

inevitable result. He then treats of cataclysmal floods, and shows that they are not within the limits of possibility.

Dr. A. P. Coleman contributes a valuable paper on the "Microscopic Petrography of the Drift of Central Ontario." After giving a general description of the drift in Central Ontario, the author enumerates the microscopic characters of the various crystalline rocks (chiefly Laurentian) found in these deposits in the vicinity of Cobourg. He then proceeds to classify them according to Rosenbusch's method under the two classes—acid and basic rocks, distinguishing a massive and a schistose series in each. The drift of Cobourg, which is derived from the north-eastward, is shown to contain a large variety of the older archæan rocks. Hornblende proved to be present in the greater number of specimens examined. The presence of a considerable group of rocks, characterized by containing scapolite as an essential mineral, is the most interesting point brought out in the investigation. This paper is illustrated by six coloured plates of microscopic sections of rocks.

Mr. C. H. Merriam appeared before the Society in behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, and presented an address relative to economic ornithology. He laid special stress upon the ravages of the rice bird, and indicated the steps that were being taken by the United States authorities to check it. He also dwelt at some length upon the English sparrow in its relation to insects, and its value as a game bird. He also read a paper on the "Migration of Birds," in which he pointed out that their annual increase, which would otherwise reach enormous proportions, was controlled by the conditions attending their passage from one country to another, by reason of which great numbers were killed.

Mr. Ernest E. Thompson discussed a question of much interest in his "Notes on the English Sparrow, *Passer Domesticus*." Reference was made to the extraordinary rate at which this imported bird is multiplying in North America and spreading over the continent, to the exclusion of some of our native sparrows. Its influence on agriculture must be great, and it is very desirable to ascertain as