

short distance away and at a lower elevation were very much smaller. It would appear from this that the decrease in size towards the north is not constant and cannot be altogether dependent on climatic conditions.

The light-coloured variety of the Mountain Sheep ranges along the Rocky Mountains from the Arctic Ocean southward, so I am informed, to the great break in the chain through which the Liard flows (Lat. $59^{\circ} 30'$ N.). It is also found on all the higher mountain ranges of Alaska and the adjacent part of the North-Western Territory of Canada. It is not found east of the Rocky Mountains nor does it occur, according to the information I obtained from fur traders and others, in the continuation of the Rocky Mountains south of the Liard.

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NATURAL SCIENCE IN ILLINOIS.

The opening of the Natural History Hall of the University of Illinois, at Champaign, Ill., on 16th November last, shows the high appreciation of Economic Science in the Western States, where the "making of money" is supposed to be the sole consideration of all classes of society.

The building and equipment of such an Institution as is described below, proves that if even the most abstruse scientific investigations can only be shown to be of public utility, the necessary money will be forthcoming for their prosecution. This Natural History Hall may be considered to be a monument to Prof. S. A. Forbes, the eminent State Entomologist of Illinois, to whose unceasing and well directed efforts its completion is so largely due. Prof. Forbes is too well known as an accomplished investigator in various fields of Natural History, to make a detailed notice of his work necessary here. He was appointed to his present position in 1882, and, in addition to his official reports as State Entomologist, has issued many valuable papers in scientific publications. His studies of the food habits of birds and fishes are of the highest merit. He is now engaged in the preparation of the second volume of the Ornithology of Illinois. Part I, already issued, is a Descriptive Catalogue (520 pages, 33 plates), by Dr. Robert Ridgway; Part II, Economic Ornithology, will be the work of Prof. Forbes. These volumes are the first of a series on the Zoology and Cryptogamic Botany

of the State of Illinois, authorized and provided for by the Legislature in 1885, and will be prepared under the direction of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History.

In the autumn of 1890, the Editor had an opportunity of visiting Champaign, and was kindly shown over the entomological and botanical laboratories by Professors Forbes and Burrill, and is therefore able to form some idea of the excellent methods of work adopted at the University of Illinois, in the branches of research over which these gentlemen preside.

Having no doubt that some account of this splendid addition to the facilities for the prosecution of good natural history work in North America would be of interest to our readers, the editor wrote to Prof. Forbes, asking him to give some data concerning the Institution itself, and the dedicatory ceremonies. In reply to this request the following letter was received :

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS, U.S.A., November 18th, 1892.

Your kind note and the copy of the "OTTAWA NATURALIST" were duly received and especially appreciated. I am pleased that you thought of making some mention of our new building, and take pleasure in giving you such particulars as it seems to me you are most likely to want to use.

The building was put up at an expense of \$70,000, exclusive of furnishing, appropriated by the State Legislature. It is 134 feet in length by 94 in width, and three stories in height above the basement. There is a spacious, well-lighted central hall, around which on all sides are situated laboratories, lecture rooms, closets, store rooms, and dark rooms, a full series for each department.

As an example of the arrangement and equipment of this building a general description may be given of the provision for zoology. The students' laboratories in this department are three in number on the first floor—for elementary, advanced, and postgraduate work respectively. In the first, table room is given for thirty students: in the second, for sixteen; and in the last, for ten. Adjoining the first is the private laboratory of the Assistant in Zoology, and next this the lecture room. Directly over the Assistant's laboratory is that of the Professor

of Zoology, and over the postgraduate laboratory is his private office. On this second floor are also the rooms of the State Laboratory of Natural History, consisting of an assistant's laboratory 21 x 36 feet, a collection room of the same size, a library 23 x 32, and a room for the artist of the establishment. In the basement of the building is a very large store room for the department, and an animal room to be fitted with aquaria, animal cages, and the like.

The zoological laboratories are furnished with an abundance of microscopes, and with microscopic apparatus, including first-class microtomes, an incubator, and an imbedding apparatus. A full equipment for field work in the various departments is at the service of the students, and the library and collections of the State Entomologist and the State Laboratory of Natural History are also made accessible to them under suitable restrictions.

On the third floor are the zoological collection rooms, containing the material required to illustrate the work of the department.

Intimately associated with the zoological department of the University, and practically merged with it since 1884, is the work of the Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History and that of the office of the State Entomologist of Illinois; the former consisting essentially of a systematic and thorough-going investigation of the zoology and cryptogamic botany of the State, the results of which are in process of publication by the legislature, and the latter of entomological investigations whose main end is economic, but whose product is largely scientific and educational. Both these departments of work, although supported by appropriations independent of those of the University, are directed by the head of the zoological department of University instruction, and provided with quarters and facilities in Natural History Hall.

Our dedicatory exercises were completely successful. Dr Jordan did us the very great kindness to come all the way from California for the express purpose of deliverieg the principal address, and Professors Trelease and Winchell also contributed very interesting papers. There was a considerable attendance of scientific men of this and adjoining States, and others would have been here had we been able to announce

our programme earlier. The dedicatory exercises proper were followed in the evening by a lecture by Dr. Jordan on "Agassiz and his Influence," and a Faculty reception to the invited guests.

The addresses and some accompanying papers will be published as soon as practicable, for general distribution, in a small illustrated book.

Sincerely yours,

S. A. FORBES.

The following is a list of some of the papers read on the above occasion :—

"Development of the Natural History Departments"—Prof. T. J. Burrill.

"Science and the American College"—Dr. D. S. Jordan.

"The Laboratory as a necessary part of the College equipment"—Prof. Wm. Trelease.

"The methods of Geology"—Prof. N. H. Winchell.

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BOOK NOTICES.

I. GRASSES OF THE PACIFIC SLOPE, including Alaska and the adjacent Islands.

Part I. By DR. GEORGE VASEY.

The above volume, consisting of 52 exquisite plates, has just been issued as Bulletin 13 of the United States Division of Botany. In the introduction, Dr. Vasey says: "The grasses which are known to grow on the Pacific slope of the United States, including Alaska, number not far from 200 species. These are all specifically distinct from the grasses growing east of the Mississippi River, and also mainly distinct from the grasses of the plains and of the desert, except in that part of California which partakes of the desert flora. A considerable number of the grasses of the mountain regions of California, Oregon and Washington reappear in the mountains of Idaho, Montana, and the interior of the Rockies." In this Bulletin are figured for the first time, and described, several grasses conspicuous in size and apparent utility. This fact gives the work great value, not only to botanists, but also to the large number in the west, now interested in the raising of domestic animals.



Forbes, Stephen Alfred. 1892. "Natural Science in Illinois." *The Ottawa naturalist* 6(8), 132–135.

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