

past twenty years, in America or elsewhere, except the subdivision was based on the fossil contents.

There is not space in a scientific journal to review the ponderous volumes of the Survey, but I do not discover any attempt to make a geological survey of the United States or of the Territories; but instead thereof, the volumes contain theoretical discussions about the glacial period, that have no economical value, and which period, I think, is fiction, and they contain a vast amount of extremely localized and temporary matter of no general utility. This is well illustrated in the Seventh Report now before me. One of the principle articles is entitled "The Geology of the Head of Chesapeake Bay." It covers more than one hundred pages, has sixteen plates and six additional illustrations. The author says:

"The investigation here recorded was made under the joint auspices of the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Fish Commission, for the purpose of determining the probable success of an artesian boring at Fishing Battery station, off Spesutie Island, five miles south of Havre de Grace, Md., and near the head of Chesapeake Bay. The field-study occupied a portion of July, 1886."

The article is so free from geology and so extremely localized that I have been unable to discover the object in publishing it in the U. S. Geological Survey. The author, however, says, on page 564, under the head of "The Geologic Exposures":

"So variable are the different formations of the region in the several exposures that the differences exceed the resemblances, and, since the local diversities are due to local causes the characteristics of the formations cannot be elucidated by generalized description with sufficient minuteness for the purposes of the local student."

Another one of the principal articles, hugely illustrated, in the Seventh Report is entitled "Report on the Geology of Martha's Vineyard." I have looked through it, in vain, to find an item of geological information. It would certainly take the cake in any walk where pretension and nothingness were to be the winners.

In conclusion, I am opposed to the continuation of the U. S. Geological Survey, under the present management, because, I think, it is not prosecuted in the interest of science but quite the contrary, and because the publications now hang, like a millstone, around the neck of progress, in the dissemination of geological information among the people.

S. A. MILLER.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 23.

#### Monument to Hirn.

In a letter, just received from Mon. G. Kern, President of the Commission established for the purpose of securing the erection of a monument to his late distinguished friend and colleague, Mon. G. A. Hirn, the great engineer-physicist and investigator, on account of which subscriptions have been received in considerable amounts, both in Europe and America, he writes as follows:—

"The monument proposed for Hirn, and of which the plans were made by Mon. Bartholdi, will consist of a bronze figure, seated, with pedestal, and will cost about 30,000 M. To complete the subscription, there still remains a balance of 10,000 M., and I have knocked at the doors of many friends and acquaintances of Hirn, finding welcome, in Paris and in Bordeaux; I anticipate full success."

It has been the hope of the gentlemen engaged in this enterprise that a fair proportion of the subscription might come from citizens of the United States of North America, among whom Mon. Hirn counted some personal friends, and many warm admirers. He was always peculiarly appreciative of such good will and such praise of his work as came to him from this side of the Atlantic. Those who desire the privilege of contributing may send their drafts on Paris to the "Comité-Hirn," I Obstmarkt, Marché aux Fruits, I, Colmar, Alsace.

Very respectfully yours,

R. H. THURSTON.

Ithica, N. Y., Jan. 25, 1893.

#### CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

##### Society of Natural History, Boston.

Feb. 1.—H. L. Harris, A New Instance of the Capture of Streams; W. T. Sedgwick, The Natural History of Disease.

##### Publications Received at Editor's Office.

- ANDERSON, W. Mineral Springs and Health Resorts of California. San Francisco, The Bancroft Co. 384 p. 8°. \$1.50.
- BEECHER, H. W. Bible Studies. Edited by J. R. Howard. New York, Fords, Howard & Hurlbert. 438 p. 12°. \$1.50.
- DANA, EDWARD SALISBURY. Catalogue of American Localities of Minerals. New York, Wiley. 51 p. 8°. \$1.
- DE MOTTE, J. B. The Secret of Character Building. Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. 130 p. 12°. \$1.
- DREYSPRING, A. French Reader on the Cumulative Method. New York, Amer. Book Co. 171 p. 12°. 75 cents.
- HOLMAN, SILAS W. Discussion of the Precision of Measurements. New York, Wiley. 176 p. 8°. \$2.
- HOREY, HENRY T. Theory of Structures and Strength of Materials. New York, Wiley. 817 p. 8°. \$7.50.
- HUTCHINSON, H. N. Extinct Monsters. New York, Appleton. 254 p. 8°.
- PARSBALL, N. C. Proofs of Evolution. 5th 1000. Chicago, Chas. H. Kerr & Co. 70 p. 12°.
- PRET, S. D. The Mound Builders: Their Works and Relics. Chicago, The American Antiquarian. 376 p. 8°.
- SHALER, N. S. The Interpretation of Nature. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 305 p. 12°. \$1.25.
- STYX. Hermetic Philosophy. Vol. III. Can Virtue and Science be taught? Philadelphia, Lippincott. 221 p. 12°. \$1.25.
- SYKES, JOHN F. J. Public Health Problems. New York, Scribner. 370 p. 12°. \$1.25.
- THE SONG BUDGET, The Song Century, The Song Patriot. Syracuse, C. W. Bardeen. 12°. 50 cents.
- WEYL, THEO. The Coal-Tar Colors. A Sanitary and Medico-Legal Investigation. Preface by Professor Sell. Tr. by H. Leffmann. Philadelphia, Blakiston. 154 p. 8°. \$1.50.
- WHITBY, BEATRICE. In the Suntime of Her Youth. New York, Appleton. 365 p. 12°. 50 cents. Paper.

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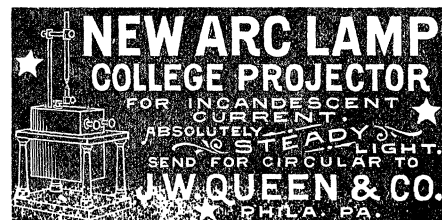
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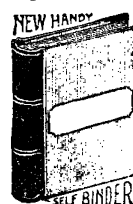
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