

A new mineral is being mined at San Antonio, a few miles from Todos Santos Bay, Cal., to which the name of Antonite has been given. It is used for ornamental purposes, in imitating moiré antique silk, etc.—*West American Scientist*.

Mr. R. W. Ells, M. A. of the Dominion Geol. Survey spent a part of last summer on P. E. Island endeavouring to settle the boundary between the Permian and Triassic, but left the matter as undetermined as he found it. There is evidently not room in the minor Province for broad geological distinctions.

M. Foye, a French astronomer, maintains that the earth is older than the sun. He says all the planets, from Mercury to Neptune, were formed first. The sun was a nebular mass far outside their orbits, and subsequently it passed over to the centre of the planetary system and collected there as the grand luminary which we know.

W. H. Harrington, Ottawa, describes 48 species of beetles infesting the hickory. One of the most curious of these is the *Oncideres cingulatus*, which deposits its eggs in punctures in the bark of small twigs, and then girdles the twig by gnawing a ring of bark off just below where the eggs are deposited. This kills the twig so that it falls, and the larvæ feed on the dead wood.

About a quarter of a mile from the Seaside House and about sixteen miles from Astoria, Oregon, there is a deposit of clam shells which is probably the largest of the kind in the United States. The shells cover an area of over four acres, and are in places ten feet in depth. Over one thousand loads have been hauled away to make roads, with scarcely a perceptible diminution of the immense deposit.

Considerable interest has been aroused by the statement of a Belfast (Me.) man that he had seen sea gulls on a pond in Dakota. Mr. William W. Castle writes to the *Belfast Journal*, in which the statement originally appeared, that the birds were undoubtedly the young of *Larus Argentatus* or *Larus Delawarensis*, which were probably on their southward migration. The section to the north of where they were found is wet and is a breeding place for water fowl, and members of the *Laridae*, or gull family, are very numerous in its small lakes and rivers.