Recent Proceedings of Societies.

Academy of natural sciences, Philadelphia.
Oct. 19.—Mr. Thomas Meehan called attention to the rarity of certain plants in given localities, and their gradual disappearance from others, in spite of the fact that fertile seeds are sometimes freely produced. The occasional persistence of the few remaining plants of such colonies was also a matter of surprise. As an instance of this, Professor Short had recently found a limited number of specimens of Shortia galacifolia, where it had been originally collected by Michaux a hundred years ago. It showed no tendency to spread, although it was apparently in no danger of dying out. In such cases circumstances exist which are unfavorable to the germination of the seed, although they may grow elsewhere freely. Our Cypridipedium spectabile had some time ago been planted by the Comte de Paris in his woods, a large group of them being placed together so as to make the better show. From this centre the species had spread over the neighborhood, but it is not known to produce fertile seeds. A few years ago the speaker had noted an occurrence in his own neighborhood which illustrated the effect of varying conditions on plant-growth. A small patch of woods had been cleared of undergrowth. A blackberry-plant which had been allowed to remain in the centre had spread to the extent of twenty or thirty paces. Within the immediate radius of protection of this bush, twenty-two species of plants had sprung up which were found nowhere else in the woods, although they grew freely here and there outside. It seemed to be a case where a number of species had established themselves because of the existence of another species providing the necessary conditions for healthy growth.—Professor Heilprin referred to curious instances of isolation in the case of birds, dependent, perhaps, on the food-supply. Such cases may, after all, be more apparent than real; certain species supposed to be confined to circumscribed localities having, on further exploration, been found elsewhere. —Professor Ryder described a remarkable deep-sea fish, collected from a depth of 1,500 fathoms by the steamer Albatross. Its nearest relative is the fish figured by Dr. Harwood in the Philosophical transactions for 1827; and the specimen now in hand is probably the third recorded, although it is likely to be an undescribed species distributed to the West Indies. It is closely related to the Gastrostomus, described some years ago by the speaker and Professor Gill. Its chief peculiarity is the great proportionate extent of the mouth, which encroaches on the space occupied by the body cavity; over twenty vertebrae being above the oral opening. The maxillae are four times the length of the skull. The mouth opens into an enormous membranous pouch which hangs loosely without ribs from the vertebral column for about one-fourth of its length. The entire fish is five feet long, and ends in a rayless tail of about twelve inches, which corresponds with a character in embryo fishes. We have, therefore, in the one species, a tail of an embryonic type, while the mouth is enormously developed and specialized. Long hair-like filaments were distributed at intervals along the back.

Calendar of Societies.

Philosophical society, Washington.

Natural science association, Staten Island.
October meeting.—Dr. N. L. Britton, Additional notes on the geology of the island; William T. Davis, Papilio ajax as an addition to the local list of butterflies.

Publications received at Editor's Office, Oct. 18-23.

Abdank-Abakanowicz, Br. Les intégrales, la courbe intégrale, et ses applications, étude sur un nouveau système d'intégrateurs mécaniques. Paris, Gauthier-Villars, 1886. 10.5 x 15.5 cm., illustr. 5°. (New York, Christer, $1.65.)


Brooks, H. M. Literary curiosities. (Olden time series, No. 6.) Boston, Ticknor, 1886. 10+117 p., illustr. 16°.


Cohn, G. Nationalökonomische studien. Stuttgart, Enke, 1886. 6+736 p., 8°. (New York, Stechert, $5.20.)


Gutstald, A. Die naturwissenschaftlichen und medicinischen staatsanwaltschaften Berlins. Berlin, Hirzmann, 1886. 8+730+75 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $5.20.)

Hardy, A. Traité pratique et descriptif des maladies de peau. Paris, Baillière, 1886. 16+250 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Christer, $6.)


Henrich, F. Lehrbuch der kristallberechnung. Stuttgart, Enke, 1886. 16+900 p., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $7.)


Rosenbusch, H. Mikroskopische physiographie der photographisch wichtigen mineralien. Band i. 2d ed. Stuttgart, Schießlerbart, 1885. 16+634 p., 26 pl., illustr. 8°. (New York, Stechert, $2.80.)


Vol. ii. (New York, Stechert, $2.80.)


Vieila, L. F. Les filons d'or de la Guyane française, Paris, Baudry, 1886. 145 p., illustr. 8°, (New York, Christer, $1.65.)


INSTRUCTION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ROCK-FORMING MINERALS. By Dr. Eugen Boser. Translated in the University of Graz. Translated from the German by Erastus G. Smith, Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy, University of Pennsylvania. With key plates, 8vo. cloth. $3.00. John Wiley & Sons, Publishers, Astor Place, New York.


ANNALS OF MATHEMATICS. Edited by Ormond Stone and William M. Thornton. Office of Publication: University of Virginia. $3 per vol. of 6 nos.


MAMMALS OF THE ADIRONDACKS. By Dr. C. Hart Merriam. Contains an introductory chapter treating of the location and boundaries of the region, its geographical history, topography, climate, general features, botany, and faunal position. This work consists, in the first place, of a general account of the prominent features of the Adirondack region; and, secondly, of a popular narrative of the habits of the animals found within its confines. Imp. 8vo. $3.50. Henry Holt & Co., New York.

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Blaetter fur Gesaengnisskunde. Von Gustav Eckert. Neuzentner band, 1. u. 2. heft. Heidelberg, 1884. 152 p. 9x5 in., paper .................................. $2.00

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