

# SCIENCE

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: S. NEWCOMB, Mathematics; R. S. WOODWARD, Mechanics; E. C. PICKERING, Astronomy; T. C. MENDENHALL, Physics; R. H. THURSTON, Engineering; IRA REMSEN, Chemistry; J. LE CONTE, Geology; W. M. DAVIS, Physiography; O. C. MARSH, Paleontology; W. K. BROOKS, C. HART MERIAM, Zoology; S. H. SCUDDER, Entomology; C. E. BESSEY, N. L. BRITTON, Botany; HENRY F. OSBORN, General Biology; C. S. MINOT, Embryology, Histology; H. P. BOWDITCH, Physiology; J. S. BILLINGS, Hygiene; J. MCKEEN CATTELL, Psychology; DANIEL G. BRINTON, J. W. POWELL, Anthropology.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

## CONTENTS:

<i>The Washington Academy of Sciences</i> .....	253
<i>The Smithsonian Institution</i> .....	255
<i>Harrison Allen (with Plate):</i> BURT G. WILDER.....	262
<i>High School Botany:</i> CHARLES E. BESSEY.....	266
<i>Extra-organic Evolution:</i> ARTHUR ALLIN.....	267
<i>Binocular Factors in Monocular Vision:</i> CHAS. H. JUDD.....	269
<i>A New Name for the Nova Scotia Fox:</i> OUTRAM BANGS.....	271
<i>The American Chemical Society:</i> J. L. H.....	272
<i>Current Notes on Physiography:—</i>	
<i>Special Features of Dissected Plateaus; Artesian Wells of Coastal Plains; Drumlins in North Germany; The Vernagt Glacier:</i> W. M. DAVIS.....	273
<i>Current Notes on Anthropology:—</i>	
<i>Quipu Reading; Etruscan Studies; The Huichola Tribe:</i> D. G. BRINTON.....	274
<i>Notes on Inorganic Chemistry:</i> J. L. H.....	275
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	276
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	279
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>President McKinley's Appointment of a Fish Commissioner:</i> J. W. POWELL. <i>A Character Regularly Acquired but never Inherited:</i> F. H. HERICK. <i>The Third International Congress of Applied Chemistry:</i> H. W. WILEY. <i>Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund:</i> CHARLES S. MINOT.....	279
<i>Scientific Literature:—</i>	
<i>Speyer's Text-book of Physical Chemistry:</i> FERDINAND G. WIECHMANN. <i>Howe's Bibliography of the Metals of the Platinum Group:</i> H. CARRINGTON BOLTON. <i>Morgan on the Development of the Frog's Eggs:</i> HERBERT S. JENNINGS. <i>Geologic Atlas of the United States</i> .....	281
<i>Societies and Academies:—</i>	
<i>Biological Society of Washington:</i> F. A. LUCAS. <i>The Academy of Science of St. Louis:</i> WILLIAM TRELEASE. <i>American Chemical Society:</i> DURAND WOODMAN.....	287
<i>New Books</i> .....	288

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE scientific community of Washington is engaged in modifying its organization. The matter is of general interest, not only because of the importance of the body of investigators there assembled, but because the problems they are attempting to solve are analogous to the problems which confront the national scientific associations. There was a time when the American Association was the only scientific body of national scope, and, though it began as an association of geologists only, it gradually expanded in respect to subject-matter so as to provide sections for all important branches of scientific work. Of late years there has been a strong tendency toward independent organization of bodies of workers in various fields, and a score of national societies devoted to special subjects have sprung into existence, with the result that interest in and attendance on the meetings of the American Association have flagged.

In Washington the original organization was the Philosophical Society (1871), and its scope was as broad as science. Owing to peculiarities of its rules and customs, differentiation could not readily be accom-