

## DECEMBER 5.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M.D., LL.D., in the Chair.

Forty-three persons present.

The death of James W. McAllister, a member, May 28, 1911, was announced.

The Publication Committee reported the acceptance of a paper, entitled *A Monograph of the Procyonidæ*, by R. W. Shufeldt, M.D., as a contribution to the JOURNAL.

R. A. F. PENROSE, JR., Chairman of the Committee on the Hayden Memorial Geological Award, reported for the Committee in favor of conferring the medal this year on John Casper Branner, Professor of Geology in Leland Stanford Jr. University.

On favorable report of the Council the award was made as recommended by the Committee.

DR. JOHN CASPER BRANNER was born at New Market, Tenn., July 4, 1850. He was educated at Maryville College, Tenn., and at Cornell University, New York, graduating from Cornell in 1874 with the degree of B.S. In 1885 he received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of Indiana, and in 1897 the degree of LL.D. from the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Branner went to Brazil in 1874 and was for some years a geologist on the Imperial Geological Commission of that country, which was then under the directorship of Professor Hartt. In 1878 and 1879 he was assistant engineer and interpreter for the S. Cyriaco Mining Company, in the State of Minas Geraes. In 1880 to 1881 he carried on special botanical investigations in Brazil, and in 1882 to 1883 he was agent there of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Branner then returned to the United States. He has since made many trips to Brazil and elsewhere in South America, his geological and other scientific work there being well known to scientists. His special fields of operation in recent years have been in the neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro and thence northward to Bahia and beyond. His work on the stone and coral reefs of the coast, published by the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University, is well known. His investigations of the black diamond fields of Bahia have been productive of most important scientific results, and have shown the source of the diamonds to be in certain rocks, from which they were derived by erosions and buried in the gravels where they now occur. This source of the black diamonds of Bahia had been unknown until Dr. Branner discovered it.

Among the most important of his recent trips to Brazil was his expedition in 1899 as head of the Branner-Agassiz Expedition. He made other expeditions in 1907 and 1911. Some seventy papers and books on Brazilian geology, with many papers on zoological, botanical and other subjects, have resulted from Dr. Branner's work in that country. He has also published in the Portuguese language a text-book on geology for the use of Brazilian students, and many papers for the benefit of the people of that country, where he is held in the highest regard as a man and a scientist.

Since his return from Brazil in 1883, Dr. Branner has been active in geological work in the United States. From that year to 1885 he served as topographic geologist on the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania under Professor Lesley; and from 1885 to 1892 he was professor of geology at the University of Indiana.

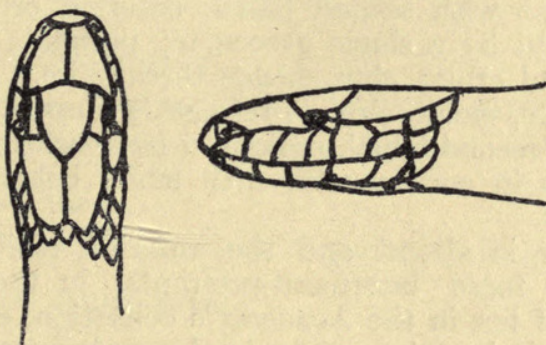


From 1887 to 1893 he was State Geologist of Arkansas, in which position his work was of scientific and economic value. About twenty volumes bear witness to the diligence and ability with which he conducted the exploration of a State until then almost unknown in its geological features. Dr. Branner continued the work after the survey had been disbanded, largely at his own expense, and gave his results to the State, to be published by it for the benefit of its people.

In 1892 Dr. Branner became professor of geology at Leland Stanford Jr. University, California; in 1898-99 he was acting President, and in 1899 he became Vice-President of the institution. He still holds both positions. After the California disaster of 1906, Dr. Branner was appointed by the Governor a member of the committee to investigate the earthquake, and did much valuable work in this connection.

MR. STEWARDSON BROWN made a communication on the expedition of Francis E. Bond to Venezuela in the interest of the Academy. (No abstract.)

*Scale Variations in Stilosoma extenuatum* (A. E. Brown).<sup>1</sup>—DR. HENRY TUCKER remarked that the type had been described as having the prefrontals fused with the internasals; no loreal, or preocular; internasals extend to supralabials, also enter orbit; parietals extend behind postoculars to fifth labial; nostril in the centre of a single scale; labials, six upper, fifth largest; lower five, fourth largest. Three horizontal temporals. Three pairs of



Type.

chin shields. Nineteen rows of smooth lozenge-shaped dorsal scales. Anal entire; body slender; tail short; head not distinct; rostral prominent; ventrals, 223 to 260; subcaudals, thirty-three to forty-four pairs; teeth, ten upper, twelve lower, all smooth; pupil round. Color, silvery-gray, with sixty to seventy irregular dark brown dorsal blotches with narrow blackish borders, ten to twelve on tail; interspaces mottled with pale red; belly blotched with black, which extends on sides and often breaks, so forming lateral spots; the scales on sides are finely spotted with black; a dark patch on parietals; a small one on each side of neck; a dark postocular streak; fore part of chin and head peppered with black.

The following descriptions are based on six hitherto undescribed specimens from Lake Kerr and Norwalk, Marion County, Fla., in the collection of the late Dr. Arthur E. Brown. Color scheme in all, same as in the type. Scales smooth, in nineteen dorsal rows;

<sup>1</sup> A. E. Brown, *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila.*, 1890, p. 199.





1911. "December 5." *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 63, 548–549.

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