

and the publication, the *American Naturalist*, was essentially Prof. Cope's magazine. Aside from this he has written upwards of 350 papers which form a systematic record of the development of palæontology of the United States. Among his larger works are: (1) "Systematic Arrangement of the Lacertilia and Ophidia;" (2) "History of the Cetacea of the East North American Coast;" (3) "Synopsis of the Extinct Cetacea of the United States;" (4) "Systematic Arrangement of the Extinct Batrachia, Reptilia, and Aves of North America;" (5) "Systematic Relations of the Fishes;" (6) "Systematic Arrangement Relations of the tailed Batrachia;" (7) "Extinct Vertebrata of the Eocene Formation of Wyoming;" (8) "Cretaceous Vertebrata of the West;" (9) "Tertiary Vertebrata."

To the theory of evolution Prof. Cope has made important contributions, amongst which are: (a) "On the Origin of Genera;" (b) "Hypothesis of Evolution, Physical and Metaphysical;" (c) "Evolution and its Consequences;" (d) "Method of Creation of Organic Types;" (e) "Origin of Man and other Vertebrata;" (f) "The Origin of the Fittest," &c., &c.

H. M. AMI

Ottawa, May, 1897.

NOTES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY.

Flying Ants—On the morning of 12th June myriads of flying ants suddenly made their appearance in various parts of the city, none having been seen previous to that date. They matted in large patches on fence posts, on the edge of the sidewalks, and on bare spots where any flat dry substance was to be found. The fence posts along Cartier Square were covered, and whether from the chill of the previous night or from other causes they appeared numbed and indisposed to fly. Any protuberance seemed to attract them. I did not notice any birds disposed to

feed on them. Will some of our local entomologists give their ideas respecting this sudden incursion of these insects?

Earthquake—A heavy earthquake shock occurred on the night of 20th May at 10.15 p.m., followed by a lighter shock about 11.

Aurora—There has been a marked absence of aurora for many weeks, an unusual occurrence. Dr. Veeder, of Lyons, N.Y., the authority on auroras, gives the monthly recurrence of the aurora 26 or 27 days apart, and says when no auroras are visible there is a manifest increase in thunder or other storms, as though they had taken the auroras place, and disturbances of the earth currents, known as magnetic storms, occur, even the solid crust of the earth receiving impulses that cause tremors, and earthquakes when the conditions are favourable, because of instability existing therein.

H. B. SMALL.

July Excursion—At the last meeting of the Council it was decided to have an excursion this month (July). Final arrangements as to date and place have not as yet been made, but the Committee expects to be in a position to make an announcement within a few days.

Editorial Note—In the unavoidable absence from the city of Dr. Ami, the editorial work of the current issue has been assumed by Mr. F. T. Shutt.



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