INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

National museum.

Publications. — The publications of the museum are issued under two titles, — 'Bulletins' and 'Proceedings.' The bulletins consist of monographs of groups of animals, plants, or minerals; papers upon the fauna, flora, and minerals of different regions of the globe; and similar works. The proceedings contain shorter communications descriptive of new species, etc., or relating to novel phenomena. All papers are based on material in the museum. Five volumes of the proceedings, and twenty-two bulletins, have already been published, aggregating 7,396 octavo pages. The sixth volume of the proceedings, and several bulletins, are now in course of publication. The bulletins which will appear within a short period are the following: —

A bibliography of the writings of Professor Spencer Fullerton Baird, by G. Brown Goode, A.M.; Avifauna columbiana, by Elliott Coues and D. Webster Prentiss, M.D.; A contribution to the natural history of Bermuda, edited by G. Brown Goode, A.M.; A manual of herpetology, by Henry C. Yarrow, M.D.; Official catalogue of the collections exhibited by the U. S. national museum at the London fisheries exhibition, 1883.

The exhibition-halls. — Two very important objects are about to be placed on exhibition in the museum. The first of these is a group of orangs, mounted by Mr. William T. Hornaday. The group represents a fight in the treetop, in which are concerned two adult male orangs, and as spectators a female and baby, and a young male. The setting has been worked out with great care, especially as regards the nests of the orangs, the foliage, vines, orchids, etc. All the specimens were shot by Mr. Hornaday in Borneo, and are mounted from his notes upon the living and fresh specimens.

The second object of interest is an antique Roman mosaic derived from Carthage. It was exhibited at the Centennial exhibition in the Tunisian section, and was afterward presented to the museum by Sir Richard Wood, British consul-general at Tunis. The mosaic represents a lion of life-size, seizing an animal resembling a horse or ass. It is believed to date from the first century B.C.

Additions to the collections. — The museum has recently secured a very valuable collection of archeological objects from Missouri, comprising twenty-five specimens. Included among them are a digging-implement of peculiar shape, and about a foot long, and two hourglass-shaped ceremonial objects of pink quartz about four inches long. Among the recent accessions to the department of birds is a nest of Opornis agilis, with eggs, — the first specimen of which there is authentic record. The department of reptiles is at present negotiating for a specimen of the very rare North-American serpent, Ophthalmidium longissimum. The department of mammals has received a valuable accession in the form of partially complete skeletons of eleven sperm whales. They represent the remains of a small school of these cetaceans, which stranded near Cape Canaveral, Florida, in the winter of 1882–83.

Bureau of ethnology.

Pueblo of Tallyhogan. — Mr. James Stevenson reports that careful investigations in the vicinity of the abandoned pueblo of Tallyhogan, in the ancient province of Tusayan, Arizona territory, disclose the fact that the sand-dunes on the north and east of the village were used by the former inhabitants as burial-places. A very little digging exposed the remains of the interred, which were usually placed in a hole in a doubled-up, mummy-like attitude.

In many cases vases and bowls, which probably contained food, were inhumed with the dead, and in some instances trinkets were found.

A number of old specimens were secured, among them being small images of human beings (previously unknown to collectors in this region), curious in workmanship, and ancient in ornamentation.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Mr. G. K. Gilbert has recently given some rather disturbing suggestions to the people of Salt Lake City (*Salt Lake weekly tribune*, Sept. 20) concerning the probability of destructive earthquakes there. He describes the slow and still continuing growth of the ranges in the Great Basin by repeated dislocation along great fractures, the earth's crust on one side being elevated and tilted into mountain attitude by an upthrust that produces compression and distortion in the rocky mass, until the strain can no longer be borne, and something must give way. Suddenly and violently there is a slipping of one wall of the fissure on the other, far enough to relieve the strain, and this is felt as an earthquake; then follows a long period of quiet, during which the strain is gradually reimposed. Such a shock occurred in Owen's valley, along the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada, in 1872, when a fault-scarp five to twenty feet high and forty miles long was produced. A scarp thirty or forty feet high is known along the western foot of the Wahsatch range, south of Salt Lake, and other scarps of similar origin have been found at the bases of many of the Basin ranges. The date of their formation is not known; but it must be comparatively recent, because they are still so little worn away. Wherever they are fresh, and consequently of modern uplift, there is probable safety from earthquakes for ages to come, because a long time is needed for the accumulation of another strain sufficient to cause a slipping of one wall of the fissure on the other. Conversely, when they are old and worn down, the breaking strain may even now be almost reached, and an earthquake may be expected at any time. This is the case at Salt Lake; for, continuous as are the fault-scarps along the base of the Wahsatch, they are absent near this city. From the Warm Springs to