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The West American Scientist.

Vol. V

SEPTEMBER, 1888.

No. 39

FOSSIL BOTANY-V.

As we look back in geological time, the progress of life seems to diminish in intensity and rapidity of succession. We have seen that during the older tertiary (eocene) time, our present continents were alternately raised above, and engulfed beneath the oceans of the respective epochs, and during these alternations many of the large terrestrial animals, together with the larger forms of vegetable growth, must have, in a greater or lesser degree, been destroyed. This seems also to have been the case during the later cretaceous, hence, the rocks formed by deposits following these great changes are comparatively barren of important organic remains, and so far as California is concerned, the lines of demarkation between the rocks of the latter cretaceous, and the lower or earlier tertiary, are so poorly defined as to leave much doubt among geologists, as to where the one ends and the other begins, much of the deposits of these times having been made in deep still waters.

But now, as we turn and adjust our geological telescope to the dim uncertainty of the older cocene, and the latter cretaceous, we look beyond the time of the first appearance of the gigantic congeners of the elephant, rhinoceros, tapir, sivatherium, hippopotamus, zeujlodon and hosts of other strange and long extinct animals, to the period anterior to the incoming of the higher orders of animals among which man takes his place to the age of the great reptiles, when the land was occupied by the dinosaurs,

the elephants of their time.

Some of these huge reptiles, as for instance the Hadrosaurus of New Jersey, when erect upon its tripod, formed by its hind legs and tail, stood more than twenty feet in height, and browsed upon the trees and vegetation of its time, while the still larger Megalosaurus, which preceded it, was a terror to its animal contemporaries. Imagine a Ceteosaurus with a height of ten feet, and a length of forty or fifty feet.

As we are looking beyond the age of birds, we see bird-like reptiles some of them with teeth and tails like reptiles, with the

truk, wings and feathers of the perching birds.

The dry-land was covered with trees and plants, many of which are easily referable to existing genera and types, such as the willow, sycamore, poplar, various conifers and cycads, while others, which at first sight resemble the finest and most beautiful

forest trees and shrubs of the present day, prove upon closer study to be entirely different in character, some of them combining in one species, characteristics of several widely separated families of plants. A further study of the fossil plants of our continent will doubtless, give many valuable facts in relation to the

history of the derivation or evolution of forms of plant life.

The study of vegetable paleontology cr fossil botany is rapidly coming to the front. While formerly it occupied a very subordinate position, if, in fact, it had any position at all, we now find its importance as one of the means for unravelling the history of past ages admitted by all geologists. Thirty years ago only about eighteen species of land plants were known to science as having been found in the rocks of North America, whereas now, more than one thousand species have been described. It has proven itself to be one of the essentials of geology, and instead of America being subordinate to Europe in its development of plant life, it is now admitted that America took the lead, and that instead of American vegetation having been derived from the old world, the old is and was indebted to the new world, for its growth of forests and plants.

The fossil flora of North America has a recognizable and acknowledged character of its own, and has furnished land plants of a period antedating the appearance of their prototypes in the

European formations.

Fossil botany as a science is yet in its infancy, and it is impossible to predict the importance it may attain in the economy of scientific investigation. It is a documentary history of past ages, which will eventually furnish the student with facts of more than sufficient value and interest to fully recompense him for the time spent in desciphering its pages.

Lorenzo G. Yates.

FISHING ON THE COLORADO DESERT.

In the latter part of June the editor crossed the Colorado Desert, and most unexpectedly had the pleasure of not only fishing but of catching fish from several springs found on the route. The Indian or Fish Springs consist of several large pools ten to twenty fect across, situated at the eastern base of the San Jacinto range of mountains, on the Colorado Desert, and about fifteen miles southeast of Salton, a Southern Pacific railway station east The pools are only a few feet deep, though one or two are reported to be 'without bottom,' and are surrounded and shaded by 'tules.' A similar spring was found about six miles north of Salton, on the opposite side of the desert at the base of the Chuckawalla or Lizard mountains. An analysis of the water of this, the Dos Palmas spring, gives slight traces of alum, soda and sulphur, and shows that considerable salt is held in solution, but it is not too salt for use. The taste of the water from the two localities is identical, and the temperature the same — I should

judge not under 100°F. These springs are all below the present sea level about 100 feet I should judge, from the fact that Salton, lying in the depression between the two localities, is reported to

be 250 feet below sea level from actual measurements.

And now the reader can imagine the editor fishing—first with a tin drinking cup, and later with a dip net made from an old barley sack. Bits of cracker floating on the surface of the quiet pool, enticed the brilliant little fish in great numbers to sport about the mouth of the fatal net, and from thence into the jar of alcohol was a brief journey. These fish were equally abundant in the little stream running from the spring, that is perhaps six inches across, scarcely an inch deep in places, and these fish (the largest scarcely two inches long, resembling young carp) I found swimming up and down this brooklet, one fin in the mud, another in the air.

I was informed that some years ago some Chinamen caught a mess of quite large fish (a foot or more in length) from the Dos Palmas spring, but no satisfactory evidence could be obtained and none certainly remain even if they ever existed. The Indians account for the presence of these little fish in the springs, by saying that 'they fell in a shower of rain from the sky.' Their survival is certainly most interesting when we consider that the desert, now covered with sub fossil fresh water shells (with a few marine forms intermixed), must once have been a great inland lake or an estuary of the sea constantly fed by large volumes of fresh water.

Four specimens from the Dos Palmas spring were submitted to Prof. and Mrs. Eigenmann, who kindly furnish the following description.

THE EDITOR.

CYPRINODON CALIFORNIENSIS, GIRARD.

These fishes are probably the Cyprinodon Californiensis, Girard, as pecies hitherto known from the types only, which were imperfectly described, hence we add a description of our specimens:

Head 3½—3½ (3¾—4in. total; depth 2 2·9—2½ (2 3-5—3);

D. 11; A. 11; Lat. l. 25—27; tr. 10—11.

Form and color of C. gibbosus. Head flat above, the profile steep, depressed over the eyes. Back greatly arched. Eye 3 1-5 —3½ in the head, 1 2-5 in the interorbital. Mouth small oblique; intermaxillary spine prominent when the intermaxillaries are protracted.

Exposed portion of the humeral scale not twice as large as the exposed portion of any other scale. Intestinal canal twice the entire length. Origin of dorsal equidistant from tip of snout and base of caudal or slightly nearer base of caudal. Highest dorsal ray of male 1 1/3 in the head; of the female 1 3-5. Caudal slightly emarginate.

Highest anal ray little shorter than the highest dorsal ray; ventrals in the female and in young inserted in front of the

dorsal, under third dorsal ray in the adult male. Pectorals variable, not near extending to the ventrals or to their middle.

Color in spirits: Male with an indistinct dusky band from eye to middle of base of caudal; all parts except top of head and membrane of the caudal thickly punctate; top of head dark olive; caudal membrane transparent; all the fins more or less distinctly

margined with dusky; a black bar at base of caudal.

Color in life: (from Mr. Orcutt's notes) Back bright metalic blue, a diamond-shaped olivaceous-green spot between the eyes; lower parts light blue or bluish; caudal brown; all the fins margined with black. Female: Top of head and ante-dorsal region dark; traces of dark lines between two series of scales on the upper part of sides. Lower half of sides with conspicuous alternate light and dark cross bars and spots. Caudal rays with brown dots; inter radial membrane with a single series of similar dots; dorsal of the smaller specimen with a blackish spot on the middle of the last rays, margined in front and below by a transparent area; a black bar at base of caudal. Ventral surface plain silvery.

Carl H. and Rosa S. Eigenmann.

LIFE IN THE CHUCKAWALLA MOUNTAINS.

The Chuckawalla mountains form a portion of the Colorado Desert, occupying the northeastern part of San Diego county, Cal. They are most appropriately named the Chuckawalla or Lizard mountains, for lizards certainly there predominate in the animal kingdom both in variety and numbers—possibly it would not be desirable to lead a long life in any other form. No snakes were seen during a week's stay in July this year, but probably a longer sojourn would have resulted in as great a variety as I should have cared for in that line. Several species of rattle-snakes as well as various harmless snakes are said to reside in these mountains, but they did not call on me. A single 'side winder' rattlesnake was found on the plain near the railroad station as I was about to depart, but he was not anxious for a further acquaintance—neither was I.

Mountain sheep, deer and antelope are said to abound among these mountains, but I only had a glimpse of a mountain sheep; one meal of venison was enjoyed—thanks to an Indian's skill in hunting. Several beautiful pairs of mountain sheep horns were also seen, but no opportunity presented for stealing them.

were also seen, but no opportunity presented for stealing them.

Around a few old Indian and prospecting camps I was tantalized with finding fragments of the shell of the dry land tortoise, but no sign of one in the flesh rewarding my search in all my wanderings. Fish transplanted from the Dos Palmas spring seemed to be doing well in the spring at the mining camp.

Coyotes, jack rabbits and cotton tails were not rare, considering the number of acres they must require for support. A flock of young quail near the camp during my stay are worthy of mention. Few other birds were observed, but a few bats and night

hawks sailed around us evenings, catching what few insects they could that I had not caught during the day—altogether I believe they were more successful, certainly more persevering than myself. Bees were noticed in great numbers on the Dalea bushes that were covered with their indigo blue blossoms at the time (early in July).

The last Indian had disappeared from these hills (we met him going toward San Bernardino); four weary mules, a dog, and half a dozen examples of the genus Homo, complete my monograph on the life in the Chuckawallas—no, I forgot, the mosquito is worthy of respect.

C. R. Orcutt.

[P. S. The prospector's long-eared friend, the patient burro, wants to be remembered. He eagerly devoured every word in the Young Men's Journal — paper and all.]

NOTES ON THE FLORA OF CUSTER COUNTY, COLORADO — I.

The present notes are offered as a slight indication of the nature of the flora of the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo range, at altitudes varying from 7,500 to 13,000 feet, in Southern Colorado. It was once suggested (I forget by whom) that it would be of great value to students of geographical distribution if botanists in different localities would publish lists of the most abundant plants in their immediate neighborhoods, say, for the sake of uniformity in the lists, the twenty commonest species. Now when one comes to study the published records, it becomes exceedingly difficult to ascertain what are the characteristic species of a given country, because the tendency has always been to record only or chiefly the rarieties, making, perhaps, the most fuss over a plant which is properly speaking only an alien and purely accidental. I would, therefore, repeat the suggestion, never yet properly carried out, that botanists in various parts of the country should send lists of their most abundant plants, and I am sure, with the consent of the Editor, very valuable contributions to our knowledge of geographical distribution might thus be made. to proceed to our Custer county flora:

Clematis douglasii, Hook. This curious plant is very abundant about and below the lower limit of pines, mostly growing in open ground. It commences to flower about the end of April, and continues throughout the summer. A variety, rosea, in which the purple color of the flower is replaced by crimson, occurs, but is extremely rare

is extremely rare.

Anemone patens var. nuttalliana, Gray. This most lovely flower is the first of the year, commencing to flower at the beginning of April, and affording throughout that month a sumptuous repast for the numerous bees (Halictus, Andrena, &c.) which visit it continually. This Anemone, like the Clematis, has an occasional var. rosea, in which pale pink takes the place of lilac on the

flowers. Some flowers, also, are nearly white, but I never yet

met with a genuine albino.

Ranunculus cymbalaria, Pursh. This must not be forgotten in an enumeration of the characteristic plants, since it is very abundant by roadside ditches, taking the place occupied in Europe

by the handsomer R. ficaria.

Aquilegia cœrulea, James. Found under the spruce trees at a considerable elevation in August, its pale blue blossoms being a most noticeable feature in this region. A fungus, Æcidium aquilegiœ Pers., was found parasitic upon it.

Aconitum columbianum, Nutt. Very frequent amidst the rank

vegetation by creeks, a tall and noticeable plant.

Berberis repens, Lindl. Grows under the pines near their lower limit, and upwards. Commences to flower about the first

of May.

Argemone platyceras L. & O. This conspicuous white flowered poppy, with its yellow juice, is the first flower that strikes the eye on arrival, since it grows abundantly up to about 7,700 feet in the low land traversed by the railway. I also found it in Arapahoe, Douglas, and Fremont counties.

Corydalis aurea var. occidentalis, Gray. Abundant and conspicuous in May at about 8,200 feet and upwards. I also found

it in Gunnison county.

Viola cucullata, Ait. Frequent in damp places by creeks. Viola delphinifolia, Nutt. In some abundance by Willow Creek; this appears to be the first record for Southern Colorado. The cut leaves of this plant are very curious.

Viola canina, var. sylvestris, Regel. In the woods above 8,400 feet. I met with this species also in Eagle and Summit counties.

Viola canadensis, Linn. Locally abundant, the tall growth and white flowers readily distinguishing it from any other species of violet.

Viola nuttallii, Pursh. Growing in sand on a dry bank, the roots striking down deeply. Most of the violets prefer shade and moisture, but this species expands its yellow flowers in the

full rays of the sun.

Malvastrum coccineum, Gray. Abundant on the prairie, commencing to flower early in June. It is apparently a common plant in suitable localities throughout the State. I found it also in Fremont, Chaffee, Summit, Eagle, Garfield, Mesa, Delta and Montrose counties, and it is recorded for El Paso county. •

Geranium fremontii, Torr. Frequent by creeks. Some of the Colorado Geraniums appear to run almost too close together to T. D. A. Cockerell. be separated as species.

WEST CLIFF, CUSTER CO. COLO.

COL. JAMES STEVENSON.

Col. James Stevenson, the well-known ethnologist, died on the 24th of July at the Gilsey House, New York, of heart disease.

Col. Stevenson's health had been failing for some time, and he left Washington some weeks before his death for Gloucester, Mass., to spend the summer. As he found himself still losing instead of gaining ground, he went to New York to place himself in the hands of a physician. He was accompanied on his trip by his wife and his father-in-law, Mr. A. H. Evans. Col. Stevenson was born in Maysville, Ky., in 1840. When a boy he evinced a fancy for frontier life, and at an early age he joined the staff of Prof. Hayden, chief of the Geological Survey. He spent several winters among the Blackfeet and Sioux Indians, and remained with Prof. Hayden until the war broke out, when he served on the staff of Gen. Fitz John Porter. After the war Col. Stevenson returned to the Geological Survey. In 1875 he surveyed and located for the first time the head-waters of the Snake River, and was the first white man to make the ascent of the Great Teton Mountain. When Major Powell took charge of the survey he was appointed its chief of staff. Subsequently he was detailed for ethnological, work for the Smithsonian Institution and explored the cliff dwellings of Arizona, studying the habits, customs and religious myths of the Navajo, Zuni and other Indian tribes. In 1872 Col. Stevenson married a daughter of Mr. Alexander H. The high altitudes in which Col. Stevenson was forced to carry on a great part of his work weakened the walls of his heart, so that for months past its action has been seriously impaired. The funeral took place on the following Thursday, and was largely attended by his scientific and other friends.

EDITORIAL.

An index to the first four volumes of this magazine is in preparation, and will be issued when ready in the place of our July and August numbers, which we have not published. Our subscribers will receive twelve numbers for a year's subscription, exclusive of the index.

We shall have more to say regarding the results of our three weeks' vacation in June and July on the Colorado Desert (with the thermoneter at only 144°). What with catching fish out of hot water, gathering living and fossil shells, sketching Indian paintings and carvings on the rocks, examing the rich mines of gold and silver, opals, salt, etc., and noting the botanical and other aspects of a section of the county new to us we were well occupied.

The completion of the series of articles on cacti is indefinitely postponed, as we have lost nearly all the illustrations we had in stock (including over fifty varieties of cacti) by fire in May. Our museum and residence has been changed, having just moved to North J Street, near 24th, where our friends and correspondents are invited to call. Our business office is now at 961 Fourth Street, on the Plaza. Help us to make Vol. V of this magazine

better than any previous one.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The meteorite which fell in Okhausk in the province of Perin, Russia, in August last, is, according to M. A. Pavloff, one of the largest yet known. Its weight before it was broken was about 1,100 pounds. This meteorite contains particles of unoxidized nickel iron, consequently we must classify it with the sporadosiderites and its spherical mineral aggregates bring it under the heading of chondrodites.

It is probably not generally known that the quicksand is composed chiefly of small particles of mica mixed with water. The mica is very smooth and the fragments slip upon each other, so that any heavy body which displaces them will sink until a solid

bottom is reached.

According to the recent investigation of Geiger, Cuno, Penka, and Schraeder, the primitive seat of the Aryans is not to be sought in Central Asia, but in northern and northeastern Europe, and especially in Finnland and in some of the territories belonging before to the ancient Republic of Poland. Te only argument for deriving the proto—Aryans from Central Asia was the belief that Sanskrit comes the nearest to the primitive Aryan speech. But the Lithnanian, a language of the inhabitants of the northern part of ancient Poland, represents a more primitive form of Aryan speech than Sanskrit, hence the arguments of Max Müller, Pott, Lassen and others in favor of Central Asia must be overthrown in favor of Northern Europe.

Dr. C. C. Parry and wife expect to return to their home in

Davenport, Iowa, for the winter.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP again changes hands, E. M. Haight, of Riverside, Cal., paying the price asked by C. R. Orgutt.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION has just finished publishing a serial by J. T. Trowbridge, "Biding his Time." During the current year this favorite weekly for young people has given twelve pages nearly every week.

HORTICULTURE BY IRRIGATION is the title of an excellent little book of 140 pages, Svo., illustrated, by A. E. Gipson, Greeley, Colorado, President of the Colorado State Horticultural and Forestry Association (price, paper, 50c., cloth, 75c.). The information and practical hints it contains will save those in experienced in western ways from making mi-takes and failures, and it is a valuable handbook for those experienced as well. It will prove of especial value to those who have taken up timber claims.

PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE MAMMOTH CAVE OF KENTUCKY, by A. D. Binkerd, M. D., Cochran, Ind., 8vo., 112 pages, illustrated, price, 25c., has just been received from the author, who writes that he intends to visit 3an Diego, and perhaps make its his home.

THE WESTERN NATURALIST of Madison, Wisconsin, has been sold by Frank A. Carr, to the editor of The West American Scientist. Mr. Carr expects to travel in Central America, and has engaged to contribute to the successor of his magazine.

THE CALIFORNIA CACKLER is an excellent monthly for the poultryman, well illustrated and carefully edited, entertaining and instructive.

A timely article in the July Century is 'Disease Germs and How to Combat Them.' It is accompanied by a frontispiece portrait of Pasteur, who has made disinfection and fermentation a longer study than hydrophobia, although it is with the latter that his name is more intimately associated in the public mind.

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(Editorial from the Cosmopolitan, December, 1882.)

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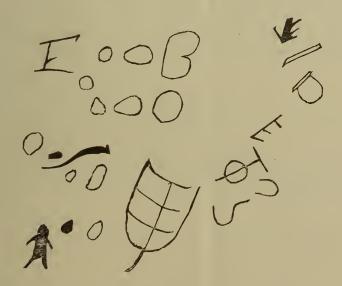
OCTOBER, 1888.

No. 40

INDIAN CARVINGS.

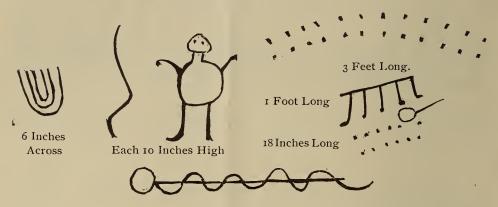
The Chuckawalla mountains form a part of the vast region called the Colorado desert, and are located in the north-eastern part of San Diego county, California.

About thirty miles from Salton, a station on the Central Pacific R. R., and near the centre of the Pacific Mining District, there is a smoothly worn rock bearing on its nearly perpendicular face various Indian signs. I give below a rough sketch of the figures engraved upon this rock, as I found them June 7th. It is beside an old Indian trail at several natural water reservoirs locally known as the Black Tanks:



These signs were cut into the rock about half an inch, and were two to six or eight inches in height, and all very distinctly cut. Those near the character resembling a large capital E were nearly effaced by the weather and could not be accurately outlined.

Ten miles from this rock, at Cohn springs, I was informed that a number of rocks were similarly inscribed, with a much greater variety of designs, but I was unable at the time to visit the locality. My companion, Mr. W. F. Hendsch, kindly outlined a few of the characters for me, which I give below:



The above are signs selected at random from the great variety that he had observed on the rocks. The size is approximately indicated. He had been informed that they were intended to indicate the different localities where water might be obtained in that region, a straight line attached to a circle representing the trail leading to a tank or pool of water, the circle alone standing for a natural water tank or reservoir or for a spring. The figure above given where the straight line is crossed by a winding one was intended to describe a short cut to the water; the trail (straight line), leaving the wash or ravine and going across a divide a number of times, thus lessoning the distance to the water, instead of following the natural course of the wash.

C. R. Orcutt.

NOTES ON THE FLORA OF CUSTER COUNTY COLORADO—II.

Sidalcea maluceflora, Gray. Grows in open ground in the valley, always in damp places, where it is of sufficient abundance for its pink flowers to give a color to the landscape. Also found in Fremont county.

Sidalcea candida, Gray. In shady spots by creeks, in the

mountains. Also in Summit and Mesa counties.

Linum perenne, L. Abundant of the typical form up to the

lower limit of pines, in open ground.

Acer glabrum, Tow. Very frequent by creeks as high as 10,000 feet. Fungus-like growths on the leaves are produced by an insect of the genus *Phytoptus*.

Thermopsis rhombifolia, Rich. A Thermopsis, sometimes presenting all the characters of rhombifolia, sometimes tending to montana, makes the valley bright with its yellow blossoms in

Mav.

Lupinus argenteus, Pursh. Occurs at about 8,400 feet of the var. decumbens, Wats. In the collection of Mrs. M. E. Cusack, an enthusiastic field-botanist resident here, is a specimen from

near Short Creek (about 8,400 feet altitude) representing a new variety. Sericea—rather smaller, more silky throughout, stem densely white-silky.

Astragalus caryocarpus, Ker. One of the earliest flowers of the year, in sandy places in the open, at about 8,000 feet. This

species was kindly identified for me by Dr. Geo. Vasey.

Oxytropis lamberti, Pursh. The notorious loco-weed, on which much has already been written. The typical form has white flowers, while in an otherwise similar variety, lilacina, the flowers are pale lilac. The variety sericea also occurs. I have been making a list of the insects frequenting this plant in Custer county—Cantharis nuttalli, say, feeds extensively upon it; a gall was found on a flower-stalk, apparently belonging to a Trypetid fly; small pinkish Lepidopterous larvæ perhaps those of Walshia amorphella, Clem., burrow in the root and crown, and are erroneously supposed by some ranchmen to be the cause of the evil effects of the plant; the butterflies Danais plexippus and Papilio asterias were observed visiting the white flowers of the typical form; while the beetles Hippodamia convergens and Coscinoptera Vittiaga, and the Homopteron Proconia costalis are occasionally found upon it.

Fragaria vesca, L. Exceedingly plentiful above 8,200 feet, but does not fruit nearly so fieely as I have seen it doing in Kent and Sussex, England. Also found in Mesa, Delta, and Pueblo

counties.

Potentilla arguta, Pursh. 'Black brush,' abundant and troublesome to ranchmen. I found one plant of the var. glandulosa (P. glandulosa, Lindl.) near Querida. I also found arguta in Summit county, and glandulosa in Lake county.

Potentilla anserina, L. Abundant in the valley, differing slightly in general facies from the English form of the species.

Rosa blanda, Ait., and var. arkansana (R. arkansana, Porter.) These and other roses of the Sayi group are plentiful at about 8,400 feet, and so variable as to defy separation into species. Typical forms, agreeing precisely with the descriptions given in the books, are quite the exception. A fungus, Phragmidium subcorticium, Schrank, occurs upon the leaves.

Saxifraga punctata, L. In shady places by creeks at about

8,500 feet altitude.

Sedun stenopetalum, Pursh. Very abundant in rocky ground at about 8,400 feet. It is probably the food-plant of the Parnassius sminthens, which flies there.

Epilobium angustifolium, L. Abundant at about 8,400 feet, presenting two well-marked forms. Found also in Summit,

Delta and Lake counties.

Enothera biennis, L. Abundant and variable.

Enothera coronopifolia, Torr. and Gray. Abundant at about 8,300 feet.

Echinocereus viridiflorus, Eng. The only abundant cactus from 8,000 to 8,400 feet. Flowers early in June.

Cymopterus montanus, Torr. and Gray. Common on the prairie, eaten by cattle. Flowers early in April, being one of the first flowers of the year.

T. D. A. Cockerell.

WEST CLIFF, CUSTER COUNTY, COLO., October 14, 1888.

STRAWBERRY PEAR.

This is the fruit of Cereus triangularis, a tall, climbing cactus of tropical America, with large, triangular stem, and one of the largest, handsomest flowers of all the night-blooming species of Cereus. The scaly buds of this cactus are known among the Jamaican peasantry as *Godochro* and are used by them as a culinary vegetable—particularly as an ingredient in soups. They were formerly used in the preparation of the celebrated West Indian 'pepper-pot.' The fruit of the strawberry pear contains a pleasant, sweet pulp, inclosing numerous black seeds. The Cereus triangularis is often seen in South Florida, but, although flowering freely, it rarely produces fruit. Mrs Theo. B. Shepherd, of San Buenaventura, California, possessess perhaps the finest plant of this species in the United States, now about thirty feet high, and bidding fair to occupy the whole front of her house. She writes that 'the flowers are grand.'

ON THE RIVER BANK.

To-day I wandered on the river bank near the old mission of San Diego. Idly I plucked a flower—a belated Erythraea venusta, as fresh and beautiful as in early spring. The bright cardinal Mimulus caught my eye; close beside it grew the oleander Erigeron canaelensis, whose acquaintance I had first made far away. The white flowers of a mock willow (Bacharis) showed among the willows, while beside it, the tall O. Enothera displayed its golden flowers. Menzie's golden rod was growing not far away and with it Stephanomeria virgata.

The 'official" varvain spread itself regardless of the fact that the land was of immense value, and near by the large white or purplish-tinged blossoms of the Datura were visible. The old familiar plantain, the Cotula and wild Heliotiopicum, and the yellow clover were also noted. My hands were getting full of the many colored beauties—so natural and unassuming in their sim-

plicity.

Among less conspicuous of the flowers I gathered were two kinds of Erioganum, the Eremoceupus setigera, a Polygonum, Ambrosia, Cucurbita palmata, a few grasses and possibly other plants. The sycamore, cotton wood and willow led in the bulk of wild vegetation, and the hedges of pomegranates and tuna cactus, and the olive, fig and palm trees of the mission formed a pleasing back ground. Here we have mention of the twenty commoner wild plants in bloom to-day at Grantville.

SFPTEMBER 23d, 1888.

C. R. Orcutt.

THE CHINAMPAS.

The West American Scientist for the month of June, 1888, has just fallen into my hands, and therein I read the leading article by Mr. M. Buysman on 'Artificial Floating Islands.' I am somewhat surprised to find it there stated that artificial floating islands * * are only found in some lakes in Mexico, where they are used for agricultural purposes, and in these floating gardens all vegetables grow very luxuriently. It is to the use of the present tense throughout the reference to the famous floating islands of Mexico, that I desire to call attention, without wishing to criticise Mr. Buysman.

The fact is, the floating islands no longer exist in Mexico. They have become fixtures. The waters of the lake in which they once floated like islands of enchantment, have receded for several miles from the city whose walls they once washed A canal runs from the city of Mexico to the present lake Xochimilco, and along the banks of this canal (La Viga it is called), the floating gardens were permanently moved many years since. They still retain, however, the name they possessed in the times of the Aztec Empire, Chinampas.

I have often visited the Chinampas, and perhaps a brief paper on that subject will not come amiss to the readers of The West American Scientist.

The manner in which the Chinampas were originally contracted differed little from the plan proposed by Mr. Buysman. The idea was derived from nature. Mosses of thickly interwoven roots of trees and vegetables often become detached from banks where the soil has no very great specific gravity, and float sufficient quantity of such soil for the growth of vegetables. Seizing this idea, and acting upon it, the Aztecs made rafts of wicker work, nearly water tight, and filled them with silt or sediment from the bottom of the lake. In such soil plants grew luxuriantly. It was perhaps with some difficulty that the largest of these gardens were moved from place to place, and in time the wicker raft would naturally give way, precipitating a part of the soil, at the same time sediment would collect under an island, whereupon its pereginations would cease perforce. A number of Chinampas thus gathered together and permanently anchored, filling in took place about them, and finally narrow canals were opened through them to furnish highways where the soil was not strong enough to have wagon roads. So that the Chinampas exist to-day at various places along the canal from the city of Mexico to Lake Xochimilco, in the form of large gardens with soil rather boggy, but rich and capable of producing, with slight effort, the most beautiful flowers and finest vegetables imaginable. These gardens are separated by narrow canals.

The principle Chinampas are found at Santa Anita and at Ixtacalco. It is a delightful excursion down the Viga to Santa Anita, excursionists rarely go beyond that point. The trip is

made in a rude sort of gondola, propelled by a man at the bow with a long pole. Most of the way down, if the day be clear, views may be had of the two magnificent mountains which dominate the valley of Mexico—Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl. At Santa Anita on feast days (and every Sunday and most other days are feast days in Mexico, apparently), there is a great concourse of the lower and middle classes of Mexicans. It is well worth while for the tourist to see this phase of Mexican life and try the tomales of Santa Anita, which are famous. The rich colored flowers of Santa Anita supply the flower market of the Mexican capital, while the Indians of Ixtacalco supply most of the vegetables eaten by the capital anos. Arthur Howard Noll.

Eagle Pass, Texas, October, 1888.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

'Yanka Girls in Zulu Land' is a book recently published by some young Americans who went there seeking health for one of their number, and contains some statements that might reconcile us to a life in the Transvaal even, a thousand miles from Cape Town. Every street at Potchefstroom is described as a boulevard of oranges and peach trees growing side by side. 'The very hedgerows are figs and quinces, while everywhere may be seen lemons, shaddocks and bananas.' There is the greatest variety and abundance of flowers, but even the most beautiful roses are scentless. Orchids innumerable abound on the streams of Fable Mountain. There are geraniums, heliotropes, lobelias, a great variety of trailing vines and about 350 species of heather, making the mountain sides look like warm-hued carpets.

The climate is delightful and healthful, but the thunder storms are terrific. Southern California is described, however, by others

as still more attractive.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

LORD WALSINGHAM.—"Steps toward a revision of Chamber's Index of (Lepidoptera Fineina), with notes and descriptions of new species" in "Insect Life," 1888, pp. 81–84. The first part of this valuable contribution deals with the genera Cleodora and Dactylota of the former, five species are added to the North America list from California, viz.: C. Striatella Hb., "exactly similar in all respects to the typical European form," C. modesta, sp. nov., C. canicostella, sp. nov., C. tophella, sp. nov., and C. sabulella, sp. nov. The genus Dactycota was previously only known by a single species from Western Europe, and it is therefore quite remarkable to have D. Snellenella, n. sp., coming from Arizona. The whole of this paper illustrates the well-known fact of the resemblance between the fauna of the Pacific slope of North America with that of Europe. The author states

that the name Dactylota is preoccupied in Echinodermata, and should rightly be changed. In such cases, it is better to retain substantially the same name, altering the termination somewhat, so that the two genera need not be confessed. According to this rule, Dactylota, Snellen, might become Dactylotula.

A. R. GROTE describes three new species of Noctuidee, Agrotis agilis from Vancouver, Xylomiges fletcheri, also from Vancouver, and Orthosia hamifera from California. The last is allied to O. purpurea; but larger. "Canad. Entom.," 1888. 128-131.

I. B. Leiberg. Mosses in Northern Idaho, Neckera menziesii

fruiting there. "Bot. Gazette," 1888. 165.

W. O. EMERSON. Albino birds of nine species, and a melanic robin in California. "Ornith. & Oologist," 1888. 82-93.
L. O. HOWARD.—"The Chalcid genus Rileya." in "Canad. Entom.," Oct., 1888., pp. 191-195, and fig. Rileya, Howard, was based on a species (Rileya splendens), found by Mr. Koebele at Los Angeles, California, and the present paper enters into a discussion as to which has priority, this or Rileya, Ashmead, a genus of Eurytominæ proposed by Mr. Ashmead, about the same time in Bull. 3 of the Kansas Experiment Station, and briefly defined somewhat earlier in a table of genera in "Entomologica Americana." Mr. Howard, discussing in the fairest spirit, claims priority for his own genus, but we are bound to say that we should be rather inclined to admit Mr. Ashmead's priority of description, whatever our wishes on the subject might At the same time, we rather doubt the propriety of publishing descriptions of new genera and species in the Bulletins of Experiment Stations, where they are not accessible to entomologists at-large. T. D. A. C.

EDITORIAL.

The promised index, thanks to our correspondent, Theo. D. A.

Cockerell, is in the printer's hands.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Secretary of the American Ornithologist's Union and Chief of the Bureau of Ornithology and Mammalogy, has spent a few weeks this summer along the coast, from Puget Sound southward. His visit in the country, with relatives at Escondido, was cut short by the illness of his sister.

Richard A. Proctor, the eminent astronomer, was one of the

victims of fever in New York City.

Dr. C. C. Parry has botanized in the central part of the State this summer, studying certain genera—Ceanotheus Arctostaphylos, etc., and has returned to his home in Davenport, Iowa. Prof. Greene has been in the field, we understand, but the results are not yet public. Dr. Edward Palmer has visited several localities, but found conditions unfavorable for botanizing. Walter E. Bryant made a successful trip into Lower California, collecting birds. If others have been doing anything let us hear from them. Altogether science has not been very industriously pursued on our coast the past summer.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Mr. Crossman, of the California State Mining Bureau, asserts that the Klamath river, in the Siskiyou mountain foothills, is the last remnant of a stupendous river like the Mississippi or Amazon, which watered broad fertile valleys previous to the upheavel of the present coast range of mountains. This was at a period contemporaneous with the mammoth, mastodon and other species of that creation. The bones of these animals are found on the banks of this prehistoric river. It is also asserted that a print of a moccasined foot, two feet in length, was lately discovered at Soda Bar in the Siskiyou foothills, and Mr. Crossman has made arrangements to secure a plaster mold of the foot-prints for preservation in the State Museum.

Prof. Morse, of Salem, Mass., has invented a most interesting and practical method of utilizing the heat of the sun. arrangement consists of a shallow box, the bottom of which is of corrugated iron, and the top of glass, and is placed in such a position that the sun shines directly upon it, the rays of the sun pass through the glass and are absorbed by the iron heating it to a high temperature, and by a system of ventilation, a current of air is passed through the apparatus and into the room to be heated. By these means the air has been heated on sunny days to about ninety degrees of Fahrenheit by passing over the

One of the human foot-prints found in volcanic rock in Nicaragua several years ago, is described by Dr. G. Brinton as being nine and one-half inches long, three inches wide at the heel and four and one-half at the toe. The apparent length of the foot itself is eight inches. Dr. Brinton considers the foot-prints genuine but is uncertain whether they are so ancient as has been supposed.

PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

Mr. George Kennan contributed to the September Century an article on 'Exile by Administrative Process,' in which he gives a great number of instances of the banishment of persons to Siberia, without the observance of any of the legal formalities that in most countries precede or attend a deprivation of rights. Mr. Kennan also discusses, in an open letter in this number of The Century, the question, 'Is the Siberian Exile System to be at Once Abolished?' stating his reasons for believing that the plan of reform now being discussed in Russia, and which is said by the London 'Spectator' to involve the entire abolition of exile to Siberia as a method of punishment, will not be put into operation. Mr. Kennan says that the present plan is one proposed by the chief of the Russian Prison Department, with whom he had a long and interesting conversation just before his departure from St. Petersburg. It grew out of the many complaints of the respectable inhabitants of Siberia, who demanded that the penal classes of Russia should not be turned loose upon them. The Russian official only hoped to restrict and reform the system, so as to make it more tolerable to the Siberian people, by shutting up in prisons in European Russia a certain proportion of prisoners who are now sent to Siberia. This reform would have affected in the year 1885 fewer than three thousand exiles out of a total of over ten thousand.

Before such a plan goes to the Council of State for discussion it is always submitted to the ministers within whose jurisdiction it falls—in the present case, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Finance, and the Minister of the Interior. Two of these officers have already disapproved of the plan, the Minister of Justice declaring that 'exile to Siberia for political and religious offenses must be preserved,' and it is Mr. Kennan's belief that the scheme will not even reach the Council of State.

This is by no means the first measure of reform which has been submitted to the Tsar's ministers, but every effort has so fa



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THE WEST AMERICAN SCIENTIST.

Vol. V.

NOVEMBER, 1888.

No. 41

UNDESCRIBED VARIETIES OF CALOCHORTUS GUNNISONI.

There are three varieties of Calochortus Gunnisoni, Watson, which I describe as follows:

r. Var. imaculatus. A dark purple subquadrangular spot of some size on the inside of each petal beneath the gland. Petals, pale violet externally, greenish toward base. A purple band above the gland.

2. Var. immaculatus. The dark purple infraglandalar spots absent. Petals not so violet externally. A purple band above the gland.

3. Var. purus. Like the last, but with *no purple band* above the gland.

This Calochortus grows in moist but not wet soil—they are particular about this.

T. D. A. Cockerell.

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THE COLORADO BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

This association has been formed for the purpose of investigating, in a detailed and systematic way, the Fauna and Flora of Colorado, both recent and fossil, and recording the results in such form as to be a permanent contribution to our knowledge of the Biology of the State. It was commenced early in 1887, as the "Colorado Ornithological Association," and while so known did good work under the leadership of Mr. Chas. F. Morrison, at the Ornithology of Colorado, resulting in a list of about 350 species and sub-species occurring within the State limits, which is now ready for publication. Now that the scope of the Association is widened, still better results are hoped for, as it is accordingly proposed to issue from time to time special bulletins on the fauna and flora of the State, which will be sent free to all members. There will also be an annual report, which will include a complete bibliography of the State for the year. Meetings will be held as often as possible, and it may be possible in the future to

found a library and museum. The annual subscription for members resident in Colorado is \$1.00, and that for corresponding members 0.25. Full particulars may be obtained from the secretary (pro tem), T. D. A. Cockerell, West Cliff, Custer Co., Colorado, who will heartily welcome all co-operation.

AMONG THE MAGAZINES.

"An Enumeration of the Published Synopsis, Catalogues, and Lists of North American Insects."—Bulletin No. 19, Div. of Entomology, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, 1888.— The title of this admirable bulletin sufficiently explains its nature, and it need hardly be said that it will be of the greatest value to Western Entomologists, who have so few opportunities for consulting the large public libraries. We should have liked the "List of works on Economic Entomology" (p. 70), to have been a little more comprehensive—only 25 titles are quoted—but probably want of space compelled its reduction within what might be considered desirable limits.

"NESTING OF THE RUDDY DUCK" by W. G. Smith. "Ornithologist and Oologist," Sept., 1888, p. 132 (on the nesting of Erismatura nebida at Loveland, Colorado.)

T. D. A. C.

"Abstract of Proceedings of the South London En-TOMOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR, 1887" (publ. August, 1888, London, Eng., 127 pp. and 2 plates.) This volume is full of interest for the British Entomologist, but has, as one might suppose, but few references to Western North America. Pl. 2, fig. 2, represents the male sex of a remarkable beetle from Mexico, Golofa hastatus, showing the enormous thoracic horn. On p. 72 is a note on insects exhibited from Colorado, including some apparently new species of Hymenoptera. On p. 87, it is stated that a "melanic variety of Vanessa urtice" taken in Mexico, was exhibited—doubtless this was V. milbertii. P. 89 has an enumeration of Mollusca, said to be from Niagara river, but as a matter of fact, all except the first mentioned were from Colorado. There is also a note on a species of Helicopsyche from Colorado, and on pp. 92, 93. An account of a case of mimicry between Vanessa antiopa and a species of Lecustide in the same State.

"A Provisional Host-Index of the Fungi of the United States" by W. G. Farlow and A. B. Seymour. Part 1. Polypetalæ.

(Cambridge, Mass., August, 1888.)

All those who take any interest in Mycology will be sincerely grateful to the authors of this list, which supplies so obvious a want that it seems strange that Mycologists in the United States can have done so long without one. The present part embraces

52 pages of clear type on good paper, giving a list of the Polypetalous plants on which fungi have been recorded as found in extratropical North America; with a list of the fungi under each plant, in which full attention is paid to synonomy. Some species of plants stand as hosts to a very large number of fungi, Liriodendron tulipifera, for instance, having no less than 86, while the apple tree has 80. It is hoped that the remainder of the list will be issued during the coming winter, when also will be given any additions to part I brought to light in the meanwhile.

T. D. A. C.

I. M. COULTER and J. N. Rose. New Western Umbelliferœ—Erymgium armatum, California, southward to San Diego Co.(Orcutt), E. vaseyi. California and Oregon, Peucedanum martindalei, Oregon and Var. angustatum, Oregon, Wash. Ter. and Vancouver I., P. donnellii, Oregon, P. californicum, California, P. vaseyi, California, Selinum grayi (gmelini Port. & Coult.), Colorado, S. dawsoni, Yukon, Cœlopleurum maritimum, Wash.Ter. "Bot. Gazette," 1888. 141-145

C. F. MORRISON. A list of some birds of La Plata County, Col., in Orn. & Ool., 1888, p. 115. This valuable little list continues, the present installment being from Colaptes to Buteo. The author writes of Colaptes, "all our flickers are true mexicanus, and I am glad to be in a country where hybridus is not found; in Wyoming I nearly became demented arranging my numerous specimens taken there."

"INSECT LIFE." Devoted to the economy and life habits of Insects, especially in their relations to Agriculture, and edited by the Entomologist and his assistants with the sanction of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Washington (U. S. Department of Agriculture), Vol. 1, 1888. No. 1, July, and No. 2, August.

Perhaps no department of Government work has ever been more thoroughly up to the standard to which it aimed than the division of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture. Agriculturalists and Entomologists alike have constantly been indebted to the careful and fruitful work of Prof. Riley and his assistants and it is therefore with most entire satisfaction that we greet the issue of a new monthly bulletin, "Insect Life," in which the results of that work, too bulky for full publication in the "Annual Report," will be given in detail, accompanied by many and excellent illustrations. The first number commences with a "salutatory" from Prof. Riley, wherein he says "We hope to make the periodical interesting and useful to all in any way concerned in entomology, and, without further comments or promises, we cordially invite such to co-operate with us in our endeavors." After this follows an illustrated biography of the corn-feeding Syrphus fly (Mesograpta polita), and many other interesting articles, including descriptions of five new species of Oncoenemis by I. B. Smith, namely, O. fasciatus from Nevada Co., Calif., O.

simplex from Utah, and three others from Colorado. There is also an account of the occurrence of the Chinch Bug in considerable numbers in California, where, however, it is not yet known to do damage. No. 2 contains, among other things, an account of the Morelos Orange Fruit-worm, which proves to be the larval of a fly-trypeta ludens. The only notes in this number dealing specially with the West are on depredations supposed to be those of the Western Cricket in Colorado, and a notice of the larval habits of Dicerca in the same State.

T. D. A. C.

- W. G. SMITH. On the nesting of Audubon's Warbler (D. auduboni), in Larimer Co., Colorado, in "Orn. & Ool.," 1888, p. 114.
- T. D. A. COCKERELL. On the distribution of Aquatic Forms. "Science Gossip," 1888, p.182. In this paper the freshwater plants and marine shells and algoe of California are compared with those of Europe, and conclusions drawn. There are also various other remarks on Western species.

ON THE MESOZOIC MAMMALIA.

For a number of years past Professor Henry F. Osborn of Princeton College, has been assiduously devoting himself to the study of the taxonomy and morphology of the Mesozoic Mammalia, and in these investigations, this eminent paleontologist has been materially assisted by having been allowed the free use of the invaluable collections formerly utilized by Professor Sir Richard Owen, and now preserved in the British Museum, as well as the collections of Dr. Lemoine, of Rheims, and the American collections of Cope and Williams College. Enjoying such opportunities as these, and worked over by such a hand, we naturally look for more than ordinary results, and science is by no means disappointed in the matter. Professor Osborn's labors now come before us in the form of a magnificent royal quarto monograph of some seventy-five pages, and published by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, (Vol. IX, No. 2, July, 1888.) It is illustrated by thirty wonderfully clear woodcuts in the text, and two very fine lithographic plates, the handiwork of the famous house of Sinclair & Son, which is sufficient guaranty of their excellence. These drawings are all devoted to either the jaws or the dentition of the group under consideration, and amply illustrate the remarks of the author.

Formerly it was generally supposed by paleontologists, that the mammalian fauna of the Mesozoic period were of very limited number, as so late as 1871, Professor Owen, in his well-known monograph, described but twenty genera, while in the

work now before us, these are brought up to no less than thirtyfive, five of which come from the Trias. A very convenient table shows theorder of occurrence of these forms in time, so far as they are now known to us, the arrangement in the columns presenting the beds of England, North America, Africa, Australia, and the Continent. It is pointed out by our author, that, "In a rapid survey of this ancient fauna, we are at first struck with the very great diversity which prevails in the form and arrangement of the teeth, consisting of six or seven wholly distinct types; and this at a zoological period which we have been accustomed to consider as the dawn of mammalian life. The above types, although primitive, are essentially mammalian. In one genus only, Dromatherium, do we find clear evidence of reptilian affinity in the dentition. Then we are surprised to discover a very close zoological relationship between fossil faunæ of the same age, but having a wide geographical distribution. The most striking instance of this is the parallelism between the American and British upper jurassic fauna." These mesozoic mammals were characterized by their diminutive size, and the excessive number of teeth they possessed, which latter, otherwise, are less archaic in their pattern than we would be led to believe from a mere casual observation; the molars being in unusual numbers. As his task developed, Professor Osborn was led to lay especial stress upon (1) the generic characters of the British mesozoic forms; to show (2) their relationships to modern orders, that is all the known mesozoic species to the existing orders of mammals; and (3), a full discussion of the dentition in all its bearings. This is the fundamental plan of the monograph before us, and upon these lines it has been worked out with marked ability and clear-The literature of the subject has been carefully gone over, and previous laborers in the same fields given in every instance, full credit for their productions. Space will not admit of our entering in detail upon the admirable classification adopted in this monograph, be it enough to say that it is based almost exclusively on the dentition, and that, "We first observe that the Mesozoic Mammalia divide into two large groups. In the first group, A, one of the incisors is greatly developed at the expense of the others, and of the canine, which usually disappears; behind these teeth is a diastema of varying width, while the molars bear numerous tubercles. In the second group, B, the incisors are small and numerous, the canine is always present, and well developed; the teeth usually form a continuous series, and the molars bear cusps instead of tubercles. These two divisions suggest those which obtain among the modern Marsupials, but are in fact much more sharply defined and widely separated from each other."

In conclusion, we find a general discussion upon the development of the teeth of these mammals in time, and masterly sections devoted to the zoological position of these mesozoic types in the two groups just mentioned, to their relations to the Marsupialia and the Insectivora, and finally, an appendix containing additional matter of prime importance. But so concisely are these chapters written, there not being a single sentence in any of them that could be substracted without evident injury to the whole, and so fully is the matter treated, that it becomes obviously impossible to present their conclusions here without running the eminent risk of not only not doing full justice to their author, but failing to impart any adequate idea of their import to the reader of this brief notice,—the work must be read and carefully studied to be appreciated.

Such a classic production as this, with the subject of which it treats so skillfully handled, is indeed a credit to the science of any country, and it is with a sense of extreme satisfaction that we know that the literature of paleontology has been enriched by the addition of a contribution so thoroughly exhaustive in character, with its matter presented in a form so gratifying to the eye.

R. W. Shufeldt.

FORT WINGATE, N. M., August 14, 1888.

BOTANICAL NOTES.

On the Mississippi recently, at Prairie du Chien, I found a single plant of the hoary verbena (Verbena stricta), with pure ivory-white flowers, the normal color being blue.

The flowers of this species are larger than those of the other native species, and their color clear and most noticeable. The white-flowered specimen was a conspicuous object, seen against a close, unpainted board fence, about 300 or 400 feet south of Dousman's Hotel, a well known house located directly at the railroad station.

At the same station with Verbena stricta is to be found the procumbent V. bracteosa, and the ordinary blue vervain (V. hastata) of the Atlantic States.

Six miles from Rochester, a blotched Brunella vulgaris was found with one or two leaves perfectly white or cream-colored, and most of the others partially so.

SEPT. 25, 1888.

B. F. Leeds.

SOME NOTES ON THE CRAY-FISH.

(Astacus Fluviatilis.)

The cray-fish is sometimes called the fresh water lobster on account of its resemblance to that crustacean.

In the spring, about the middle of March, when the female crayfish comes forth from its winter quarters, it has attached to the under part of its tail numerous eggs fastened to small filaments; these eggs are of about the size and color of hemp seed.

These it carries about until sometime in May or June, when they hatch; but they still continue to cling to the filaments until they have gained sufficient strength to start out alone, they are then about ¼ inch long.

While young they grow more rapidly than when they are more advanced in age, they grow a little more than an inch in the first year.

Speaking from personal observations they grow to be about four inches in length whenthey have obtained their full growth.

The mouth is situated directly in front of where the large claws join the body, and is marked by a pair of jaws running parallel to each other and pointing forwards.

It sheds its shell every few weeks even to the covering of its eyes, after which it is soft for two or three days, it grows only during this state.

While in this condition it conceals itself beneath weeds and stones, because it is now defenceless.

The shell begins to form and is hardened at the end of about four days, when it regains its old confidence.

The cray-fish has the power of reproducing its limbs, when it has lost one through some accident.

Take it all in all they are very interesting, and there is always something new to be found out about them if they are closely watched and studied.

E. Starks.

INDIAN MILLS.

It is a well known fact that the Indians raised corn. They certainly had a way to grind or mash it. It is supposed by some that the mortars sometimes found, were used for this purpose; they may have been used in this way, but it is more probable that they were used for pulverizing roots, etc., by pounding with a pestle, for medicine. I have found several pieces of stone, with rounded edges, about two inches thick, and worn very smooth. The whole piece had been about thirty-two inches in circumference. The other part was made of stone shaped like a very shallow mortar, and made to fit the buhr loosely, the corn being placed between them, and ground by hand, something after the style of ancient Egyptian grinding. The stone of which the buhr was made was hard and granular, and when two pieces were struck together, like flint, they would "strike fire." This kind of a mill was used by the Catfish, and perhaps also by the Mohawk, Indians in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

HUMMING BIRDS.

BY S. ESTLE MILLER.

In all the field of oology, there is no group of birds so interesting to the naturalist as the humming bird. Its size, its gorgeous colors and the abundance of different species, have given this small bird a pre-eminent position among the feathered tribe. The continents and islands of America are its home, and no other country can boast of a single species. It may be found all the way from the Arctic regions, of the chilly north, to Patagonia in the south. They are more numerous in the West Indies and Central America than in any other part of the continent, and it is here that the most beautiful are to be found. The tiny crest of one of these shines like a sparkling crown of colored light, while the colors adorning the breast are equally brilliant.

The species of the humming bird family now number more than three hundred, and through the energy of naturalists, this number is being increased every year. These birds have taken their name from the soft, humming noise made by the rapid motion of their wings. It is claimed by some that this sound differs in different species, and often to such an extent that an observant ear can detect the species by this noise produced in its flight. One of the very common species here in Ohio is the ruby throat, which takes its name from the feathers that encircle its throat, and shine with a ruby lustre.

The humming bird arrives here in Ohio about the 5th of May, each year, and usually comes in pairs. They begin their nest-building about the first week in June. Not long ago, when out walking, we found the nest of one of the smallest of these birds. It was about half the size of a hen's egg, and was swung to a twig about the thickness of a knitting-needle. It was made of cotton fibers and the down of certain plants, and was covered with small bits of leaves and soft bark. The eggs, two in number, were white, elliptical in shape, and of nearly the same size at each end.

The naturalist Andubon discovered a very curious habit belonging to these birds, and one that he concluded was resorted to in order to conceal the whereabouts of their nest. It was this:

While watching the nest of one he saw the female bird suddenly leave its station on a neighboring limb and shoot perpendicularly into the air until it was lost from sight. After a few moments of patient waiting, he had the pleasure of seeing it descend and alight directly upon the spot where she had constructed her nest.



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(Editorial from the Cosmopolitan, December, 1882.)

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While the Verraux Freres were gaining a world-wide reputation, an American lad, William H. Winkley by name, was pursuing his studies at the famous technical schools of the French capital, and, when his means were all but exhausted, he left his lodgings in the Latin quarter and apprenticed himself under these famous masters. After serving a long and laborious apprenticeship in the study of animal forms, anatomy, and drawing, he considered himself sufficiently equipped for the practical work of his vocation Returning to America, and selecting a small interior town where rents and living expenses were light, he set up anestablishment of his own, as large as his limited means would allow.

To-day, he supplies the largest museums of the world with stuffed specimens from the elephant down to the smallest rodent, besides large quantities of minerals, rocks, fossils, casts of fossils, skins, and skeletons (unmounted) of animals of all classes, and often the wild animals themselves, alcoholic specimens, insects, crustaceans, shells, echmoderms, corals, sponges, and botanical specimens, from every quarter of the globe and in a great variety of form and price. Also anatomical preparations, chemical, philosophical and optical instruments, with Naturalists' supplies of every description, and, the Verraux Freres being now dead, he has established, as they did, stations upon every continent for the collection of natural history specimens. The attaches of all the stations are over 100 in number, many of whom are specialists.

At his American headquarters at Clearfield, Iowa, there are not far from 100,000 specimens of all classes. Besides mounting the skins sent in by his own collectors, this eminently successful taxidermist takes custom work in his department from those desiring the same, and many hundreds of persons and museums throughout the civilized world are constantly sending him mammal and bird skins and skeletons for restoration. Especially is this true of those scientific persons and wealthy individuals, who, while abroad, have shown prowess in the hunt.

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