sec. The exact point at which the reversing action begins can be easily determined by the revolving disc, and will be investigated shortly by one of our students.

R. W. Wood.

SCIENCE IN THE DAILY PRESS.

To the Editor of Science: In view of the appearance of several articles in the daily press relating to the case of the rapid calculator, Arthur Griffith, and purporting to be written by us, we beg to say that we have written no such article and have seen neither copy nor proof of any such article. We have given to reporters, when asked to do so, the principal facts reported before the Psychological Association. The published accounts have varying degrees of accuracy, a few of them being substantially correct. We are impelled to make this disavowal, for the reason that in some instances we are represented as making claims in regard to the case which we have never made. Persons interested are referred to the Proceedings of the Psychological Association and to the fuller statement of results presently to appear.

E. H. Lindley,
Wm. L. Bryan.

University of Indiana, Jan. 4, 1900.

'NEWSPAPER SCIENCE.'

To the Editor of Science: Some weeks ago in Science, and more recently in *The Psychological Review*, Professor J. H. Hyslop condemned in rather sweeping terms what he called 'newspaper science.' He was incited to do so by the publication of an erroneous and annoying report about himself. But while his irritation was certainly justified, his utterances were a trifle indiscriminate. And it is due both to the daily press, which he thus censures, and to the readers of your pages that attention be called to this fact.

It is true that certain papers indulge in untruthful and sensational stories about scientific men and scientific discoveries. But there are others that do not. To classify these two kinds of newspapers together betrays a lack of careful observation, or a wrong use of the logical faculty; perhaps both. Such a proceeding is hardly worthy of a man who pretends to a strictly scientific method in his ordinary work.

The fact is that, though they are only too scarce, one can easily find both newspapers and newspaper men who possess as keen a perception of the eternal beauty of truth, and are animated by as lively a sense of responsibility to the public, as the average professional scientist. A wider recognition of this fact is needed, not merely in the interests of justice, but in those of science also.

Now the number of persons who read technical reports and periodicals—astronomical, electrical, engineering, medical, psychological, and so on—is only about one-hundredth, or only a thousandth, as great as those who see only the daily papers. The vast majority of people could not understand this literature, anyhow. It needs interpretation and adaptation to popular comprehension. The daily paper, therefore, forms a highly important medium of communication between the original investigator and the general public; and, for better or for worse, it will always perform that function. If, then, men who are themselves engaged in scientific researches of value to mankind, or are identified with institutions devoted to the deposit of scientific collections, would abstain from aiding papers that are notoriously reckless, and encourage by word and definite favors those which treat scientific matters intelligently, conscientiously and accurately, they would promote the diffusion of knowledge to a far greater degree than is now possible, and check the very abuses of which Professor Hyslop complains. Not merely in their comments, but also in their active policy, professional scientists can do much to reform 'newspaper science' if they will.

Amateur.

New York, January 5, 1900.

BOTANICAL NOTES.

A NEW SOUTHERN FLORA.

Professor Tracy has prepared a little book under the title of 'Flora of the Southern United States' for use with Bergen's 'Elements of Botany' (Ginn & Company), which is intended to be used as an elementary manual for field work in systematic botany in the public schools.