

Literary Notices.

Volume I of the *Transaction of the Linnean Society of New York*, is a most valuable contribution to scientific literature. The leading article is by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, in which the author, in his peculiarly felicitous style, conveys a great deal of interesting information—interesting to the unscientific reader as well as to the naturalist—on *The Vertebrates of the Adirondack Region*.

We are happy to state that Dr. Merriam has kindly consented to become one of our contributors.

The *American Naturalist* for March contains the following leading articles: "The Crab Parasite, *Sacculina*" (illustrated), by *Karl F. Gissler*; "Men Ignorant of Fire," by *Titian R. Peale*; "Grave Mounds in North Carolina and East Tennessee (illustrated), by *Cyrus Thomas*; "Colonial Organisms," by *Charles Morris*; "Anatomy and Physiology of the Family *Nepidae*," by *William A. Lacy*, and "The *Creodonts*" (illustrated), by *E. D. Cope*. On the editor's table we find a very appropriate note on "Law and Insanity." The general notes abound in the most interesting news in every department of Natural History.

In the *North American Review* for April there is an interesting discussion concerning the question of admitting foreign built ships to American register. Judge J. A. Jamieson, in the same number of the *Review*, discusses the question, "Shall our Civilization be Preserved," pointing out the means that are at hand for withstanding the various agencies, physical, moral and intellectual, that threaten to overturn the existing civil and social institutions of our neighboring republic. Other articles of interest are: "Development of Religious Freedom," "Changes in the Climate of North America," "A Plea for Modern Languages," "Literature for Children," and "Recent Criticisms of the Bible."

The Birth and Growth of Myth, by Edward Clodd, F. R. A. S. Price, 15 cents, post free. J. Fitzgerald, Publisher, 20 Lafayette Place, New York. This work forms No. 54 of the "Humboldt Library of Popular Science." It comprises twenty chapters, with an Appendix, and gives a very intelligible account of the origin and development of mythological stories, from the scientific point of view. The chapters entitled "Nature as viewed by Primitive Man," "Personification of the Powers of Nature," "Metempsychosis and Transformation," "Aryan Mythology,"

and "Survival of Myth in Historical Narratives," are singularly interesting, and present in popular form the results of the most recent researches in Mythic Lore. We send this valuable work post-paid on receipt of price.

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