

# SCIENCE

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## CONTENTS

<i>Problems of Population of the North Pacific Area as dependent upon the Biology, the Oceanography and the Meteorology of the Area:</i> PROFESSOR WM. E. RITTER .....	119
<i>Some Necessary Steps in any Attempt to prove Insect Transmission or Causation of Disease:</i> W. DWIGHT PIERCE .....	125
<i>The U. S. Food Administration's War Flour:</i> DR. HARRY SNYDER .....	130
<i>Edward Cowles:</i> PRESIDENT G. STANLEY HALL.	132
<i>Scientific Events:—</i>	
<i>Game Conservation in Canada; A Collection Boat for the New York Aquarium; The National Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation; The Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society</i> .....	133
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	135
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	137
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>Three Fourths of an Octave farther in the Ultra-violet:</i> PROFESSOR R. A. MILLIKAN AND R. A. SAWYER. <i>The Problem of the Boy in the Swing:</i> PROFESSOR HENRY CREW.	138
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>The Evolution of the Earth and its Inhabitants:</i> DR. ROY L. MOODIE .....	140
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>A Practical Long-period Seismograph:</i> DR. ARNOLD ROMBERG .....	141

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## PROBLEMS OF POPULATION OF THE NORTH PACIFIC AREA AS DEPENDENT UPON THE BIOLOGY, THE OCEANOGRAPHY, AND THE METEOROLOGY OF THE AREA<sup>1</sup>

FOR long ages before written records began, human migrations seem to have taken place over the vast Pacific region. These apparently affected the islands of the south, those of the north, and those of the middle portions, as likewise the continental littorals of Asia and North America. Later came the era, very recent as all human history goes, of the drifting of Chinese and Japanese fishing junks upon the northern American coast, and of castaway Japanese traders upon the Mexican coast. Following this came the truly modern era, ushered in, one may fairly say, by President Fillmore's appeal to the Emperor of Japan, through the Perry embassy, for the opening up of the Hermit Kingdom in the interest of American industrial and commercial development as represented by the whale fishery, and closely identified with gold mining in California. Shortly thereafter, followed the bringing of Chinese coolies for labor in building the Pacific end of the first transcontinental railroad.

Through all these, and many other events of similar import, on down to this very summer of 1919, when hardly a day passes in which the newspapers do not contain items of some sort involving the activities of Japanese or Chinese in the industrial and commercial life of Pacific North America, can be seen a contact of Asiatics and Americans—a kind of community of interests—made not only pos-

<sup>1</sup> The opening paper of a symposium on "The exploration of the North Pacific Ocean," held at the Pasadena meeting, Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, June 19, 1919.

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