

group. Besides those terpenes which have the ring-structure in the molecule, there are substances which have long chains of carbon atoms. Apparently such compounds should be classified with fatty compounds, but so closely do they resemble the terpenes in their properties and chemical behavior that they are placed with them instead. Citral or geranial, an aldehyde found in largest quantity in oil of lemon-grass, is such a substance. Citral is of importance because it is the starting-point in the synthesis of ionone, the artificial violet perfume. The wonderful progress in our knowledge of the terpenes and of their derivatives is the work of scarcely more than ten or fifteen years at the most. There is great activity still, and among those chemists who have taken a prominent part in the labor should be mentioned Wallach, Baeyer and Tiemann.

Six persons were elected active members of the Academy.

WILLIAM TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

At the meeting of Torrey Botanical Club on March 13, 1900, a paper was read by Dr. P. A. Rydberg, on the 'Phytogeography of Montana.' He divided Montana into three regions, the Great Plains, constituting about one-half of the State, and the sub-Alpine and the Alpine regions, the last constituting those isolated peaks which exceed 9000 feet. The characteristic plant-coverings of each region, termed formations, were classed under the usual groups as Xerophytic, Mesophytic, Hydrophytic, and Halophytic, which were fully discussed.

Dr. Rydberg's paper was followed by remarks by Judge Brown on the beauty of the mountain flora, and by Dr. Britton on the Dodge expedition of 1897, of which the paper is a result. Dr. Rydberg said in answer to Dr. Underwood that the Montana flora extends but little westward of the State. Dr. Underwood referred to the interest attaching to any possible influence of hot springs upon the flowering-time of plants growing near, and called attention to the very early flowering of *Ranunculus Cymbalaria* along ditches supplied

with hot water baths near Syracuse, New York.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

THE 322d meeting was held on Saturday, April 21st. L. O. Howard exhibited, with explanatory remarks, 'Some New Illustrations of Insects,' comprising series illustrating the different genera of mosquitoes, the species of flies presumably connected with the carriage of germs of diseases of the intestinal tract, and of fig caprification in California.

F. W. True spoke of 'The Newfoundland Whale Fishery,' his remarks being illustrated by lantern slides. The fishery for finback whales carried on at Snook's Arm, Notre Dame Bay was described in some detail, the speaker stating that a small, swift steamer was employed which cruised in the adjacent waters where the whales were taken by means of a harpoon gun. After being killed the whales were towed to the harbor and by the use of a steam winch hauled out upon an inclined plane where the blubber was rapidly removed.

F. A. LUCAS.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OFFICIAL SPELLING OF PORTO RICO.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE:—Some time since there appeared in your paper a contribution from a distinguished Washington geographer to the effect that President McKinley had issued an order that the name of the island of Porto Rico should be spelled 'Puerto' Rico. There likewise appeared in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1899, an anonymous personal communication stating in effect that I was the only government official who adhered to the form Puerto Rico.

I beg to inform you that in an Act of Congress passed April 11th and signed by the President of the United States, April 12, 1900, 'to provide revenues and a civil government for Porto Rico,' the word Puerto was stricken out wherever it occurred and *Porto* substituted therefore. The President's signature to this bill and the statutory act of Congress settles the spelling of the name of the island. Puerto

Rico is now a thing of the past, and like all unpronounceable foreign words has sacrificed its life to the dictum of the law of the least effort. It was never used by the American or English people and may now be laid upon the shelf with Nuevo Mejico, Nouvelle Orleans and others of their kind.

In determining this form of the word the Congress has followed the undoubted usage of the English language for 300 years and scotched an effort to fix upon our people and language a name and a principle which were never accepted by them.

ROB'T T. HILL.

LINGUISTIC FAMILIES IN MEXICO.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE:—In the *American Anthropologist* (N. S., II., 63-65), I have brought Pimentel's list of linguistic families in Mexico into harmony with the scheme of the Bureau of American Ethnology. It occurs to me that it will post the ethnology of the Republic up to date to add the names of families not mentioned by Pimentel, and to spell them in accordance with Major Powell's scheme for North America. Then families, language names, and tribal names will not be confounded. For example, the *Mayas* or *Maya* people, speak the *Maya* language, of the *Mayan* family. The *Mangués*, speak the *Mangué* language, belonging to the *Chiapanecan* family.

PIMENTEL'S LIST.

LIST PROPOSED.

Apache.	Athapascan
Chontal (Oaxaca.)	Zapotecan or Tequistlatecan
Guaicura y Cochimi-Laimon	Yuman
Huave	Huavan
Malalzingao Pirinda	Otomian
Maya-Quiché	Mayan
Mexicana	Nahuatlan*
Mixteca-Zapoteca	Zapotecan
Otomies	Otomian
Seri	Serian
Sonorense Ópata-Pima	Piman, or Nahuatlan
Tarasca	Tarascan
Totonaca	Totonacan
Zoque-Mixé	Zoquean.

NOT IN PIMENTEL'S LIST.

Chiapanecan, in Chiapas.
 Chinantecan in Oaxaca.
 Keresan or Kerean, in Chihuahua.
 Tequistlatecan, Triquis and Chontals in Oaxaca.
 Guaicura and Matlalzinga may prove to be families.

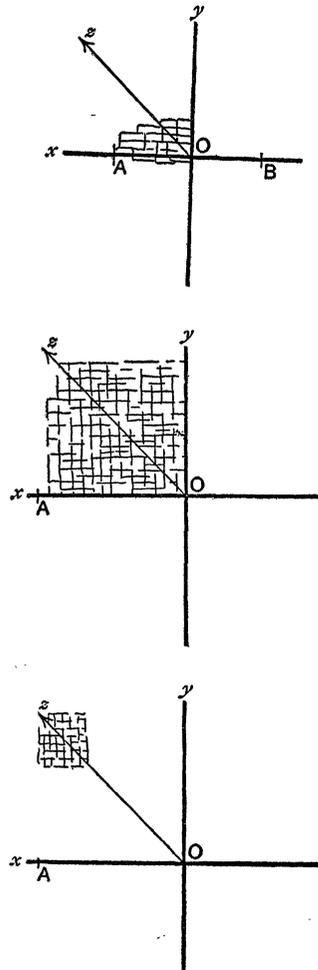
O. T. MASON.

* Professor Payne in History of America constantly uses Nahuatlacan.

HEMIANOPSIA IN MIGRAINE.

THE visual symptoms frequently occurring in migraine ('sick-headache,' so-called) have been described (see *e. g.*, Wood's *Reference Hand-book of the Medical Science, sub verbo*) by

FIGS. 1, 2, 3.



Optical symptom in migraine (Figs. 1-2). *O*, point of fixation in center of left hand held laterally 18 in. before the eyes. *AB*, length of hand. *OZ*, direction of development of symptom (hemianopsia in left upper quadrant). Fig. 1. Initial stage, true size (about), only symptom of any sort present. Fig. 2. Maximum stage, accompanied by massive headache, and beginning of nausea. Fig. 3. Final stage (before rapid fading), violent, more localized headache and nausea. (In Figs. 2 and 3, *AO*, equals *AB* of Fig. 1.) Duration of symptom 1 to 1½ hour. Symptom is invariably for recurrent attacks, and for monocular (either eye) and binocular vision; and has a fluttering wavy movement which cannot be figured.