

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1899.

A SAGE IN SCIENCE.*

CONTENTS:

<i>A Sage in Science</i> : PRESIDENT DAVID STARR JORDAN.....	529
<i>Field-Work of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition in 1898</i> :—	
<i>The Indians of Western Washington</i> : DR. LIVINGSTON FARRAND. <i>Archæological Investigations on the North Pacific Coast of America</i> : HARLAN I. SMITH. <i>Archæological Investigations on the Amoor River</i> : GERARD FOWKE.....	532
<i>On Biological Text-Books and Teachers</i> : O. F. COOK.....	541
<i>Scientific Books</i> :—	
<i>Hastings and Beach's Text-Book of General Physics</i> : PROFESSOR J. S. AMES. <i>Marr's Principles of Stratigraphical Geology</i> : PROFESSOR HENRY S. WILLIAMS. <i>Mason on the Examination of Water</i> : PROFESSOR EDWIN O. JORDAN. <i>A Monograph of the North American Potentillæ</i> : CHARLES E. BESSEY.....	545
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i>	549
<i>Societies and Academies</i> :—	
<i>The Scientific Alliance of New York. Geological Society of Washington</i> : DR. W. F. MORSELL. <i>The Philosophical Society of Washington</i> : E. D. PRESTON. <i>Physics Club of New York</i> : A. T. SEYMOUR. <i>Sub-section of Anthropology and Psychology of the New York Academy of Sciences</i> : PROFESSOR CHARLES H. JUDD.....	550
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :—	
<i>'The Evolution of Modesty.'</i> HIRAM M. STANLEY. <i>Transmitted Characteristics in a White Angora Cat</i> : DR. JOHN W. HARSHBERGER. <i>Osmotic Solutions</i> : PROFESSOR G. MACLOSKEY.....	553
<i>Notes on Physics</i> :—	
<i>Wireless Telegraphy</i> : F. C. C.....	555
<i>Botanical Notes</i> :—	
<i>An Elementary Book on Lichens; A Texas School of Botany; False 'Aids' in Botany; Minnesota Botanical Studies</i> : PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY.....	555
<i>The Brain of Hermann von Helmholtz</i>	557
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	557
<i>University and Educational News</i>	559

BROOKS' lectures on the Foundations of Biology constitute a book that will live as a permanent addition to the common sense of science. It belongs to literature as well as to science. It belongs to philosophy as much as to either, for it is full of that fundamental wisdom about realities which alone is worthy of the name of philosophy. Writers of literature have been divided into those with quotable sentences, as Emerson and Thoreau, and those whose style runs along without break in the elucidation of matter in hand, as Hawthorne and Irving. To the former class Brooks certainly belongs. His lectures are full of nuggets of wisdom, products of deep thought as well as of careful observation. There is not an idea fundamental to biology that is not touched and made luminous by some of these sagacious paragraphs. Whether it be to show the significance of some unappreciated fact, or to illustrate the true meaning of some complex argument, or to brush away the fine-spun rubbish of theory, the hand of the master is seen in every line.

The main lesson of the work is that to believe is not better or nobler or higher

* The Foundations of Zoology, by William Keith Brooks, Ph.D., LL.D., professor of zoology in the Johns Hopkins University. A course of lectures delivered at Columbia University on the Principles of Science illustrated by Zoology. New York, The Macmillan Company, 339 pages; price, \$2.50.

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