

SPENCER, DR. J. W.—“*The duration of Niagara Falls and the history of the Great Lakes*,” 2nd edition. The Humboldt Publ. Co., New York, date not given, but delivered to subscribers April, 1896.

Contains chapters on “The evidence of high continental elevation during the formation of the valleys of the Great Lakes, the origin of the basins of these lakes, ancient shores, boulder pavements, high-level gravel deposits; deformation of the Iroquois Beach, birth of Lake Ontario; Lundy Beach and birth of Lake Erie; deformation of the Algonquin beach and birth of Lake Huron; high level shores of Warren Gulf and their deformation.” This is followed by a controversy on pleistocene subsidence *versus* glacial dams, closing with a chapter on the history and duration of Niagara Falls. Dr. Spencer estimates that 50,000 years have elapsed since the close of the “ice age.”—H. M. A.

HOBBS, W. H.—“*A summary of progress in Mineralogy in 1895*.” From monthly notes in the “*American Naturalist*.” (Dem. Print. Co., Madison, Wisconsin, 1896.)

This work forms a very comprehensive review of the progress of Mineralogical studies in 1895—giving the advances made in this field of research and a review of works by Fletcher, Fuess, Hecht, Behreen, Czapski, Klockmann, Groth, etc.

H. M. A.

HOBBS, W. H.—“*Die Krystallisierten Mineralien aus dem Galena Limestone “des südlichen Wisconsin und des nördlichen Illinois”* (Separat Abdruck aus:—*Zeitschrift für Krystallographie* etc., XXV, 2 and 3.) Leipzig, 1895.

This paper is a study of the various crystalline types of minerals from the “Galena limestone” formation of the West. Calcite (Scalenohedra, rhombohedra, dog-tooth spar, nail head spar and other combinations); Zinc-blende, Lead ore, Cerussite, Gypsum, Barytes, Malachite, Marcasite and Pyrite are described and accompanied by three plates of figures and diagrams of crystalline forms of special interest.

As the galena limestones are well developed in Manitoba these crystalline forms and minerals may be looked for.—H. M. A.

GORDON, C. H. “*Stratigraphy of the St. Louis and Warsaw formations in S. E. Iowa*.” *Ex. Jour. Geol.*, Vol. III., 403, April, May, 1895.

## BIOLOGY.

HYATT, ALPHEUS—“*Lost Characteristics*” *Ex. Amer. Naturalist* pp. 9—17, Jan. 1896.

This is practically a continuation of Dr. Minot’s article “on Herecidity and Rejuvenation”—in which the “work done by paleontologists on the loss of characteristics in the development of animals” is recorded by Prof. Hyatt. Prof. Hyatt states that the loss of characteristics is not so readily observed by the neobiologist, as by the paleobiologist, because the latter deals with series of forms often persisting through long periods of time. The limitation of paleobiological enquiry are not as great as they are sometimes held out to be, for one “does work out of the hard matrix the external skeletons or shells even of embryo corals, brachiopoda, mollusca echinodermata, etc. The work of Cope, Beecher, Schuchert and Jackson assist greatly in following such investigations.”—H. M. A.