

rain-cloud symbols, gaming implements, water-worn stones, puma paws and other objects. The imitation of an ancient ladder which stood back of the altar was called a sun-ladder, and was interpreted as a symbolic aid to the sun, who is supposed to be weary at the winter solstice. Through sympathetic magic he is thus supposed to gain strength to mount the sky from his home at sunrise.

These altars at the winter-solstice ceremony in Hano made it possible to know something of the character of the ancient Tewan Sun and Snake worship, of which little has yet been recorded, although this pueblo stock has been, and still remains, one of the most important in the upper Rio Grande pueblos. Possibly studies of secret rites in the estufas of the latter will bring to light the characteristics of their winter-solstice altars, but it is also possible that these altars have been abandoned, in which case the survivals at Hano, described by Dr. Fewkes, have value in a comparative way, as indicating the nature of Tewan altars in mid-winter.

Mrs. Olive Ennis Hite presented a paper on 'New Mexican Folk-Lore,' in which she described the environment of these people and showed the influence it had upon their superstitions. Their belief in the 'Hombrecito,' or little brown people, was widespread, and it was considered lucky to see one of these creatures, who were visible to the 'pastores,' or shepherds, only. Of 'las brujas,' the witches, there is less said, and that little with many 'carambas' and audible supplications for the intervention of 'la Santissima Maria.'

Discussed by Drs. McCormick, Fewkes and Kober, Professor McGee, Dr. Wilson, Mr. Pierce and Miss Alice C. Fletcher.

J. H. MCCORMICK,
Secretary.

GEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE AND STUDENTS' GEOLOGICAL CLUB OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

Students' Geological Club, March 14, 1899. Mr. A. W. Grabau reviewed the paper which Professor Shaler has recently published on the Geology of Cape Cod (18th Annual Rep., U. S. Geol. Surv.). The speaker did not agree with the view advocated by Professor Shaler, that the topography of lower Cape Cod, from

Orleans to Highland Light, is mainly erosional and scarcely modified by ice action. But he held that the orientation of the valleys, the character of the slopes, and the presence of typical kettles all over the cape, indicate that most of the material of Cape Cod is of glacial origin.

Geological Conference, March 21, 1899. Mr. F. M. Buckland gave a paper on 'Winter Changes about Fresh Pond.' After briefly reviewing the literature on the expansion and contraction of ice on water bodies, he described some of the effects of these agencies on the shore of Fresh Pond during the past winter.

Mr. J. B. Woodworth presented some results of field observations on 'Moen's Cliff' and the Maars of the Eifel.' The Cretaceous and Pleistocene beds of the island of Rügen, off the coast of Germany, and Moen, off the coast of Denmark, show a disturbance which is comparable in degree and character to that in the Cretaceous and Pleistocene of Martha's Vineyard. H. Credner attributes this deformation to the shoving action of an ice sheet which was immediately previous to the last. A few other geologists favor purely orogenic agencies. In neither case has conclusive physical evidence been found. The lantern views, which are recent accessions to the Gardiner Collection, illustrated this deformation and related features, and the Weinfelder and Gemündener Maars near Daun.

J. M. BOUTWELL,
Recording Secretary.

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB, FEBRUARY 28, 1899.

PROFESSOR L. M. UNDERWOOD presented a paper on 'Species confused under the name *Aspidium juglandifolium*,' discussing the characters and geographical district of the forms regarded by him as distinct species, eight in all, constituting the whole number attributed to the genus *Phanerophlebia*. He remarked in concluding that it would be unsafe to describe new species without consulting the valuable collections of ferns in Europe, and especially at Kew. The paper will appear in the *Bulletin*.

Miss Alice Lounsberry then exhibited the very valuable collections of flower paintings by Mrs. Ellis Rowan, which constitute the origi-