

from the region by Prof. Stevenson, which had certainly been derived from this limestone. It was identified by Prof. H. S. Williams as a species of *Lonsdaleia*, and was regarded as demonstrative of the carboniferous age of the beds.

The quartz-diorite is a homogeneous rock, consisting of white plagioclase, with frequent thin prisms of hornblende, and occasional biotites and some quartz. A contact was found between it and the argillites which seemed clearly an irruptive one. Other contacts observed by Dr. Reid with the limestone also indicated contact metamorphism.

The diorite is a more basic rock than the quartz-diorite, and is found in the moraines. It has probably come from the mountains, which have yet proved inaccessible.

The crystalline schists embrace mica schists and actinolite schists and were obtained from erratic blocks.

The diabase dikes have all been intruded since the metamorphism of their wall rocks and are the latest rocks in the region. Mr. Cushing gives a detailed comparison of these rocks with other Alaskan sections, noting many parallel features and some contrasts. The paper concludes with a detailed petrographical description of the crystalline rocks.

The second paper of the evening was by Heinrich Ries, on 'The Geology of Orange County, New York.' Mr. Ries gave a resumé of the results obtained by him while in the field the past summer under Prof. James Hall, State Geologist, to whom the report will be made. The paper was extemporaneous and was not intended for publication. It was illustrated by numerous lantern views and geological sections.

The third paper was by Theodore G. White, on 'The Faunas of the Upper Ordovician Strata at Trenton Falls, New York.' Mr. White described the results of a visit to this, the typical locality of the Trenton formation, and of a detailed study of the faunas of each stratum of the limestones at Trenton Falls, and Poland, Oneida County, New York. The work was undertaken in connection with a doctorate thesis on the Trenton Faunas of the Lake Champlain Valley, which will be submitted in the spring to the

Faculty of Columbia College. The faunal lists at Trenton Falls will be published in full in the Transactions of the Academy of current date.

By making use of conspicuous and constant layers as datum planes, the thickness of the beds in the Trenton Falls gorge was found to be 331 feet. On the same creek, three miles below Poland, underlying strata were found as follows:

Black River limestone, 11 feet 9 inches.

'Dove' limestone, 5 feet 1 inch.

Calceiferous strata, 8 feet.

Various peculiar distortions of the beds in the Trenton Falls gorge was also shown and discussed.

The paper was illustrated by numerous lantern views from photographs.

The fourth paper of the evening by J. F. Kemp and T. G. White, 'Additional Notes on the Distribution and Petrography of the Trap Dikes in the Lake Champlain Region,' was postponed until the next meeting, on account of the lateness of the hour.

J. F. KEMP,  
Secretary.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, 250TH  
MEETING, NOVEMBER 30.

THE first paper, *Some Fundamentals of Nomenclature*, by Dr. Edward L. Green, is printed in abstract in this journal.

Mr. Theo. Holm made some *Contributions to the Flora of the District of Columbia*, illustrating the same by specimens. Since the publication of the third list of additions to the flora many rare plants have been reported, some of which are new to the District. It was shown that the genus *Panicum* is exceedingly well represented in the local flora, and seven species were enumerated as not having been before reported. *Sporobolus vaginæflorus*, which was formerly known only from one locality, has now spread to several distant places and may be considered as rather common. Several rare Cyperaceæ were reported, among which *Kyllinga pumila* and *Cyperus aristatus* were new to the flora. The genus *Polygala* appears, like *Panicum*, to be widely distributed in the District, and *P. ambigua*, *P. incarnata* and *P. verticillata* were reported from several places. *Plantago Patagonica*,

var. *aristata*, had commenced to spread so as to become a weed in the eastern part of the District. After enumerating a number of similar plants rare in the District, the speaker made some brief remarks upon the morphology of some of these, *e. g.*, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*, *Orchis spectabilis*, *Smilax herbacea*, etc.

The evening was devoted to an address by the President, Surgeon General George M. Sternberg, U. S. A., on the Practical Results of Bacteriological Researches.

F. A. LUCAS,  
Secretary.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

At the 241st meeting of the Society held December 17th, a paper on 'The Animistic Vampire in New England' was read by George R. Stetson. This superstition of ancient Babylonia, Chaldea and the far East by some mysterious survival, occult transmission or remarkable atavism, is prevalent in the scattered hamlets and more pretentious Villages of central Rhode Island. It is an extraordinary instance of a barbaric superstition out cropping in, and coexisting with a high general culture, and which is not so uncommon, if rarely so extremely aggravated, crude and painful.

The superstition is there unknown by its proper name. The local belief, however, precisely corresponds to the statement of the vampire superstition contained in Calmet's 'Traité sur les apparitions des esprits et sur les vampires ou les revenans de Hongrie, de Moravie, etc,' Paris, 1751, and as it now survives in eastern and western Europe.

It is, that a wasting disease is not a physical, but a spiritual ailment, obsession or visitation; that as long as the body of a dead relative of the person attacked has blood in its heart it is proof that an occult influence steals from it for death, and is at work draining the blood of the living into the heart of the dead and causing his rapid decline and death.

As in the middle age, the Rhode Island vampire is located, if, on opening the grave, the body is found to be of a rose color, the beard, hair or nails renewed and the veins and heart filled with blood.

The means taken for relief are also precisely

those followed in parts of the Levant and elsewhere, viz: exhumation of the body and burning the heart and scattering its ashes to the winds. The persons indulging in this superstition in Rhode Island are not foreigners, but native born New Englanders. It is declared upon excellent authority to be prevalent in all the isolated districts of the southern parts of the State and that many instances of it can be found in the large centers of population.

As to its origin in Rhode Island there is no record; it is in all probability an exotic like ourselves, originating in the mythographic period of the Aryan and Semitic peoples.

No known precise parallel in the western Indian mythology has come to our knowledge. The Ojibwas and Cherokees have, however, something analagous.

Abundant evidence is at hand that the animistic vampire superstition still retains its hold in its original habitat; an illustration of the remarkable tenacity and continuity of a superstition through centuries of intellectual progress from a lower to a higher culture, and of the impotency of the latter to entirely eradicate from itself the traditional beliefs, customs, habits, observances and impressions of the former.

Mr. William Eleroy Curtis read a paper on the Regulation of the Social Evil in Japan, reviewing the legislation and imperial edicts that have appeared on that subject and describing the present method of confining prostitution to certain quarters of the cities and towns and making those who practice that profession practically prisoners under the constant surveillance of the police. The government of Japan prohibits any woman from following the business of a courtesan without the written consent of her parents, or her guardian, if she be an orphan, and requires her to make a contract for a term of years with the keeper of some hashi-zashiki, as the houses of prostitution are called. During this period she is not permitted to leave the limit of the Yoshiwara, as the quarter is designated, except on certain occasions which are enumerated in the law, or upon the expression of a desire to reform. When her contract is cancelled her license is surrendered, and she becomes a ticket-of-leave woman, subject to police surveillance until she