

well selected scientific and literary notes. Under the careful editorship of Prof. Chapman, this sister journal of western Canada continues to maintain its high standard of scientific and literary excellence.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has sent us pages 325 to 360 of their *Proceedings* which are chiefly taken up with descriptions of new species of North American serpents in the Smithsonian Institution¹ by Kennicott; and contributions to American Lepidopterology by Clemens.

The Natural History Society of Boston has also sent us pages 385 to 416 of their *Proceedings*, in which we find some valuable geological notes by Prof. Rogers to which we hope to draw attention in a future number.

The Essex Institute has sent us its *Proceedings*, Vol. II, Part 2, 1857 to 1859, the chief interest of which is the record they contain of the Field Meetings of this Society. These meetings we have long admired, and consider them most effective and pleasing means of promoting the interests of Natural Science. The *Historical Collections* of the same Institute, Vol. 2, No. 6, have also been received, and contain much curious and ancient lore.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Botanical Society of Canada, abstract of Recent Discoveries in Botany and the Chemistry of Plants. BY PROFESSOR LAWSON.

SEA-WEED AS A MANURE.

The attention of the English farmer has been recently called to the use of sea-weed as a manure. This material is thrown up in enormous quantities on the shores of Britain, and on the east coast of Scotland it is extensively employed to fertilize sand dunes that would otherwise be worthless. In dry sandy soils it acts in two ways; first, by directly contributing food materials to the crop, and, secondly, by the hygroscopic action of the mucilaginous tissues in maintaining a certain degree of humidity in the arid soil, a result that is no doubt aided by the presence of the sea-salt accompanying the weed. The richness of the ash of the common sea-weed in potash, soda, phosphates, and other materials