



WEST AMERICAN NOTES.

BY C. R. ORCUTT, ORCUTT, CAL.

HALIOTIS RUFESCEN Swains. In the NAUTILUS, iv, 59, Mr. Henry Hemphill cites a Lower Californian locality for this species. I have also found this species at the same point at La Playa de Santo Tomas, Lower California, but have never found it or heard of it at San Diego or at intermediate points. Santo Tomas (*not* San Tomas as Mr. Hemphill writes it) is about 75 miles south of San Diego on the Pacific Coast of the Californian peninsula.

HELIX CARPENTERI, Newcomb. Dr. L. G. Yates (NAUTILUS iv, 51) refers a form of *Helix* from near "Indio, San Bernardino Co., California" to this species. If I remember rightly Dr. Bowers collected these to the south of Indio at the eastern base of the San Jacinto mountain range, in San Diego County, Indio, a station on the S. P. Ry., is also in San Diego County. What I take to be the same shell I have collected in the same region, in Palu canon, along Snow Creek, etc., where the dead or "fossil" shells are often very numerous, but living specimens are correspondingly rare. I believe at the proper season an abundance of living examples might be obtained among the rocks, as many of my specimens were plainly recent, and none of those observed, could I describe as in a fossil state. I consider it merely a form of *Helix Traskii* Newcomb, but for that matter *H. Carpenteri* is worthy of no greater consideration.

PHYSA. In my botanical work on the Colorado Desert, San Diego county, California, I have also a good opportunity to study the geology of this interesting and little known region, and the fauna as well as the flora. The millions of fresh water shells scattered over this desert are well known, and a review of the subject of their occurrence there, is now in press. In a recent visit to Yuma, Arizona, and the neighborhood of Ft. Yuma, California, I was enabled to make another interesting observation in relation to their occurrence. At Hanlon's Ferry, a few miles south of Ft. Yuma, on the west bank of the Colorado river, a mining company has erected a tank with a capacity of four thousand gallons. This was put up nearly a year ago (September 1889) and has not since been cleaned out, though nearly emptied twice a week. In this tank I was pleased to find thousands of living *Physas*, some quite large examples. The tank is applied from a 6 inch well, and no shells were

found alive in the Colorado river, only a few hundred feet away. This brings up some interesting questions relating to geographical distribution, of which the writer may treat later.

FOREIGNERS. *Limax maximus* has appeared in San Diego gardens; *Helix nitidus* is also not rare at San Diego, and hundreds were found in the grounds of the University of California, at Berkley, recently. The trunks of several Australian tree ferns have also afforded a *Helix* and one or two slugs new to the writer.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CONCHOLOGISTS.

OCTOBER 1, 1890.

President, JOHN H. CAMPBELL.

Vice-President, JOHN FORD.

Secretary, CHAS. W. JOHNSON.

Since last announcement the following new members have been enrolled in the Association:

98. Wm. J. Fox, Philadelphia, Pa. *Cerithiidae and shells of New Jersey.*

99. Mrs. E. P. Gaylord, Detroit, Mich. *Cypraeidae.*

100. Prof. J. B. Steere, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Several applications are pending. It would facilitate the admission of applicants, if they would refer to some member of the Association, with whom they are acquainted either personally or by correspondence.

Mr. H. A. Pilsbry, Conservator of the Conchological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences, (at the suggestion of the President of the Association), has commenced the formation of a special exhibit of United States Shells. It is his intention to have every species of mollusk found in the United States, represented in the collection, and if the members of the Association will assist in the work, he will so arrange it, that none but members shall contribute specimens, in order that the collection may be the special exhibit of the American Association of Conchologists. If the idea is successfully carried out, similar collections may be formed in other cities of the United States, so that any person wishing to identify a species, will have the material accessible for reference, to enable him to do