

to be found in works on this subject, because the time and expense involved in visiting personally all the spas of Europe is very great, and few physicians are able to accomplish such a feat.

*Domestic Science Readers.* By Vincent T. Murché. Book iii. Pp. 176. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1896.)

IN the subject of domestic economy, for Standard III., the Education Department require knowledge of the chief materials used in clothing and washing, e.g. silk, linen, wool, cotton, fur, leather, and washing materials. This book supplies that knowledge in a form attractive to juvenile minds. The children who read the book will acquire useful information in an easy manner.

*The Story of Electricity.* By John Munro. Pp. 194. (London: George Newnes, Ltd., 1896.)

A SIMPLE and accurate story, containing brief but clear descriptions of the principles and applications of electrical science. The book will educate the public in the knowledge of the great achievements of electricity, and will create an interest in scientific things.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

#### Zoological Publications.

WHEN the rules for zoological nomenclature are next under discussion, it might be advisable to include a clause relative to the discretion of editors in dealing with authors' contributions to scientific journals.

My paper (*Journal* of the Linnean Society, xxv. p. 325), before publication, was entitled "The Egg-case of Port Jackson Sharks," and it was presumed that the Port Jackson sharks, popularly so known, would be thereby understood.

As the length of time occupied by postal transit to and from London might unnecessarily delay publication, I did not ask for a proof. On receiving my copy of the *Journal*, I found that the title was altered to "On the Egg-cases of some Port Jackson Sharks;" thus the purport of the title was destroyed. Perhaps this is a small matter. One affecting me more nearly is the substitution of the name "*Cestracion*" for *Heterodontus*, which I used.

*Heterodontus* may be right or it may be wrong; but, as author of the paper, having adopted that name, I submit that it should have been retained. At the same time, there could be small objection to an editorial foot-note. EDGAR R. WAITE.

Australian Museum, Sydney, April 28.

THE appellation "Port Jackson Shark" is customarily applied to *Cestracion Philippi*. Macleay, as is well known, doubted the justice of including in this species the Japanese *Heterodontus zebra* (Gray); and as Mr. Waite, admitting the independence of the latter species, extends the vernacular name to *C. galeatus*, the alteration in the title of his paper is regrettable, though not serious. It was made without my sanction, and I am sorry to say that it escaped my notice in the performance of my editorial duties. Had I detected it, I should not have allowed it to pass.

Concerning the substitution of *Cestracion* for *Heterodontus*, I would point out that although the latter name has priority by a year, no recent writers but Macleay and Macleay, so far as I am aware, have allowed it to stand; and that even were this not so, *Heterodontus* (1816) on the strict rules of priority in nomenclature is preoccupied by *Heterodon*, applied by Latreille to a snake in 1800.

When Mr. Waite's paper came before the Council of this Society, the matter was carefully considered, and, in accordance

with instructions, I wrote him to the above effect, pointing out that I should substitute *Cestracion* for *Heterodontus* unless I heard from him to the contrary during the passage of his paper through the press. My letter was written early in July 1895, and the paper was published last February, ample time being thus allowed its author in which to reply. To this day no reply has been received. G. B. HOWES.

Linnean Society, London, June 19.

#### The Salaries of Science Demonstrators.

WILL you allow me to protest in your columns against what is nothing less than a public scandal, namely the advertisement by a University College, in your last issue, for a Demonstrator of Chemistry at a salary of £70 per annum?

A science demonstrator at a University College is, or should be, in some sense "a scholar and a gentleman"; and how, I ask, is a man of that type to support a decent existence on such a salary? The effect of this policy of accepting the lowest tender will be either to close such posts to those not possessed of private means—a result utterly at variance with the spirit of the time, and destructive of true efficiency—or to fill them with men of an inferior class, which would be no less harmful to the quality of our scientific education. Have we not a right to expect a more enlightened policy from the governing bodies of our University Colleges? Surely they must see that the haggling of the market does not afford the best means of fixing a teacher's reward. Even the general public cannot but recognise it to be in its own interest, that those who are chosen to educate its sons should be men of as deep knowledge and as wide culture as possible. And what width of culture and depth of knowledge can be attained on £70 a year, with the day fully occupied in the routine work of teaching, the general public itself can judge. Demonstrators of chemistry have, too, I think, peculiar cause for complaint; as a rule their duties are heavier than those of other science demonstrators, whilst their salary is the same.

In these days, even the miner has his minimum wage; cannot one be fixed for science demonstrators? It should not be less than £150, I think; certainly anything under £100 is scandalous, even in the present state of public opinion.

CHARLES FREDERIC BAKER.

#### Halley's Chart of Magnetic Declinations.

WITHIN the last few days I have come into possession of another early map showing Halley's lines. The date of this map is 1725, and it was published by John Senex, F.R.S. It is entitled "A Map of the World, corrected from the Observations communicated to the Royal Societies of London and Paris." The map consists of the two hemispheres, each of which is 21 inches in diameter. Around the margin in small print is Sir Isaac Newton's "Theory of the Tides," and "An attempt to Assigne the Physical Cause of the Trade Winds and Monsoons, by Dr. Ed. Halley." The map is particularly interesting, as it was evidently intended to give a full account of the winds, the directions of which in the trade winds and monsoons are indicated by arrows. Another interesting note in the margin is "Of the quantity of Vapour exhaled from the Sea, of its Circulation, and of the Cause of Springs," "Extracted from a Discourse published in the Philosoph. Transact., No. 189, 192. Writ by Dr. Ed. Halley." What makes the map so interesting is the notes printed upon it referring to the magnetic declinations. The lines of magnetic variation for every 5° east and west of the line of no variation, are given in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, but not in the Pacific.

The line of no variation is described as "The line of no variation in the year 1700." The following note is printed upon the Atlantic Ocean between the Azores and Cape Verd Isles. "These curve lines w<sup>ch</sup> express y<sup>e</sup> variation of y<sup>e</sup> magnetical needle ware observed by Dr Edmond Halley for y<sup>e</sup> year 1700, but it must be noted that there is a perpetual tho' slow change in the variation almost everywhere (viz.) about C. Bona Esperanza y<sup>e</sup> W. variation increases about a Deg. in 9 years, in our Channel a Deg. in 7 years, on y<sup>e</sup> Guinea Coast a Degree in 11 or 12 years, on y<sup>e</sup> American side y<sup>e</sup> W. variation alters but little: and y<sup>e</sup> East variation on y<sup>e</sup> S. America decreases y<sup>e</sup> more Southerly y<sup>e</sup> faster; y<sup>e</sup> L. of no variation moving