

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

TIME WASTED.

CONTENTS:

<i>Time Wasted: M.</i>	969
<i>Gardiner Greene Hubbard.</i>	974
<i>On the Origin and Age of the Relic-bearing Sand at Trenton, N. J.: ROLLIN D. SALISBURY.</i>	977
<i>Sanarelli's Work upon Yellow Fever: EDWIN O. JORDAN.</i>	981
<i>Ludwig Rüttimeyer: RUD. BURCKHARDT.</i>	985
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i> <i>The Glacial Lake Agassiz; Volcanoes of North America; Lakes in High Mountains; The 14,000 Maldive Islands: W. M. DAVIS.</i>	985
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i> <i>Elements of Melanesian Art; The Extension of the Arawack Stock; The Alleged Sumnerian Language: D. G. BRINTON.</i>	987
<i>Scientific Notes and News:—</i> <i>The Winter Meetings of the Scientific Societies; The Eclipse Expeditions from Great Britain; General</i>	988
<i>University and Educational News.</i>	993
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i> <i>The Behring Sea Conferences: P. L. SLATER. The Enchanted Mesa: F. W. HODGE. Lamarck and the Perfecting Tendency: JOHN GARDINER. Memorial Meeting commemorative of Allen and Horn.</i>	994
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i> <i>Memorials of William Cranch Bond: TRUMAN HENRY SAFFORD. Hann's Handbuch der Klimatologie: FRANK WALDO. The Theory of Solutions: H. C. J. Untersuchungen über das Erfrieren der Pflanzen: D. T. MACDOUGALL.</i>	997
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i> <i>Boston Society of Natural History: SAMUEL HENSHAW. The Torrey Botanical Club: EDWARD S. BURGESS. Academy of Sciences of St. Louis</i>	1003
<i>New Books.</i>	1004

To what extent are men of science responsible for the credulity which everywhere prevails in reference to all matters relating to scientific discovery or accomplishment? This question is not to be lightly set aside, for the existing condition may well create alarm among all who seriously consider the welfare of science, of scientific men and of the people generally. Several causes have conspired to bring about this condition, two or three of which may be mentioned. To begin with, during the century which is now approaching its end scientific discoveries and their applications have been so numerous and so far reaching as to practically revolutionize conditions of material existence, and they have often been so wonderful in character that it ought not to excite surprise to find intelligent people ready to accept without question announcements of inventions and discoveries of the most improbable and absurd character. Along this line the evil influence of a sensational press is enormous. It was bad enough ten years ago, but it has been greatly magnified by the recent and, on the whole, unfortunate cheapening of processes of illustration to the seductions of which nearly every news-

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