

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1897.

CONTENTS:

<i>The Fur-seal Investigation of 1896</i>	453
<i>Proposed Exploration on the Coasts of the North Pacific Ocean</i>	455
<i>The New York State Science Teachers' Association (I.), including the Address of the President, S. H. Gage and Addresses by Albert L. Arey and E. L. Nichols: FRANKLIN W. BARROWS</i>	457
<i>Current Notes on Meteorology:—</i>	
<i>Blue Hill Cloud Observations; Some Climatic Features of the Arid Regions; Climatic Zones on the Island of Sakhalin: R. DEC. WARD</i>	468
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i>	
<i>Stature and Weight; The National Museum of Costa Rica: D. G. BRINTON</i>	469
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry: J. L. H.</i>	470
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i>	
<i>Research and the University; Science in the Newspapers; General</i>	470
<i>University and Educational News</i>	475
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>The Florida Sea-monster: A. E. VERRILL. The Florida Monster: F. A. LUCAS. Gibbers: J. B. WOODWORTH. International Congress of Mathematicians at Zurich in 1897: GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED. A New Geographical Magazine: ISRAEL C. RUSSELL. Compliment or Plagiarism: BEMAN AND SMITH. Mexican Hieroglyphs: J. D. MCGUIRE, ZELIA NUTTALL. The Play of Animals; The Fur Seal: F. A. LUCAS</i>	476
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i>	
<i>Biedermann's Electro-Physiology: HENRY SEWALL. Taber on the Coming Ice Age: G. FREDERICK WRIGHT. Mercer's Researches upon the Antiquity of Man: D. G. BRINTON</i>	481
<i>Scientific Journals:—</i>	
<i>The Physical Review: American Geologist</i>	484

Societies and Academies:—

Biological Society of Washington: F. A. LUCAS. Anthropological Society of Washington: J. H. McCORMICK. The New York Section of the American Chemical Society: DURAND WOODMAN. The Geological Club of the University of Minnesota: CHAS. P. BERKEY. The Texas Academy of Science: FREDERIC W. SIMONDS...487
New Books.....488

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THE FUR-SEAL INVESTIGATION OF 1896.

THE preliminary report of the commission appointed in June, 1896, to investigate the condition of the northern fur-seals has recently been issued, although it has been in print for some time. It gives a resumé of the summer's work and of the conclusions reached, and will be followed later on by a full report giving in detail the observations and facts on which this summary is based. The work was prosecuted under exceptionally favorable conditions, not only from the facilities afforded the commission, but from the number of observers engaged, since what was not seen at one time or place might be seen at another, while the representatives of the various governments worked harmoniously together in the accumulation of data. Much, too, is also due to the thorough manner in which the work was planned and carried on by Dr. Jordan, the head of the American commission, while finally the reduced number of seals facilitated the work of observation.