

taining a small bottle of syrup, on a trumpet vine, and finding that it was regularly visited by a humming-bird. The editor discusses the province of the Audubon Societies and there are reports from some of the Societies themselves.

THE *Popular Science Monthly* for October, completing the 57th volume, opens with the presidential address of Sir William Turner before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, describing the development of biological science during the present century. Professor Frederick G. Novy's article on the 'Bubonic Plague' reviews especially its ravages in the past. There follow articles on 'Gasoline Automobiles,' by William Baxter, Jr., on 'Some Scientific Principles of Warfare,' by William J. Roe, on 'Modern Mongols,' by F. L. Oswald, on 'The Religious Beliefs of the Central Eskimo,' by Professor Franz Boas, and on 'Mental Energy,' by Edward Alkinson. The present instalment of 'Chapters on the Stars,' by Simon Newcomb, is devoted to variable stars and the parallaxes of the stars. The number contains the index to the current volume. A journal such as the *Popular Science Monthly* is essential for the development and recognition of science in America, and the contents of the first volume under its new management show that the *Monthly* has secured the cooperation of the leading American men of science.

THE Mazamas, a mountaineering club of the Western States proposes to publish a quarterly magazine devoted to the mountains, forests and natural scenery of America, especially of the northwest. The subscription which is \$1.00, may be sent to Mr. W. G. Steel, 407 Ross St., Portland, Ore.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

AN EMINENT AMERICAN MAN OF SCIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE for August 17th and 31st (pp. 277, 346) are names suggested for inscription 'in the Hall of Fame of the New York University.' Those of naturalists are John James [not Adam] Audubon, Spencer F. Baird, Asa Gray, Isaac Lea, John Torrey, and, later, O. C. Marsh, E. D. Cope, James Hall, J. D. Dana, J. S. Newberry and

Alexander Winchell. There is one naturalist at least as much entitled to such recognition as almost any one of the preceding—Thomas Say, once of Philadelphia. If it is intended to indicate the historical development of biology in America, Thomas Say should stand pre-eminent. He was by odds the most versatile and accomplished of the early American naturalists and has left his impress on the zoology of the country to a greater extent than any of his contemporaries or, in fact, if we measure the range of his studies, than any of his successors. He was fully abreast of the science of his times and to a greater extent than any English naturalist, except Leach. A large proportion, if not most, of the common species of several orders of invertebrate animals were first named and intelligibly described by him. Numerous of the most common land and freshwater shells, crustaceans, worms, and insects were introduced into the system by him. He paid attention also to the mammals, birds and reptiles, leaving the fishes alone to his friend, C. A. Lesueur.

You ask: "Are any of the readers of this JOURNAL prepared to suggest how many men of science should be included among the 100 most eminent Americans no longer living, and who they should be?" Whatever the number, Say should be accorded a place in the very first rank among zoologists. In my judgment Dana and Cope are the only ones whose rank is equally high. Not far behind are Joseph Leidy and William Stimpson (I suppose that Louis Agassiz has not been proposed because he was born and became eminent in another land.)

It may be of interest to learn that Say's name has been inscribed among those of illustrious Americans in the vestibule of the Library of Congress. The Hon. Bernard R. Green, superintendent of the Library building, did me the honor of consulting with me on the selection of men of science for such distinction, and I suggested to him the title of Say. His name was paired with Dana's near the entrance into the Librarian's office. I understand that he has been congratulated on the aptness of the selection.

THEO. GILL.

WASHINGTON, October 1, 1900.