

of iron and manganese, to which the variegated colors are due, for which the rock is so much admired. The specific gravity, 2.9, shows that it is aragonite.

III. BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY.

1. *Relation of Coloration to Environment.*—Mr. Wallace's oversight about a "*Pelargonium* of Kerguelen's Land," has been pointed out in *Nature* and noted in this Journal (p. 400). There is another oversight as to locality, which may as well be corrected, though of no practical consequence. It is in Florida, not "Virginia," that the white pigs are poisoned by Paint-root (*Lachnanthes*), while the black are unaffected. It may be, however, that Mr. Darwin's explanation of the immunity is nearer the mark than Dr. Ogle's, adopted by Mr. Wallace, plausible as the latter is. For if only black hogs are raised, as Prof. Wyman stated, and if the black pigs, by reason of better smell and taste do not eat the root, as Dr. Ogle suggests, what is it "which colored their bones pink?" It may not be so, but Prof. Wyman's account implies that the bones of the black hogs are thus colored. Will some one at the proper localities in Florida investigate this? A. G.

2. *Subradical solitary Flowers in Scirpus.*—The Rev. Thomas Morong, of Melrose, Massachusetts, recently brought me some specimens of my *Scirpus supinus*, var. *Hallii* (olim *S. Hallii*), which he gathered on the borders of Winter Pond in Woburn or Winchester, Massachusetts, late in September. Mr. Wm. Boott had also detected this plant in the same locality. It is interesting to know that this is a New England as well as a Western species. But a higher interest is given by Mr. Morong's discovery that this plant freely produces solitary female flowers in the axils of sheaths or short leaves at the base of the culm. These subradical flowers, apparently produced only at the close of summer, have capillary styles of half an inch to a full inch in length, mostly deeply three-cleft with unequal branches, sometimes three-parted or two-parted nearly to the ovary. The latter sometimes matures an akene which is similar to those of the spikes above. No stamens have been detected in these flowers; but they are found in some imperfect and four to five-flowered subradical spikes which I have occasionally met with, and which are in some sort intermediate between the ordinary and this extraordinary inflorescence. Mr. Morong noticed that the flowers in his specimens were triandrous; but I find that some are diandrous. These long-overlooked subradical flowers are now obvious in most of my herbarium specimens from Illinois, Missouri, and Texas, in those with trifid as well as those with bifid stigmas of the ordinary flowers. I find no trace of subradical flowers in the true *S. supinus* of the Old World, but my specimens are scanty. They occur, however, in a specimen (resembling our American plant) of Griffith's Bengal collection. This American variety, or species, has narrower spikelets and more carinate scales than is usual in *S. supinus*. A. G.