of printing. With regard to publication, negotiations respecting the proposed album of representative photographs were then in progress. The Erratic Blocks Committee had presented a report, and they were going to publish as much as they could as soon as possible, The Coast Erosion Committee had not sent in a report, though they had plenty of material in hand. The Committee on Type Specimens in Museums was making arrangements for the registration of those specimens, and information was required as to where those specimens were housed.

In Section D, Mr. T. V. Holmes (secretary) read a letter from Dr. Vachell stating that he had come to Nottingham in order to present the Report of the Birds' Eggs Protection Committee that morning, September 16, and regretted he should be unable to stay till the conference on the 19th.

Mr. Slater thought it was high time something was done to protect the eggs of wild birds. Influence might be brought to bear upon boys. He also deprecated the wanton shooting of gulls.

The Chairman stated that the committee had been re-appointed, and that the delegates would in due time receive a final communication on the question.

Mr. Holmes then read a letter from Mr. W. Cole, hon. sec. Essex Field Club, on the maintenance of local museums. Mr. Cole thought that if an annual sum for the maintenance of local museums could be obtained from the Technical Education grants in each county, there would be no great difficulty in obtaining substantial sums towards buildings and fittings. The fear that a museum might not be permanent often kept back subscriptions. Donations, both of money and of specimens, would rapidly come in when once the public felt that the museum would be permanent. And in no way could a portion of the Technical Education grant be better expended than in placing on a satisfactory footing the local museum of the county.

The Chairman hoped that members of the Corresponding Societies would occasionally read papers on the specimens in their local museums, each writer keeping to a certain department. These papers would be catalogued in the societies' list, and brought before the notice of many workers in the same subject elsewhere. They would also be available for reference at headquarters in London.

In Section H, the Chairman commended the Ethnographical Survey (the first report of which had been placed in their hands at the previous meeting) to the attention of the delegates and the societies they represented, and explained in what ways they could assist the committee. Local physical, intellectual and moral characteristics, folk-lore, manners, customs, dialect, and ancient monuments might all be noted by various observers, and the results sent to the Ethnographical Committee. Ancient human remains should be carefully preserved, together with any pottery and implements found with them. If any difficulty occurred with regard to the best mode of making any exploration, information might always be obtained at the Anthropological Institute, 3, Hanover Square, London. In some cases he had known pottery and implements had been carefully preserved, and bones thrown away or buried; in others skulls had been kept by the explorer, and the large bones thrown away. The Anthropological Institute was always ready to advise or to send some one down to examine the remains found. It was better to leave barrows, &c., as they were, unless people were prepared to examine them thoroughly and systematically.

After some remarks on a proposed excursion of the delegates, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

THE fifth summer meeting of the Geological Society of America was held at Madison, Wisconsin, on August 15 and 16; vice-presidents J. C. Chamberlain and John J. Stevenson presiding, in the absence of the president, Sir J. W. Dawson.

The popular feature of the meeting was an illustrated lecture in the Assembly Chamber of the Capitol, by Prof. H. F. Reid, on "The Gravels of Glacier Bay, Alaska." The stereopticon views gave quite the best exhibit of this interesting glacial region that has yet been presented.

The papers presented included a description of a new species of *Dinichthys*, a new *Cladodus* from the Cleveland shale, and a remarkable fossil jaw from the Cleveland shale, by Prof. E. W. Claypole, who is carrying on the work begun by the late Prof. J. S. Newberry on Devonian fossil fishes. The remains described are those of new and remarkable species, one of them showing a degree of specialisation quite surprising for that low horizon. The author even surmised that some of the remains may be amphibian.

Prof. J. J. Stevenson, in his paper on the origin of the Pennsylvania anthracite, seemed to have actually subverted the accepted dogma, that the metamorphosis into anthracite was caused by disturbances of the strata. He showed that the difference between anthracite and bituminous beds is due to circumstances connected with deposition; the former having been laid down rapidly and in thick beds, and having been long under water; they are also earlier than the bituminous beds.

G. Frederick Wright and A. Frederick Wright, in their respective papers on extra-morainic drift in New Jersey, and on the limits of the glaciated area of New Jersey, admitted the correctness of Prof. Salisbury's first announcement that these were genuine glacial deposits, though occurring beyond the limits of the glaciated area.

Edward H. Williams, Jun., in a paper on South Mountain glaciation, described a similar formation in Pennsylvania, where he found transported Medina sandstone and glacial striation.

The programme also included papers on the study of fossil plants, by J. W. Dawson; the Manganese series of the North-Western States, by C. W. Hall and F. W. Lardeson; on the succession in the Marquette Iron district of Michigan, by C. R. Van Hise; terrestrial subsidence south-east of the American Continent, by J. W. Spencer; evidences of the derivation of the kames, eskers, and moraines of the North American ice-sheet, chiefly from its englacial drift, and the succession of pleistocene formations in the Mississippi and Nielson River basins, by Warren Upham; the cenozoic history of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, by N. H. Darton; the Arkansas coal measures in their relation to the Pacific carboniferous province, by James P. Smith; glaciation of the White Mountains, N.H., by C. H. Hitchcock; dislocation in the strata of the lead and zinc region of Wisconsin, and their relation to the mineral deposits, with some observations upon the origin of the ores, by W. P. Blake; geology of the sand hill region in the Carolinas, by J. H. Holmes; notes of geological exhibits at the World's Fair, by G. N. Williams.

BLEEDING BREAD.

THE phenomenon known in Germany as "Blut im Brode," and to us as bleeding bread, has appeared in this country, to no little dismay of the peaceful inhabitants. The subjects of this visitation are not only bread and biscuit, but also boiled potatoes, rice, and other farinaceous substances, on which red stains appear, which resemble blotches of blood. In former times, before their nature was known, these blood stains created much consternation amongst the superstitious as portents of calamity. The first modern naturalist who described it in scientific terms was Dr. Sette, of Venice, who recorded its appearance in Padua, in 1819, and gave it the name of *Zoogalactina imetropha*. In this instance it is stated that "a peasant of Liguara, near Padua, was terrified by the sight of blood stains scattered over some polenta, which had been made and shut up in a cupboard on the previous evening. Next day similar patches appeared on the bread, meat, and other articles of food in the same cupboard. It was naturally regarded as a miracle and warning from heaven, until the case had been submitted to a Paduan naturalist, who easily recognised the presence of a microscopic plant."[1] Subsequently Ehrenberg saw the same production near Berlin, in 1848, and, as usual with him under like circumstances, referred it to the animal kingdom, under the name of *Monas prodigiosa;* but during the same year it occurred in the experience of Dr. Camille Montagne, who saw it on cooked fowls and cauliflower, at Rouen, and it was regarded as an Algoid, under the name of *Palmella prodigiosa.* The first definite record of its occurrence in Britain appears to have been in 1853, when H. O. Stephens communicated an account of it to the Bristol Microscopical Society, and submitted specimens to the late Rev. M. J. Berkeley, who declared it to be identical with the organisms described by Ehrenberg and Montagne, but which he regarded as a fungus.

The record of its appearance at Bristol is to the following

[1] Trouessart, "Microbes, &c." London, 1889, p. 126.