

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

PHILADELPHIA, *January 1, 1879.*

DEAR SIR: On several occasions you have expressed a desire, that, in my trips to the Western Territories, I should undertake the investigation of the microscopic forms of life which inhabit the waters. During the last four years I have studied one important class—the Rhizopods, as they occur in all fresh waters of the country, from the Atlantic border to an altitude of 10,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains. The marine forms of Rhizopods, in all times, have extensively contributed to the construction of stratified rocks. The determination of the living fresh-water forms may serve as a guide to the discovery and determination of fossil forms in the vast lacustrine formations in the interior of our continent. Herewith, I transmit my report for examination and publication, trusting it may meet with your approbation.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH LEIDY.

Dr. F. V. HAYDEN,

U. S. Geologist, Washington, D. C.