INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Geological survey.

Rocky-mountain division. — This includes the territories of Montana, Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, and the state of Colorado, with headquarters at Denver. The corps consists of Messrs. S. F. Emmons, geologist in charge; Ernest Jacal and Whitman Cross, assistant geologists; and W. F. Hillebrand, chemist. This division forms part of the general subdivision of survey-work on mining-geology; i.e., its investigations are devoted more particularly to questions of direct economical importance.

The work already more or less completely accomplished by this division is as follows: —

1°. Monograph on the geology and mining industry of Leadville, which, owing to delays in the government printing-office, is not yet published, but of which an abstract appeared in the Annual report of the director for 1881. 2°. Bulletin on hypersthene andesite, now in press. 3°. Monograph on the geology and mining industry of Ten-mile district. 4°. Monograph on the basaltic mesas near Golden, Col., and their relations to the contiguous tertiary and cretaceous beds. The two latter are expected to be ready for the printer during the spring. 5°. Monograph on the geology and mining-industry of Silver Cliff. The topographic basis for this work is completed, and the geological work will be carried on during the coming summer. 6°. A study of the Denver coal-field. This work is designed to be carried on at intervals when the mountain regions are unapproachable on account of snow. The map, on a scale of one mile to the inch, covering an area of thirty square miles, was commenced in November.

As accessories a number of new and interesting minerals have been discovered in Pike's-Peak region.

Under the orders of the director, collections of typical crystalline rocks are being made, two hundred of each. The plan is, to obtain in time two hundred full suites of typical rocks which have been carefully studied both microscopically and chemically, and which will be distributed to various institutions of learning in the country to serve as a guide for students.

National museum.

Alaskan Fishes. — An important collection of forty-three species of marine fishes from south-eastern Alaska, including a new Triglops, has been recently received from Capt. H. E. Nichols. The collection is a noteworthy one, in that it furnishes proof that the range of the genus Sebastichthys extends far toward the north-west.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

Museum of comparative zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.

The 'Blake' collections. — The publication of the preliminary reports has made excellent progress during the past year. There now remain unfinished of these, only those upon the fishes, halcyonoids, foraminifera, ostracoids, nemerteans, and some minor groups, as well as the report on the bottoms. It has been decided to publish only the final reports of the fishes of the east coast and of the holothurians. That on the fishes will be published in connection with the U. S. fish-commission, and include many species of shallower waters, first brought to light by the dredgings of the 'Fish-hawk.' Prof. G. B. Goode and Dr. Bean have already prepared the greater part of this report. Dr. H. Theel of Stockholm, who has undertaken to work up the holothurians, hopes next spring to transmit his final report to the Swedish academy of Stockholm, where it is to be published. Prof. Verrill has completed the examination of the east coast Halcyonariae and Actinariae, and is preparing a report of these and of those of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico for the museum bulletin. Work is progressing favorably on the other reports. Mr. Agassiz has nearly completed the first part of the final report on the Echini: twenty plates are already on stone, and the remaining plates are well advanced. Mr. W. H. Dall is engaged in preparing the final report on the mollusks. His preliminary reports have already been issued. Mr. P. H. Carpenter has concluded his preliminary report on the Comatulae; and it was published in October, 1881. The crinoids, which had been placed in the hands of the late Sir Wyville Thomson for determination, to be worked up in connection with the 'Challenger' material, have been transferred by Mr. John Murray, of the 'Challenger' office, to Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter proposes in connection with his father, Dr. W. B. Carpenter, to work out as fully as practicable the minute anatomy of Pentacrinus, for which the material collected by the 'Blake' is quite extensive. In addition to the Pentacrinus material, the museum specimens of Holopus were also placed in his hands. Mr. Carpenter is now preparing a preliminary report on this part of the collection. During the spring, Prof. S. I. Smith completed the report on the Crustacea, collected off the Atlantic coast of the United States during the summer of 1880. The reports already published in the museum bulletin aggregate 465 pp., and 63 pl.; and the collections have also served as the basis of several papers published elsewhere.

Peabody museum of American archaeology, Cambridge, Mass.

Indian portraits. — The museum has received the originals of sixty-eight of the plates given in McKenny and Hall's folio volumes on the 'Indian tribes of North America,' published in 1836, together with thirty-seven other portraits of Indians. These portraits are of life-size, and with few exceptions were painted by Mr. C. B. King, an artist of considerable merit. They were presented to the museum by the heirs of the late E. P. Tileston and Amos Hollingsworth of Boston, and are unquestionably of great ethnological value.

NOTES AND NEWS.

— The editor of SCIENCE will be glad to receive and acknowledge subscriptions to the Balfour memorial fund, mentioned in the leading article of this week's issue: they may also be sent to Prof. H. Newell Martin, of the Johns Hopkins university, Baltimore, who is secretary and treasurer of the American committee.

— Prof. William L. Dudley of Cincinnati has recently succeeded in obtaining a good electro-deposit of iridium, which is susceptible of high polish. The bath is kept of constant strength, by continuous solution of the metal. Thin platinum foil, coated with iridium, retains its flexibility, while the coating does not readily scale. It has been proposed to use this process to give a hard face to copper-plate engravings.