

new species of *Roptronia*.' The type was collected by Mr. Garman in Kentucky.

Mr. Howard read a paper entitled 'On some parasites of *Coccidæ*,' in which he referred to the extraordinary geographical distribution of certain of the forms. *Aspidiotiphagus citrinus* (Craw), for example, has been found in many localities of the United States; at Grenada, B. W. I.; Portici, Italy; Punduloya and Kandy, Ceylon; Hong Kong and Amoy, China; Tamsui, Formosa; Yokohama, Japan; Newlands, Cape Colony; Brisbane, Queensland; Adelaide, South Australia; and Honolulu, Hawaii. He also showed that *Arrhenophagus chionaspidis* (Aurivillius) has an almost equally universal distribution, and announced the finding of the hitherto unknown male of this species in some material reared by Mr. Koebele at Macao.

A paper by Mr. W. J. Fox, entitled 'The species of the genus *Pepsis* found in America north of Mexico,' was read by title.

A synopsis of a paper entitled 'Notes on bred parasitic Hymenoptera, with descriptions of new species,' by Geo. Dimmock and Wm. H. Ashmead, was presented by Mr. Ashmead.

L. O. HOWARD,
Secretary.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SECTION OF
GEOLOGY, MARCH 15, 1897.

THE first communication of the evening was by Mr. Heinrich Ries, entitled 'Mineralogical Notes.' Mr. Ries spoke of some Allantite crystals with new faces; also of some large crystals of fibrous gypsum from Newcastle, Wyoming; also exhibited some large Childrenite crystals from Maine, and some Amphibole crystals with many terminal faces from Virginia. He also spoke of some Pseudomorphs of gold after Sylvanite from Cripple Creek, Colorado. The finding of a new Beryl crystal, with an unusually large number of terminal faces in New York City, was also noted.

The second paper of the evening was written by Mr. Herbert Bolton, entitled 'The Lancashire Coal Field of England,' and read in abstract by President Stevenson. The paper spoke of the geographic conditions of the Lancashire coal field and its neighborhood, of the extent and quality of the coal and of the age

of the structural movements which had caused the present geological characteristics in the coal area. A careful correlation was made between the Coal-measures of this field and the deposits of the United States. Distribution of the fauna and flora and their character was taken up in some detail, and it was shown that in the Lower Coal-measures the life is mostly marine, in the Middle Coal-measures of fresh and blackish origin, and in the Upper Coal-measures that the fauna was scarce. When published, this paper will be a valuable contribution to the literature of coals and will be of great assistance to workers in America in their endeavors to correlate the deposits on the two sides of the water.

The third paper of the evening was by Mr. Stuart Weller, of Chicago University, entitled 'The Batesville Sandstone of Arkansas,' and abstracted by Mr. Gilbert van Ingen. The paper entered into some detail regarding the Batesville section and the fauna of the Batesville sandstone in that section. Of the invertebrates thirty species have been found, of which eleven point to the St. Louis age of the sandstone, six to the Kaskaskia age, while thirteen are of indeterminate value. On account of the greater abundance of the numbers of specimens of the second group and from stratigraphic evidence as well, it is probable that the sandstone belongs in the base of the Kaskaskia group and is the same as the Aux Vasa limestone of southern Illinois. This paper gives the data wherewith to correlate the Mississippian section with the section about the Ozark Hills.

RICHARD E. DODGE,
Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Diseases of Plants induced by Cryptogamic Parasites. KARL FRELHERR VON TUBEUF. London, New York and Bombay, Longmans, Green & Co. 1897. Pp. xv+598.

The Fern Collector's Handbook and Herbarium. SADIE F. PRICE. New York, Henry Holt & Co. 1897. 72 figures.

Electricität direkt aus Kohle. ETIENNE DE FEDOR. Wien, Pest, Leipzig, A. Hartleben. Pp. vi+304. Mark 3.