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The form of the "Conversations" is generally considered as detracting from its merits and utility, and any attempt at improvement in books for elementary instruction is recommended by the previous familiarity and experience of the author, which in the present instance give the work claims to public notice.

6. *Lyceum of Natural History, New York.*—This Society, since our last notice of its proceedings, has been actively engaged in endeavors to extend its resources, and enlarge its prospects of future usefulness, which appear likely to result in speedy and gratifying success. The friends of science in New York have come forward to aid it, by subscription to shares of a stock, formed by the Society, which has already enabled them to purchase ground in a commanding and desirable spot, where, when the subscription is completed, a building adequate to all the purposes of the Lyceum will be erected; in which their valuable and rapidly increasing Museum can be efficiently displayed; courses of lectures on scientific subjects delivered; and where the students, and friends of natural science, may find a rendezvous not unworthy of this great metropolis. The following are some extracts from their minutes.

July 14, 1834.—A specimen of the new mineral, named by Dr. Thomson of Glasgow, Bytownite, from Bytown, U. C. where it is found, was presented (together with some books,) by Dr. Holmes of Montreal.

Sept. 15.—Dr. Metcalf read a paper, entitled "On molecular affinities," in which he attributed all attractions and repulsions of matter, all chemical and electrical affinities, and all motion, to the operation of caloric alone.

Dr. Harlan communicated information received from Dr. Troost, of the discovery of the remains of the *Megalonyx* in a cave in Tennessee, called Big-bone Cave. Dr. H. further remarked, that the bones of the *Megalonyx*, which he himself had formerly described, as having been found in White Cave, Kentucky, he has since ascertained to have come from Big-bone Cave in Tennessee. Through the liberality of these gentlemen, the Lyceum has received casts of all these bones, which are now displayed in their cabinet.

Mr. D. J. Browne presented a number of shells, principally from Teneriffe, among which were several rare species.

Sept. 22.—Mr. Whelpley, of Cleaveland, Ohio, announced the formation of a Society of Natural History at that place, for which he requested donations of minerals.