Recent Proceedings of Societies.

Academy of natural sciences, Philadelphia.
Nov. 9. — Prof. John A. Ryder exhibited drawings of the embryo of the paradise fish, Macropus Venerus, and a description of the supposed structures of a recent English writer on his investigations regarding the buoyancy of fish eggs. It had been asserted that he attributed the buoyancy of certain pelagic ova to the presence of oil globules, whereas he had distinctly asserted that the oil drops were not the cause of the buoyancy of the cod's eggs, a statement which his critics had overlooked. On the other hand, the total volume of oil drops in the eggs of the paradise fish, which are hatched in fresh water, is one-seventh of the whole mass, and they will float, under all circumstances, until the oil is separated, when they immediately sink. In the tautog the eggs are buoyant, although there are no oil drops present. A series of drawings was exhibited, illustrating the fact that fish ova can be distinguished by the amount, color, and disposition of the oil globules. — Dr. George A. Koosig described a mineral from the south-western part of Colorado which was at first supposed to be tin ore, but which proved on examination to be a silicate allied to black garnet or melamine. Instead of the usual one or two per cent of titanium oxide, it contains eight per cent. The conditions under which the titanium is present is yet to be determined. It probably replaces silicon with four equivalents, and aluminum with three. The mineral occurs in irregular masses in a greenish matrix, which is also somewhat abnormal in composition, and may be a new species. — Dr. Dolley re-described the supposed organ of the Pecten concentratus, a small button-like structure in Porpitia, a small button-like organism allied to the jelly-fishes, published by Conn and Beyer in the Studies of Johns Hopkins University. The speaker had gone carefully over their work, and had found that the so-called sense-organ is merely a mucous gland furnishing a plentiful secretion, which is poured over the tentacles with the effect of subduing the organisms on which the animal feeds.

Mr. John Ford exhibited some remarkably fine specimens of the bloody clam, Arcana pectata, from Green-which Bay, illustrating the fact, which he had before announced, that the species increases in size as it goes north and east. A fine suite of specimens of Pecten concentratus, also from the New England coast, was shown and described. The mature shells are always found in one or two fathoms of water, and are taken in large numbers by the fishermen with tongs. Mr. Redfield stated that the muscles of the Pecten, known as scallops in the market, which were served at the tables of Mount Desert, were larger than those served in New York, and were procured from the Pecten magellanicus; the concent-ricus, according to Mr. Tryon, not being found north of Cape Cod. — Professor Heliirin stated that Pectens collected on the coast of Florida hopped about after being taken from the water, as do cockles. The motion might be due to the violent expansion of air from between the valves. He had been informed at Nantucket that the scallops migrate in large numbers, and that they and the star-fishes appear and disappear at the same time. — The death of John S. Haines, on Nov. 4, was announced. He was the son of Reuben Haines, who was the cor-

1814, to December, 1831. The death was also announced of Charles C. Phillips, a member.

Calendar of Societies.

Institute of social science, New York.
Nov. 11. — Robert B. Porter, A practical view of protection, which was discussed by Messrs. E. J. Donnell, Gra
dam, McAdam, and Dr. Van Buren Denslow.
Nov. 25. — Edward G. Clark, The basic law of ownership.

Biological society, Washington.

Torrey botanical club, New York.
Nov. 9. — J. S. Newberry, The food and fibre plants used by the North American Indians.

Brookville society of natural history, Brookville, Ind.
Nov. 9. — Edw. Hughes, Some habits of the ant lion; E. R. Quick, Biographical sketch of Rufus Raymond; O. M. Meyrick, Some introduced plants and a supplemental list of Franklin county plants; A. W. Butler, Arvicola riparius, a destroyer of sweet potatoes and other root-crops, with notes on the late breeding of the species.

Advertised Books of Reference.


STRUCTURAL BOTANY; or, Organography on the basis of Morphology; the principles of Taxonomy and Phylogeny and a Glossary of Botanical terms. Gray (Harvard), 8vo., 454 pp. $2.75. Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., Pubs. New York.


SCRIBNER'S STATISTICAL ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES: Showing by Graphic Methods their Present Condition, and their Political, Social, and Industrial Development, as Determined by the Reports of the Tenth Census, the Bureau of Statistics, the Commissioner of Education, State Officials, and other Authoritative Sources. 250 Pages Text, 151 plates (71 double), 279 Maps (29 folio). 956 Charts and Diagrams. Sold only by Subscription. Descriptive circular sent on application, Charles Scribner's Sons, Pubs., 743 and 745 Broadway, New York.


INSTRUCTION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF ROCK-FORMING MINERALS. By Dr. Eugen Hussak, Privat Dozent in the University of Munich, translated into the German by Erastus G. Smith, Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy, Beloit College. With 500 wood engravings. Cloth. $3.00. John Wiley & Sons, Pubs., Astor Place, New York.
