37th Meeting. December 21, 1875.

The President in the Chair.

Mr. Charles S. Peirce, of Cambridge, made some remarks on the coincidence of the geographical distribution of rainfall and of illiteracy, as shown by the statistical maps of the Ninth Census Reports.

(abstract.)

The author called attention to the striking resemblance between the map showing the distribution of illiteracy (the percentage of the population unable to read or write) in the United States, as in the Report of the Census of 1870, and the map showing distribution of rainfall during the three winter months published in Mr. Schott's reduction and discussion of the Smithsonian observations of that element. Mr. Peirce suggested as a possible explanation for the resemblance that the continuous winter would produce agricultural plenty, which in its turn would foster idleness.

Mr. T. Gill read a paper on the Pomodrotus Salmonius of Peters.

Mr. J. E. Hilgard read a report on the proceedings of the International Meteological Commission.

38th Meeting. January 4, 1876.

The President in the Chair.

Prof. J. R. Eastman read a paper on a comparison of the thermometers used to determine the correction for atmospheric refraction at the U.S. Naval Observatory.

(abstract.)

The discrepancies between the two thermometers used for observations with the transit circle and the standard thermometers.
(ABSTRACT)

The author called attention to the striking resemblance between the map showing the distribution of illiteracy (the percentage of population unable to read or write) in the United States, given in the Report of the Census of 1870, and the map showing the distribution of rainfall during the three winter months published in Mr. Schott's reduction and discussion of the Smithsonian observations of that element. Mr. Peirce suggested as a possible explanation for the resemblance that the copious winter rains would produce agricultural plenty, which in its turn would favor indolence.