SELECTIONS

THE USE OF PALEONTOLOGY.

A Branch of Science About Which Comparatively Little Is Known.

"What is the use of paleontology?" The question has been asked in congress by representatives, who freely expressed the opinion that this branch of science was of no value whatever. Regarding it from this point of view, they proposed to give no money to it in the appropriation for the geological survey. In order to get a word or two on the other side of the question, a writer asked Major J. W. Powell to explain what paleontology was good for.

"To begin with," said he, "all the sedimentary rocks of the world are characterized by certain fossils of animals and plants which they contain. The rocks are classified by their fossils, which indicate the age of the formation in each case and the age at which it was laid down. Thus the study of the rocks is the study of the fossils, and this we call that study 'paleontology.' By its aid we learn the history of this earth on which we live—the details of its building and the story of the development of life upon it.

"Paleontology is the basis of geological science. It has elevated mining from mere guesswork to the status of exact knowledge. All the work of the mining engineers of the world depends upon it. The most valuable minerals are sought for and discovered by the study of the rock formations, which can only be traced by their fossils. All the coal in the United States is mined by such means. Many beds of iron are in like manner related to the sedimentary rocks. All the lead of Iowa and Missouri and the silver of Colorado are obtained from rocks whose bearing veins and lodes are traced by the fossils they contain. Thus you will perceive that in great measure the riches of the earth are derived from and civilization depends upon paleontology.

"Paleontology is recognized as the basis of all the geological surveys of Europe and Asia. Next after paleontology in point of importance comes the study of the chemistry of rocks, and after chemistry 'lithology'—that is, the study of the crystals of rocks—is to be considered. Incidentally an interesting and valuable contribution to science is afforded by studying the animals and plants whose remains are found preserved in the rocks. They tell the story of the life history of the world. However, that is only a matter of secondary importance. Let me add that every state geological survey thus far made, as well as every geological survey executed by the United States, has been based on paleontology."

"A secondary end of paleontology is the elucidation of the past history of life upon the earth," said Professor W. J. McGee. "The applications and uses of the knowledge thus acquired are many and varied, and yet they pertain chiefly to pure science, which is now, as it ever has been, the foundation for the future. It is the knowledge of today that enables men not only to predict but to control the events of tomorrow. The simple experiments and speculations of a Watt produced the steam locomotive of a later generation; the electrical toys of a Morse and a Henry yielded the telegraph, the telephone and the electric motor.

"Thus far the cultivation of paleontology as a pure science has not yielded its fullest fruit except in its application as the basis for the classification of the rocks of the earth, but there are wanting conservative students who hold that the study of the course of life in the past will indicate the safest direction for future guidance, with respect not only to domestic animals and plants yielding food supplies, but even for man himself."—Washington Star.

What the Age Demands.

There has been a good deal said about the art of growing old gracefully, but there has perhaps not been enough said about the art of not growing old at all. It is all very well to come to a dignified and gracious antiquity, so that one moves in a sort of rarefied atmosphere and is handled tenderly as a precious relic; but unhappily the age is not of a temper which encourages this sort of thing. Age is supplanted by the new age, and it is impossible to take the place of a relic unless a curator is to be found to take care of it. The tendering of reverence to age is so much out of fashion that to do the graceful old age act in these days is much like trying to play Hamlet supported by a company which insists upon giving "Humpty Dumpty" instead. The leading role simply becomes ridiculous and there is an end of the whole thing.

There is a real youthfulness and a spurious one, and the age being satirical withal, it is well nigh impossible to palm off the one for the other. The children of today are very keen to detect the difference between the real and the spurious, and it is of no use to offer them anything but the genuine article. The rising generation is pitiless and does not take the smallest pains to cover its contempt for this evasion of the doom of advancing age. It demands the genuine thing and it scoffs openly at anything else.—Boston Courier.

A Clever Summer Girl.

Girls as a rule have an aversion for mathematics, but occasionally one is found who is able to distinguish herself in this difficult study. Old Orchard beach has just such a girl this year and she applies her knowledge in a most practical and interesting manner. With the knowledge of how much a young man weighs on a swing, she can tell at a glance how long his arm is, how much pressure it can give to the square inch, how slowly he can walk on a lovely moonlight evening, how strong a hammock will be to support the combined weights, the length of time he will linger in dancing, the power of his stroke in swimming and many other useful facts.—Bangor Commercial.

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where all work is done by white labor and in the most prompt manner. COLONEL J. OLMSTED. Liberty Street

Some Discoveries and Inventions.

The first patent for sewing machines was granted to Weisenthal, in England, in 1755.

The steam engine was known 130 B. C. The first perfect engine was made by Watt, 1764.

Calico printing was first executed by the Dutch in 1670; first made in England in 1771.

The bagpipe, the favorite Scotch and Italian instrument, was invented in Greece 200 B. C.

Window glass was used in Italy in churches in the Eleventh century, in English houses in 1557.

Gas was first made from coal by Clayton, 1739, and was first used for illumination in 1792.

Paper from rags was made in A. D. 1000, the first linen paper in 1319, and from straw in 1800.

Chain shot were the invention of De Witt, the great Dutch admiral. They were first used in 1666.

Watches were first made in Nuremburg in 1477, and were called "Nuremburg animated eggs."

Air brakes were invented by George Westinghouse in 1869, and subsequently often improved.

The daguerreotype was invented by Daguerre, and the first miniatures were produced in 1838.

Playing cards were invented for the amusement of the crazy king, Charles VI, of France, in 1380.

Church bells were made by Paulinus, an Italian bishop, to drive away demons, about 400 A. D.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Playgrounds of Bower Birds.

In Lumholtz's "Among Cannibals" a playground of the bower bird is described. He says:

On the top of the mountain I heard in the dense scrubs the loud and unceasing voice of a bird. I carefully approached it, sat on the ground and shot it. It was one of the bower birds, with a gray and very modest plumage and of the size of a thrush. As I picked up the bird my attention was drawn to a fresh covering of green leaves on the black soil. This was the bird's place of amusement, which beneath the dense scrubs formed a square about a yard each way, the ground having been cleared of leaves and rubbish.

On this neatly cleared spot the bird had laid large, fresh leaves, one by the side of the other, with considerable regularity, and close by the sat singing, apparently extremely happy over his work. As soon as the leaves decay they are replaced by new ones. On this excursion I saw three such places of amusement all near each other and all had fresh leaves from the same kind of trees, while a large heap of dry, withered leaves was lying close by. It seems that the bird scrapes away the mold every time it changes the leaves, so as to have a dark background, against which the green leaves make a better appearance. Can any one doubt that this bird has the sense of beauty?

Bees Are Much Like Human Beings.

Bees do not appear to practice military marauding on a grand scale, like ants, but many of them shamelessly live upon petty larcenies committed individually on foreign hives. They may be seen slyly trying to cheat the vigilance of the sentinels, and slip into their neighbors' cities that they may steal and gorge themselves with the provisions stored there. Sometimes they even commit highway robbery, lying in wait in small bands near a strange hive for the return of laden bees and plundering them on the road.

The sentinels of the hive, on their side, keep off foreign bees, denying them entrance into the city, and if exasperated by attempts at robbery chase the prowlers and try to kill them. In this bees imitate a great many human societies, where robbery has seemed the greatest of crimes, expiable only by death.—"Property; Its Origin and Development."

Vegetarianism and Meat Eating.

A curious examination of the hearts of the vegetarian and the meat eater shows that the number of beats to the former are fifty-eight to the minute, and of the latter seventy-five. In twenty-four hours this means a difference of 20,000 beats. From this it is concluded that in the summer time the vegetarian has the advantage, for he can keep cooler and in better health under the reduced number of heart beats. But in a cold climate, or in our own winters, the heat generated by such slow heart beats would hardly be sufficient to make life strong and resisting enough to fight the cold. The existing must be true verdict that one must reach is that the vegetarian is better off in the summer and the meat eater stronger in the winter.—Yankee Blade.

A Nest of Wild Oats.

It was while in the river valley that I saw on a friend's house wall what was to me one of the most attractive of all species of oriole architecture—a nest woven from wild oats. Dependent from streamers of this, the bird had taken advantage of this lovely material to form an artistic little fancy basket, the work of human ingenuity, so perfect was its construction. Yet there had been no attempt at alteration since it was borne from the limb of the tree where found swinging, except that now we had none.—San Diego Cor. Christian Union.

An Alarm Attachment.

In Liberia there is neither clock nor timepiece of any sort, the reckoning of time being guided entirely by the sun's movement and position. The sun in Liberia rises at 6 a. m. and sets at 6 p. m. almost to the minute all the year round, and at noon it is vertically overhead.—Boston Herald.

Queer Food.

Among the people of Java cockchafers are a favorite food. Those admirable economists, the Chinese, eat the chrysalids of silkworms after the silk has been wound off them, frying them in butter or lard, adding the yolks of an egg or two, and seasoning with pepper, salt and vinegar.—Table.

The Next British Cabinet.

Although the British government is of the same form as that of the United States, being in fact the original of which the latter and all recent republican constitutions were framed, yet two features of it are very puzzling to Americans—the established church and the so called cabinet. The same day's dispatches which told us recently that Mr. Gladstone might "find it impossible to govern with his slender majority" gave us the names of the supposed members of his cabinet.

Mr. Gladstone is himself, of course, to be premier and first lord of the treasury; Lord Herschell, lord high chancellor; Earl Roseberry, foreign secretary; Sir William Vernon Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer; John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland; Lord Ripon, secretary of state for India, etc. All this seems rather premature in view of the fact that Mr. Gladstone's supposed majority is made up of such discordant elements that one or more sections of it may refuse to sustain him, and so the Tory cabinet may remain in power. The usual rule is, when a "government" is beaten, either by an adverse vote in the house of commons or a general election, it resigns at once. If not, a vote of "want of confidence" is passed and the queen calls on the leader of the triumphant party to "form a new government."

The truth is that the cabinet, which is "the government" for the time being, is not the creature of positive law, but of slow growth and custom. Down to the latter years of William III it was the regular thing for the head of one department to be a Whig, of another a Tory and of a third a "trimmer" and so on. Little by little, however, the custom grew up of having a privy council, composed only of those in close sympathy with each other and with the sovereign. Then the rule was established that all heads of departments should be in sympathy with the prime minister, and so the cabinet came into being. Nevertheless statesmen of great influence sometimes sit in the cabinet without holding office, and heads of important departments are frequently not members of the cabinet, so the number of members varies greatly.

When Victoria became queen—June 20, 1837—Lord Melbourne was premier. His "government" abolished the free constitution of Jamaica, was beaten thereon by the Tories and Sir Robert Peel was called but could not "form a government." Melbourne held on till the "opium war" was over, and then Peel took the helm. He carried a series of most praiseworthy measures in behalf of laborers in the factories and mines, suddenly changed the policy of the Tory party from protection to free trade and carried it through, but was beaten on a coercion bill for Ireland, and the Whigs came in again with Lord John Russell at the helm.

The Irish famine and famine clearances, "Chartism" and the commercial panic of 1847 weakened him, and in 1852 he was defeated on the militia question and the "Aberdeen coalition ministry" was formed. Lord Palmerston next had his innings, and then came Gladstone and the long rivalry between him and Disraeli. The practice of changing the chief officials and governmental policy every time the popular majority changes would seem very radical in America, but it works well in England.

The average length of the school year in all the public schools throughout the United States is 135.5 days. In the city schools it reaches 191.6 days. The national public school celebration of Columbus Day, Oct. 21, will give the 13,000,000 pupils in public schools an additional holiday this year, and possibly the average length of the school year may be one day less next year. But whatever be the loss resulting from the cessation of routine school duties for a single day, it will be amply compensated for. The day will be put to the highest educational use, and the prominence which will be given to our public schools will be a permanent benefit to that institution. The observance of so memorable an event will awaken an interest in history and stir the American people to protect, strengthen and perfect our public school system, upon which so much of future prosperity depends.

It is a matter of wonder to the slower thinkers of this country why woman, in this progressive age, should try to excel in man's sphere, when there are so many things in her own which a man could never do and which she might glory in. Mrs. Potter Palmer is a fin de siecle example of what a woman can do and do well and still be thoroughly feminine in a Paris dress. She possesses executive ability combined with tact, and results prove that she has the quality of management which makes her the peer of man without encroaching on his sphere.

Will Paderewski shorn of his hair be like Samson? So far as women are concerned it may have been a matter of self defense with him. Our English cousins were quite as demonstrative in their adoration as the American women, and at a recent concert, had it not been for the kindly offices of his manager, he would have been affectionately mobbed.

In London there are very few periodicals printed in foreign tongues. An English writer says he knows only of two German papers and one Spanish paper printed in that great city.

A Broken Reed, Indeed.

This, and no mistake, is the individual whose stamina has waned to such a low ebb for want of an efficient tonic, that he would certainly topple over and fracture something if a bulky subject such as fat wife, for instance were to lean upon him. Build up, ye lean pithless and strengthless with Hostetter's stomach bitters, which will enable you to eat and digest heartily, and thus acquire flesh and vigor. The fortress of life will speedily capitulate to the grim scythe-wielder, death, if you don't. Nervousness, sleeplessness, biliousness, constipation, malaria, rheumatic and kidney trouble are all conquerable by this superb restorative of health and vigor. In connection with the use of the bitters, it would be well for the debilitated invalid to study the wants of his enfeebled stomach with a view to the selection of the most digestible articles of diet.

Long Campaigns versus Short Ones.

There is a growing conviction in the United States that we have too much politics, and since the recent campaign in Great Britain many leaders of thought have declared that our campaigns should be greatly shortened. Just think of it! The Salisbury parliament was dissolved on June 28. The elections were ordered for the first three weeks of July, and the writs directed the assemblage of the new parliament on Aug. 4.

In less than six weeks the government of the United Kingdom is completely changed. The latest expressed will of the voters takes effect in a change of policy in less time than is employed in this country in selecting the delegates to a national convention. The campaign now in progress and already heated must grow hotter and hotter with the perfect day—four months of party warfare. Then, if a new man is elected, seventeen more weeks must pass before he takes the helm, and ordinarily a congress does not even convene till thirteen months after it is chosen. The inevitable result is that elections in this country degenerate into mere questions of money and endurance.

But there is another side to the question and a very important one. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and it is quite possible that if Americans did not maintain the habit of discussing political questions frequently there would be evil results. Most assuredly frequent elections make men more tolerant of political differences. Here, for instance, are two men who vote together in the spring elections (in village or township) and on opposite sides at state and national elections. They cannot afford to quarrel seriously.

The educational effect is also important. Go through the rural regions of any "close state" and you will observe that every scholarly young man is called into action early. The people feel that they have a sort of right to the services of the educated. The young student, the young teacher and the young lawyer are expected as a matter of course to "take the stump." The effect is excellent. So, take it all in all, there is no need to hurry in making a change.

Some writer has said, apropos of the joys of a picnic and the band accompaniment: "Who worries over the mortgage on the house while the band is playing 'Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay?'" Of course not; the evil of the present excludes all other woes.

The American hog has peacefully entered Denmark and is now very welcome in nearly all European countries.

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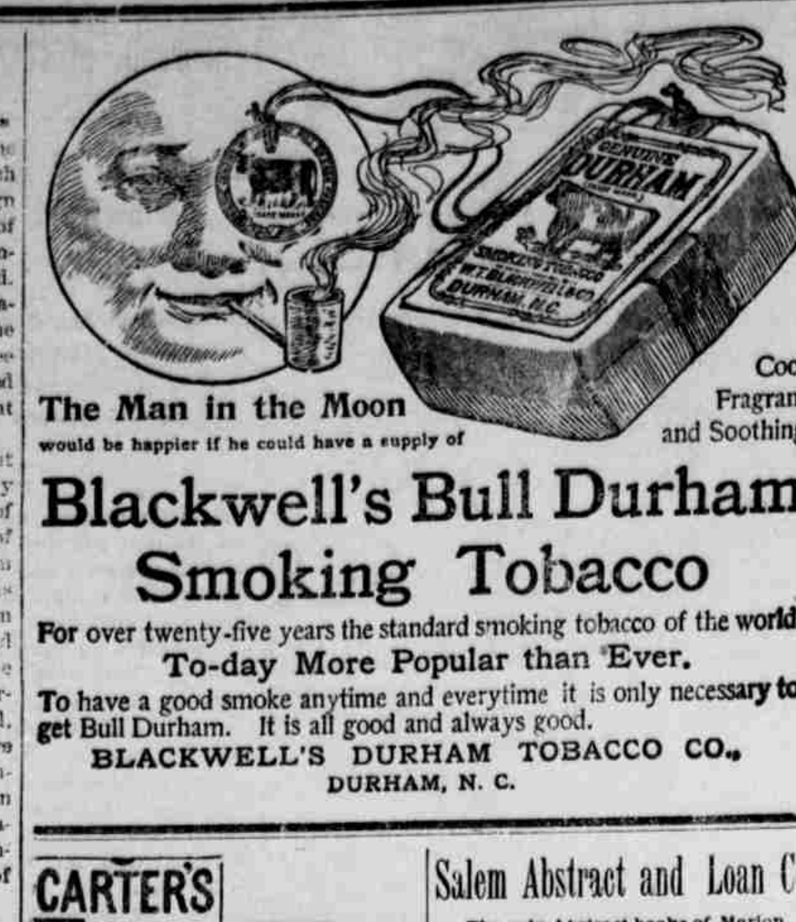

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ACHE

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL.—Services on Sabbath at 10:30 and 7:30. Sunday school at 12; Epworth Leagues at 6:15; Prayer meeting every Thursday evening. Rev. C. L. Kellerman, pastor.

EVANGELICAL.—Corner of Liberty and Center streets. Sunday services 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m., Sunday school 12 m., Y. P. S. C. E. 6:30 p. m.; Prayer meeting Thursday, 7:30 p. m. J. Bowersox, paster, residence 427 Liberty street.

PRESBYTERIAN.—Church street, between Chemeketa and Center. Preaching morning and evening; Sabbath school at 12 m.; Y. P. S. C. E. at 6:30 p. m.; prayer meeting Thursday at 7:30 p. m. Rev. F. H. Gwynne, D. D., pastor.

THE CHURCH OF GOD.—Holds religeous services in the Good Templer's hall Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Sundays at 10:30 a m. and 7:30. Sunday school at 3 p. m. Elder N. N. Mathews, pastor.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Chemeketa and Cottage. Sunday services: Low mass 7:30 a. m.; high mass 10:30; Sunday school 3 p. m.; vespers 7:30; week days, low mass 7 a. m. Rev. J. S. White, pastor.

CONGREGATIONAL.—Corner Center and Liberty Services Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Sunday school 12 m., Y. P. S. C. E at 6:30 p. m.; prayer meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Rev. C. L. Corwin, pastor.

ST. PAUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Corner Church and Chemeketa. Services 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Sunday school 11:45 a. m.; service Thursday 7:30 p. m. Rev. W. Lund, rector.

FIRST BAPTIST.—Liberty and Marion. Services 10:30 a. m. and 7:00 p. m.; Sunday school 12 m.; young people's meeting at 6 p. m.; prayer meeting 7:30 Thursday. Rev. Robert Whitaker, pastor.

FREE METHODIST.—Rev. B. F. Smalley pastor. Services Sunday morning and evening, Sunday school at 10 a m.; prayer meeting Friday night. Church opposite North Salem school.

FRIENDS.—At Highland park on car line. Services 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school 12 m.; Christian Endeavor 6 p. m.; prayer meeting Thursday 7:30 p. m. Rev. F. M. George, pastor.

GERMAN BAPTIST.—Services in German Baptist church north of Cottage street. Sunday school at 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Evening service at 7:30. Rev. John Fechter, pastor.

CHRISTIAN.—High and Center. Sunday school 12 m.; preaching 10:30 a. m.; young people's society 6:30 p. m.; preaching 7:30 p. m. Rev. W. R. Williams, pastor.

GERMAN REFORMED.—Capital and Marion.; Sunday service 11 a. m.; Sunday school 10 a. m.; prayer meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Rev. J. Muellhaupt, pastor.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.—Services in Unitarian hall at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sabbath school 12 m.; Bible study Thursday evening.

UNITARIAN CHURCH.—Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 12 m. All invited. Seats free. Rev. H. H. Brown, minister.

SOUTH SALEM—M. E. church. Preaching every Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. J. H. Roork, pastor.

GERMAN LUTHERN.—North Cottage St. Services on 1st and 3d Sunday of each month at 2 p. m. Rev. G. E. Meyer, pastor.

AFRICAN METHODIST.—North Salem. Services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Sunday school at 1 p. m. Rev. G. W. White, pastor.

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