

is then characterized by eleven antennal segments instead of the adult number, seventeen; and is comparatively small in size and pale in color. Large numbers of adults of the type *C. viridis* show striking variations in the armature of the swimming feet. Similar antennæ and fifth feet are correlated in one type of individual with the swimming feet of *C. parvus*; in another form with *C. viridis* (var. *Americanus*) and in another with *C. brevispinosus*. Occasionally serial and lateral variations combine the swimming feet of *C. parvus* and *C. brevispinosus* in the same individual. These facts, together with the frequent replacement of setæ by spines, the constant association of the forms and their occasional sequence in small aquaria, indicate a very close relationship among the species observed and suggest that they are transitional forms in the development of a single species.

Dr. Wheeler described the structure and ecology of many 'ants that raise mushrooms,' giving special attention to the species of Texas and Mexico, where his own studies of these ants were made. Numerous lantern slides illustrated this lecture; and at its close many slides from photographs of ants kept in captivity by Miss Adele M. Fielde were exhibited.

M. A. BIGELOW,
Secretary.

THE ELISHA MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

THE 158th meeting of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society of the University of North Carolina was held in the chemical lecture room, Tuesday evening, February 14, at 7:30 o'clock. The program was as follows:

DR. R. H. WHITEHEAD: 'Mode of Infection of the Hookworm Disease.'

PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD HENDERSON: 'The Mystic Hexagram.'

PROFESSOR C. L. RAPER: 'Statistics of Cotton Manufacturing in the South.'

ALVIN S. WHEELER,
Recording Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

MONT PELÉE SIVE MONT PELÉ.

It is a curious coincidence that geologists who affect the title of 'Mont Pelé' in prefer-

ence to the formal appellation of Pelée, should have associated, so far as identity of names is concerned, the tutelary divinity of volcanoes amongst ancient Hawaiians with the island of Martinique. We are assured, however, that the innovation has not been made with the idea of reverencing the goddess, but out of regard for rules of gender, Pelée being considered an adjective adopted from the Spanish, as one contributor to SCIENCE has it, or from Carib speech, according to another. Admitting either of these explanations, it is easy to see that Spaniards or Caribs must also have had a hand in christening an island by the same name off the coast of France.

In reality, Pelée has continued to be a word of good and regular standing in the French language since the time of the Norman Conquest, the expression of 'une verge pelée' occurring in the 'Chanson de Roland,' supposed to be of the early eleventh century. Strictly speaking, the word is a past participle of *peler*, which, with the co-derivatives of *pelare* in Italian, *pelar* in Spanish, and *peel* in English, comes from the Latin *pilare*. Now it happens that large numbers of past participles have become preserved in modern French as substantives, some masculine, but the majority feminine—as for instance, *allée*, *mêlée*, *gelée*, *fumée*, etc. And we have the authority of La Fontaine, in his 'Fables,' to say nothing of colloquial usage both in French and German, for considering the word meaning bald as a noun.

Applying this principle to place names, Pelée may be regarded as having acquired the force of a substantive, like our own 'Rockies.' It is true that Rocky and Bald may connote the character of mountains, but the adjective force of these words becomes lost when they stand for geographical appellations. Indeed, names like Big Sandy, Vera Cruz, Jungfrau, Sacré-Cœur, and so on, are nouns pure and simple. By treating Pelée as a noun, we shall have the advantage of an invariable termination, thus doing away with a dual orthography, or the possibility of a triple, in case we were writing in German.

As regards the question of gender it may be remarked that in the case of geographical