

quantity of dried muscular fibres obtained under the following conditions: The geological horizons known as the 'Kowak clays' and the 'Ground ice formation,' from which mammoth remains have been obtained on the Arctic coast, especially at Elephant Point, Kotzebue Sound, appear to be represented in the river deltas of the northern coast of the peninsula of Alaska. Here, near the mouth of the Naknek River, in the spring of 1894 the freshets cut away the clays until the falling bank revealed mammoth bones in the newly exposed portion. The spot was visited by the natives who obtained mammoth bones and a large quantity of fat which they used in greasing their skin boats. The quantity is estimated at 300 pounds. A little later the locality was visited by Mr. W. J. Fisher, who reports that the cavity in the bank of frozen clay still retained something of the form of the body of the mammoth, and under the organic débris, bones, etc., at the bottom, he obtained a piece of the fat in good preservation, which he presented to Mr. Dall, who now exhibited it. Mr. Dall recalled that at Kotzebue Sound, in cavities of the ground ice, he obtained what he believed to be dung of the mammoth, still having a strong ammoniacal smell. It would seem that the present carcass had been more or less demoralized before it was imbedded in the clay, as no mention is made of the existence of hair or skin in connection with the remains, only of disintegrated muscular tissue, bones and fat.

Dr. Wardell Stiles spoke briefly of the proposed memorial to Dr. Rudolph Leuckhardt and of the steps taken by the recent International Zoölogical Congress in regard to the adoption of an international code of nomenclature.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam spoke on the American Shrews. From a study of about 2,000 specimens he recognizes 60 species and subspecies, 11 of which are restricted to southern Mexico and Guatemala. Of the total number, 18 belong to the genus *Blarina*, 2 to *Notiosorex* and 40 to *Sorex*. The latter genus is subdivided into the 3 subgenera usually recognized — *Microsorex*, *Neosorex* and *Atophyrax*.

F. A. LUCAS,
Secretary.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OF ST. LOUIS.

The first Fall meeting of the Academy was held at the Academy rooms, Monday evening, October 21st. Prof. Francis E. Nipher made a donation to the Academy of his new volume on 'Electricity and Magnetism.'

Prof. Wm. Trelease read a paper on 'The Gases Produced by Certain Bacteria,' by L. H. and Emma Pammel.

President Green made mention of the death of Prof. C. V. Riley, one of the former Presidents of the Academy, and announced that he would appoint a committee to prepare a suitable memorial of Prof. Riley's death.

A. W. DOUGLAS,
Recording Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Elements of the Mathematical Theory of Electricity and Magnetism. J. J. THOMSON. Cambridge, The University Press. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. vi+510. \$2.60.

An Introduction to General Biology. WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK and EDMUND B. WILSON. Second edition. New York, Henry Holt & Co. 1895. Pp. xii+231.

Elementary Physical Geography. RALPH S. TARR. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. xxxi+488.

Charles Lyell and Modern Geology. T. G. BONNEY. London, Cassell & Co. New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. vi+224. \$1.25.

Missouri Geological Survey, Vol. II. CHARLES R. KEYES. Jefferson City. 1895. Pp. 405.

Elements of Geometry. GEORGE C. EDWARDS. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. xii+293. \$1.10.

Science and Art Drawing, A Complete Geometrical Course. J. HUMPHREY SPANTON. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pp. xiv+582. \$3.25.

Reconnaissance of the Gold Fields of the Southern Appalachians. GEORGE F. BECKER. U. S. Geological Survey. 1895. Pp. 85.

Catalogue of the Marine Mollusks of Japan with Descriptions of New Species and Notes on Others Collected by Frederick Stearns. HENRY A. PILSBRY. Detroit, Frederick Stearns. 1895. Pp. vi+196.