INTELLIGENCE FROM AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC STATIONS.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

U. S. geological survey.

Mineral statistics of the United States. — Mr. Albert Williams, jun., is arranging for the issue of a second volume on the mining industries and mineral resources of the United States, and is now engaged in the preliminary work necessary to facilitate its preparation. This report will cover statistically the calendar years of 1883 and 1884; preserving, however, the record for former years, already published in his first report. The general form and scope of the work will be similar to that previously followed. Repetition of text matter will be avoided, and the chief aim will be to treat in greater detail such topics as could not well be enlarged upon in the first report without extending it beyond the proper limits.

The second volume, while complete in itself from a statistical point of view, will complement the first in the matter of description of localities, metallurgical processes, etc. A change which will add to the interest of the work will be the introduction of a series of graphic statistical charts, showing at a glance the progress in the several industries. A fair start has already been made, and the work will be pushed energetically with a view to secure the promptness in publication which is so necessary in reports of this class. The value of such statistics to the industries whose progress they record is the quickness with which they are given to the public. There is a somewhat prevalent idea that such work cannot be published within a reasonable time after the expiration of the time to which it refers. This is refuted by Mr. Williams's first report, which was issued early in the fall of 1883; and the results of the work, in a condensed form, were given to the public within a few weeks after the manuscript was given to the printer, which was on the 30th of June, to which date the production statistics were carried.

Glacial striae. — Prof. T. C. Chamberlin is collecting and compiling all observations on glacial striation within the limits of the United States. The results of his work will be embodied in a bulletin to be published by the survey. He would be glad to incorporate any unpublished notes which observers may be kind enough to communicate. As full details as practicable are desired, relating to the character of the striations, locality, kind of rock, inclination of striated surface, altitude, and other topographical relations, etc. Professor Chamberlin would also esteem it a favor to have his attention directed to observations recorded in unusual publications, or in those not readily accessible, or for any other reasons liable to be overlooked.

Topographic notes. — The work of compiling topographic material for the map of the District of Columbia and adjoining territory has been completed; and the party under Mr. S. H. Bodfish's supervision was, during March and April, engaged in field-work for the purpose of obtaining data, with the object of finishing the survey of the area left untouched by the coast and geodetic survey. —— Field-work for the completion of the map of the Denver basin will soon be undertaken. Mr. Anton Karl, who has charge of the topographic work in the Rocky Mountain district, has left the Washington office, and is on his way to Denver to begin this work, which was temporarily suspended last summer. He expects to finish it in about six weeks. All that remains to be done is to carry the triangulation over the area, and to complete the filling-in of the contours. The map will include about a thousand square miles, on a scale of one mile to one inch. —— In the division of the Pacific, work during March was much interfered with by rainy weather. Mr. Hoffmann, after completing his map of the New Idria district, proceeded to Sulphur Bank, where he was making good progress, correcting and adding to his former work there. —— Office-work is progressing satisfactorily. Some of the maps are fast approaching completion, and preparations will soon be made for putting the various parties in the field for the coming season.

RECENT PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Torrey botanical club, New York.

May 13. — Mr. Bicknell read a paper upon Carex Pennsylvanica and Carex varia, referring particularly to the difference of habit of the subterranean parts of the plants. C. Pennsylvanica throws out runners early in the year, which soon root, and become underground stems. These extend in all directions from the parent plant, each fostering a succession of shoots, some of which themselves become centres of a secondary series of runners. I have unearthed these runners, bearing, at intervals of a few inches, four or more generations of living shoots, together with the remains of several older generations. It thus appears that the new shoots do not always become established as separate plants, but that often a series of tufts remain permanently attached by underground connection for many years. The *separate* tufts do not appear to live more than about two years. Where this sedge grows in abundance its runners may be found crossing and re-crossing beneath the surface of the ground; and careful excavation will show that many apparently distinct plantlets belong to the same system of underground stem. The runners are at first clothed with closely imbricated scales, arising from nodes all along the stem. These ultimately decay, and become frayed into a coarse fringe, which remains apressed to the stem in whorls from every node. In C. varia the habit of growth is entirely different. This species shows no