

## INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

## STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Ohio meteorological bureau, Columbus.

*Weather report for April.*—The mean barometric height for the month of April, which was 30.009 inches for the state, was lower than any mean yet reported from this bureau. The maximum of 30.382 inches is also lower than that of any previous report. A lower minimum was reported for both January and March; so that the range is not so great as in previous months, being, in fact, less than any before given. The reports show no unusual atmospheric disturbance during the month.

In temperature the month was remarkable for the high point reached in many localities. The mean for the month,  $48^{\circ}.1$ , is above that of any other month included in the reports. A maximum as high as  $90^{\circ}$  was reached at Oberlin on the 14th; and the minimum for the state, which was  $15^{\circ}$ , was recorded at the same station on the 3d. Thus the thermometric range for the state,  $75^{\circ}$ , is reported from one station. This range is less, however, than any before published. The mean daily range, which was  $21^{\circ}.5$ , was somewhat greater than that for previous months. The station at the State university, which in January reported the minimum daily range, returns the maximum for this month, it being  $42^{\circ}.8$ . The minimum daily range is reported from Wooster, at which station the most uniform temperature for twenty-four hours has been recorded for three months in succession. Notwithstanding the unusually high temperature on certain days of the month, on the whole it was slightly colder than the normal mean for April, which is about  $50^{\circ}$ .

In the amount of precipitation, the month fell somewhat below the average for April, which is about 3.5 inches. The average number of days on which rain or snow fell was almost exactly the same as in March, but the mean depth of fall was considerably greater. It will be remembered that the rainfall during February was largely in excess of the normal amount; and it will be noticed, that, since that month, less than the usual amount has fallen.

The prevailing direction of the wind during the month was from the south-west; and thunder-storms are reported as occurring on the 4th, 5th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 19th, 27th, and 28th.

## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

Museum of comparative zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

*Recent additions.*—The latest additions to the exhibition-rooms have been important, among them a fine skeleton of a fin-back whale, measuring over fifty-three feet in length. This skeleton, mounted by Ward, is suspended from the ceiling of the room devoted to mammals. The four skeletons of Moas, purchased for the museum at the Melbourne exhibition, have also arrived. They represent three genera and four species, and are probably, with the exception of those of the museum at Christchurch in New Zealand, the finest specimens discovered by Dr. Haast. The skeleton of *Dinornis maximus* measures over nine feet in height. It has been placed temporarily in the African room till a proper case can be built for it in the bird-room.

The series of anthropoid apes purchased from Ward—the orang, chimpanzee, and gorilla—have also been placed on exhibition. The African, Indo-Asiatic, as well as the Australian faunal rooms are now open

to the public, although there are yet many blank spaces to be occupied.

The zoological collection is now so far arranged that the public can fairly estimate the advantages of the present distribution of limited exhibitions in comparatively small rooms devoted to special objects, as compared with the usual museum arrangement by which all the collections of an establishment are thrown open to visitors, without any attempt to select the more important or interesting objects, or to arrange them in an instructive manner.

As soon as the new geological and biological laboratories of the corner-piece are occupied, probably at the commencement of the next academic year, the same arrangement will be extended to the geological and paleontological collections.

*The stalked crinoids of the Blake expedition.*—The preliminary report of Mr. P. H. Carpenter on the stalked crinoids of the Blake (*Bull. mus. comp. zool.*, x. iv.) shows how greatly our knowledge of these animals has been increased by the recent dredging-expeditions. Not many years ago the specimens of *Pentacrinus* preserved in all the museums of the world could not have exceeded six or seven. Recently a few more specimens of a second species were collected at the Barbadoes; and the late Sir Wyville Thomson and Dr. William B. Carpenter had begun, with the help of this material, an extensive memoir intended to supplement the paper on *Pentacrinus* by Johannes Muller. But since the discovery of *Rhizocrinus* by the younger Sars, a number of genera and species of stalked crinoids have been dredged by the Norwegian, English, and American deep-sea explorers. With the exception of *Rhizocrinus*, however, none of the species were found in sufficient numbers to enable zoologists to study them by the modern methods. Fortunately the Blake brought back from the Caribbean Sea two species of *Pentacrinus* in great numbers, a good supply of *Rhizocrinus*, and a couple of *Holopus*, all of which were placed by Mr. Agassiz in the hands of the late Sir Wyville Thomson for study. Since his death, all this material collected by the Blake has been transferred to Mr. Carpenter, who will incorporate his results in the final report he is preparing on the same subject for the Challenger expedition.

We may thus expect, judging from the excellent work done by Mr. Carpenter among the crinoids, an exhaustive memoir on this ancient group of crinoids, based upon ample material. Thus far, however, the study of the soft parts does not seem to have been so fruitful of interesting results as had been anticipated.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

The signal-service under Gen. Hazen has issued a bulletin containing several reports, of which the first is that of Mr. W. M. Beebe on the relief expedition of 1882 to Lady Franklin Bay. This, as is well known, failed in its object, owing to adverse conditions of ice, etc. The second report, by Lieut. J. S. Powell, is on the relief expedition to Point Barrow for the purpose of replenishing provisions, and replacing any disabled members of the party. The attempt was also made to determine the astronomical position of the station at Uglâmie, near Point Barrow.