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THE following memoir was referred for examination to Dr. John Torrey and Dr. F. A. P. Barnard, of Columbia College, New York. They recommended its publication provided certain changes were made in the manuscript. These having been made by the author, the work is published as a part of the series of "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge."

JOSEPH HENRY,

*Secretary, S. I.*

WASHINGTON, October, 1872.