

insect wounds, and the disease causes a blackening of the fibro-vascular bundles, followed by the death of the plant.

Mr. Comstock presented an account of research work in progress at the Washburn Observatory. The meridian circle has been employed for some years by Mr. Flint in determining the relative parallaxes of a list of stars selected with reference to large proper motion. The observations for the determination of nearly 100 parallaxes are completed and the reductions are well advanced, although but a small number of definitive results have yet been reached. In so far as these have been obtained they are very satisfactory in respect both of probable error and agreement with other determinations.

There was also described work done with the 40 cm. equatorial telescope in investigations of stellar color and upon the density of the supposed lunar atmosphere. A provisional result of the latter work is that this density cannot exceed one five-thousandth part of that of the earth's atmosphere at sea level.

WM. S. MARSHALL,
Secretary.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

The American Journal of Science, November.—'Geology of Southern Patagonia,' J. B. Hatcher: An account of observations made while collecting vertebrate fossils for Princeton University from May 1, 1896, to June 5, 1897, giving suggestions as to the age and origin of the different sedimentary deposits and the agencies which have determined the present topographical features. 'Some of the large Oysters of Patagonia,' A. E. Ortmann. 'Former Extension of the Appalachians across Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas,' J. C. Branner: Evidence for the theory announced in 1890 regarding the character and extent of the southwestern Appalachian depression. 'Combustion of Organic Substances in the Wet Way,' I. K. Phelps: Extension of the process applied in a previous article to carbon dioxide. 'Some Features of Pre-Glacial Drainage in Michigan,' E. H. Mudge.

The American Naturalist, October.—'Edward Drinker Cope, Naturalist—A Chapter in the History of Science' (Illustrated), Theodore

Gill: Address by the retiring President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. 'New Observations on the Origin of the Galapagos Islands, with Remarks on the Geological Age of the Pacific Ocean,' G. Baur: Part II., giving the geographical distribution of different animals in the Pacific and Indo-Pacific Ocean. The number contains a portrait of the late James Ellis Humphrey, one of the associate editors of the journal.

Journal of Geology, September-October.—'The Newark System of New Jersey,' H. Kümmel: Based on the Annual Report of the State Geologist for 1896. 'The Topography of California,' Noah Fields Drake: Based on a relief map of California constructed by the author on a scale of 1 inch to 12 miles, and a vertical scale of 1 inch to 12,000 feet. 'A Comparative Study of the lower Cretaceous Formations and Faunas of the United States,' Timothy W. Stanton: A thesis submitted for Ph.D. degree in Columbian University, containing a bibliography filling 14 pages. 'Correlation of the Devonian Faunas in Southern Illinois,' Stuart Weller: Argues that the Devonian faunas in southern Illinois are not related to the Iowan Devonian faunas, but are a western extension of the faunas of the New York province.

NEW BOOKS.

- The Ruins and Excavations of Ancient Rome.* RODOLFO LANCIANE. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1897. Pp. xxiv+619. \$4.00.
- Memorials of William Cranch Bond and of his Son George Phillips Bond.* EDWARD S. HOLDEN. San Francisco, C. A. Murdock & Co.; New York, Lemcke & Buechner. 1897. Pp. iv+296.
- Theory of Groups of Finite Order.* W. BURNSIDE. Cambridge, The University Press. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. xvi+388. \$3.75.
- Song Birds and Water Fowls.* H. E. PARKHURST. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1897. Pp. viii+280. \$1.50.

Erratum: In the report of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, page 672, first column, line 33, for expensive read inexpensive.