
OBITUARY.

PROF. EDGAR McCLURE, professor of chemistry in the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore., met his death on the ice slopes of Mt. Rainier, in the State of Washington, on the 27th day of July last. He was engaged at the time in the descent of the mountain, after having successfully made the ascent, and taken all the necessary measurements to determine the height of the mountain. When near the foot of the snowfield, night came on, and in the uncertain light his footing gave way, and he lost his life upon the rocks below.

NEW BOOKS.

THE PHASE RULE. BY W. D. BANCROFT. Large octavo. viii + 255. Ithaca, N. Y.: The Journal of Physical Chemistry. 1897. Price \$3.00.

In this book an attempt is made "to present the subject of qualitative equilibrium from the point of view of the Phase Rule and of the Theorem of Le Chatelier, without the use of mathematics." Such facts as bear upon the states and changes of equilibrium of a system of bodies, as determined by the temperature, pressure, and concentrations of its components, are here brought together and discussed in a methodical manner. Generally speaking, this has been admirably done, and the book should be of interest to chemists of every persuasion.

In an introductory chapter, the author defines and illustrates "phase" and "component," and states and explains Gibbs' Phase Rule and Le Chatelier's Theorem. He then passes to the consideration of a system consisting of one component; here the treatment of such familiar notions as boiling-point, sublimation, etc., will prove a revelation to many. Most of the book is devoted to systems containing two and three components, as the greater part of the experimental work on this subject has been confined to such systems. The concluding chapter gives the general theory of systems made up of four components, together with a *critique* of the meager experimental data pertaining to them.

The book has an especial value in that the author points out here and there in his theoretical discussions where further experimental work ought to be done, and, as has often been said,