and Educational News</i>	334
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>Basil Valentine</i> : PROFESSOR T. D. A. COCKRELL.....	335
<i>Scientific Literature</i> :—	
<i>Seward's Fossil Plants for Students of Botany and Geology</i> : PROFESSOR LESTER F. WARD.....	335
<i>Scientific Journals</i>	340
<i>New Books</i>	340

THE domain of physiological optics, formerly much frequented by students of physics, has of late been administered chiefly by psychologists. So far is this true that I have hesitated in preparing an address upon a subject in this realm, lest I should be accused of passing entirely beyond that borderland which lies between us and our sister science, of trespassing in a foreign country, and risking international complications. Yet a subject which has owed its development to Newton and Young, Maxwell and Helmholtz, to mention no other names, can hardly be out of place here. The methods of investigation are largely those of the physicist, the phenomena attend every optical research, the results are of frequent physical application. Within the past few years, however, most of the work on color-vision has been done by other hands, and the results have not appeared in the physical journals. It seemed worth while, therefore, to review briefly the progress of scientific theory in this direction, and to sum up, so far as possible, the present state of our knowledge.

For our purpose we must go back as far as Sir Isaac Newton, to whom we owe the first definite and intelligible hypothesis as to the nature of color-vision.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

*Address of the Vice-President before Section B—Physics—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, August, 1898.