

is far too much slipshod stuff published now, and a word with a more experienced friend or with an intelligent editor would bring much of this sloppy, half-baked material into line with more mature writing, and render comparison and correlation much easier. The author does not deal with the somewhat threadbare subject of "the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake", which may be a purely selfish proceeding. At the present day it is more generally recognized that work of all kinds should be for the benefit of the community, and that the highest forms of research, like those of Pasteur and Koch, are such as are calculated to ameliorate the sufferings of humanity.

#### VII.—BRIEF NOTICES.

1. FOSSIL INSECTS.—Dr. Anton Handlirsch, who has so elaborately worked out the history of fossil insects, is now actively at work describing the various new forms discovered in the rocks. We have before us a collection of his recent papers, and call attention to the following. "Ueber die fossilen Insekten aus dem mittleren Oberkarbon des Königreiches Sachsen" (*Mitth. Geol. Ges. Wien*, 1909, ii). These consist of Blattoid wings, and include a new genus, *Apophthegma*. Another Blattoid, *Pedinoblatta*, n.g., from the Franken Trias, appears in *Abh. Nat. Ges. Nürnberg*, 1910, xviii, the wing being carefully drawn and figured; while yet a third protorthopteron, *Chalcorychus Walchia*, is described in the author's "Ein neues fossiles Insekt aus den permischen Kupferschiefern der Kargala-Steppe (Orenburg)" (*Mitth. Geol. Ges. Wien*, 1909, ii).

Dr. Handlirsch discusses the "frühjurassischer Copeognathen und Coniopterygiden" and "das Schicksal der Archipsylliden" in the *Zoologischen Anzeiger*, 1909, xxxv, and in the number of the same publication for May 10, 1910, gives a brief note—"Ueber die Phylogenie und Klassifikation der Mecopteren." A full report of his lecture "Ueber Relikten" will be found in the *Verh. k.k. zool.-botan. Ges. Wien*, 1909, a lecture which dealt with many other forms besides insects; and a criticism of M. Fernand Meunier and his work on fossil insects, privately printed in 1906, may be lost sight of if not mentioned in these pages.

2. CATALOGUE OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF GEOLOGICAL SUBJECTS, prepared by the Geological Survey and Museum. 8vo; pp. 35. London, 1910. Price 6d.—During the past six years the Geological Survey has taken photographs of objects of geological interest in the areas of England and Wales that were being re-surveyed on the 6 inch maps. In Scotland photographic work was commenced by the Geological Survey in 1890, and a catalogue of the photographs preserved in the Edinburgh Office is promised. In the present pamphlet 800 subjects are recorded, and they relate mostly to Cornwall, Devon, Pembroke, and Carmarthen. They include quarry sections, tors, raised beaches, stream-tin works, dykes, pillow-lavas, sand-dunes, crush-breccia, china-clay works, cleavage, contorted strata, etc. It is noted by the Director, Dr. Teall, that negatives, prints, lantern slides, or bromide

enlargements can be obtained of any of the photographs on application being made at the Geological Survey Office in Jermyn Street, where prints may be seen.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, vol. xix, for 1908, dated 1909.—This volume contains a full report on the coal deposits of the State by Mr. Henry Hinds, and a history of the coal-mining, which dates back to about 1840, by Mr. J. H. Lees. The peat deposits of Iowa are described by Mr. S. W. Beyer. Analyses of both coals and peat, also bibliographies of these subjects, are given.

4. THE QUALITY OF SURFACE WATERS IN THE UNITED STATES.—This important subject is dealt with by Mr. Dole (Water Supply Paper, No. 236, of the U.S. Geol. Survey, 1909) in a work of which part i contains the results of over 5000 mineral analyses of water from the principal rivers of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Daily samples of water from nearly 200 stations were collected for a year, united in sets of ten consecutive samples from the same stream and station, and the composite was then subjected to analysis. The analyses, giving as they do the average composition of the waters, the fluctuations of composition from day to day, and information regarding change of water-level wherever available, form the most complete collection of data regarding the quality of American rivers that has ever been published. They are on this account particularly valuable to railroad engineers and to managers of industrial plants and waterworks.

## REPORTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*May 25, 1910.* — Professor W. W. Watts, Sc.D., M.Sc., F.R.S.,  
President, in the Chair.

The Address which it is proposed to submit to His Majesty the King, on behalf of the President, Council, and Fellows, was read as follows, and the terms thereof were approved :—

“ TO THE KING’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

“ We, Your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, the President, Council, and Fellows of the Geological Society of London, humbly beg leave to offer to Your Majesty our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy in the great and sudden sorrow which has fallen upon you, and most respectfully to express the grief that we, in common with all Your Majesty’s subjects, feel at the great loss which has afflicted the Nation and the Empire in the tragic death of our late beloved and revered Sovereign King Edward VII, in the full vigour of his services for the welfare of humanity and the peace of the world.

“ In the depth of our sorrow we find comfort in the assurance that the sceptre of our wise King passes into the hands of one who will keep ever before him the high destiny of the Nation, and we venture humbly to offer our fervent congratulations to Your Majesty on your accession to the Throne, which, under the sway of your ancestors, has become the greatest in the world.

“ We trust that the knowledge of the mineral structure of the earth, for a century