systematic training. In commenting on the proceedings of the geographical section, *Nature* says (October 3): "The characteristic of the meeting was the exceptionally scientific value of the papers, which dealt less with exploration than with research."

MOUNTAINS AND LOWLANDS OF GREECE.

PHILIPPSON continues his studies of classic ground (Reisen und Forschungen in Nord-Griechenland, Zeitschr. Gesell. f. Erdk., Berlin, xxx, 1895, 135–225; geol. and topogr. maps), telling of his journey along bad roads over half-barren mountain ridges, where the slopes are washed by intermittent torrents which carry gravel down to the valleys and bays. Settlements are chiefly found on the alluvial plains thus formed. Near the mountain foot the plains are stony and barren; further toward the sea the detritus is finer and fertile. This note suggests a reference, even if somewhat belated, to Philippson's work on Peloponnesus (Berlin, Friedländer, 1892, 643 p., geol. and hypsom. maps). The most striking physiographic features of Greece are there summarized; a varied relief of apparently confused changes from short ridges to deep depressions, from steep gorges to basin-like plains. This confusion results from the occurrence of complex zones of faulting in a previously folded mountain structure, producing a very diversified system of divides and water courses. There is no culminating range; no dominating divide, no extended valley trough; but, on the other hand, there is a large number of individual areas, not hermetically separated, but yet sharply divided (453–455). Many of the striking relations between form and history are pointed out. Geological structure, topography and climate are discussed with much care. The extraordinarily irregular coast, along which the sea penetrates far into the land, is due to a general depression of the region. The prevalence of 'potamogenous'—river-formed—coast lines is shown to be dependent on the protected character of the shore, into whose quiet waters the steep torrents wash the waste from the mountains, building the land out into the sea.

W. M. DAVIS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY.

IT is announced by Prof. E. C. Pickering that for some years the need has been felt at the Harvard College Observatory of some means of making a more prompt announcement of the results of its work. It is proposed, therefore, to issue a series of circulars, as required, to announce any matters of interest, such as discoveries made, the results of recent observations, new plans of work, and gifts or bequests. It is not proposed to give these circulars a wide distribution, but rather to use them as a means of bringing new facts to the attention of the editors of astronomical and other periodicals, and thus secure the immediate publication of such portions as would be of interest to the readers of these periodicals. The distribution will be made without charge to such persons as will be likely to use the results.

THE first of these circulars, issued on October 30th, is on 'A New Star in Carina.' From an examination of the Draper Memorial photographs taken at the Ariquipa Station of the Observatory, Mrs. Fleming has discovered that a new star appeared in the constellation Carina in the spring of 1895. A photograph, B 13027, taken on April 14, 1895, with an exposure of 60 minutes, shows a peculiar spectrum in which the hydrogen lines Hβ, Hγ, Hδ, Hε and Hζ are bright, and the last four of these are accompanied by dark lines of slightly shorter wave-length. A conspicuous dark line also appears about midway between Hγ and Hδ. A comparison of the spectrum of this star

with that of Nova Aurigæ and Nova Normæ show that all three closely resemble each other and are apparently identical in their essential features. Another photograph taken on June 15th with an exposure of 60 minutes shows a change in the spectrum of this object. The hydrogen lines $H\beta$, $H\gamma$ and δ are still bright, although the continuous spectrum is very faint. Another line whose wave-length is about 4700 is here as bright as the hydrogen lines. On the photograph taken on April 14th it is barely visible.

An examination was next made of all the photographs of he region containing this star. On sixty-two plates, the first taken on May 17, 1889, and the last on March 5, 1895, no trace of the star is visible, although on some of them stars as faint as the fourteenth magnitude are clearly seen. The exposures of these plates varied from 10 to 242 minutes. On nine plates, the first taken on April 8th and the last on July 1, 1895, the star appears, and its photographic brightness diminishes during that time from the eighth to the eleventh magnitude. This star precedes A. G. C. 15269 (photometric magnitude 5.47) $0^m.5$, and is 0'.7 north. Its approximate position for 1900 is therefore in R. A. $11^h3^m.9$, Dec. —61° 24'. Two stars of the eleventh magnitude are near the Nova. One is nearly north, 110″ distant, the other is 80″ south preceding.

THE DEPARTMENT OF INSECTS OF THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

THE staff of the Department of Insects of the U. S. National Museum has been reorganized as a result of the sad death of the former honorary curator, Professor C. V. Riley.

The reorganization has been effected by the appointment of Mr. L. O. Howard, entomologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to the position of honorary curator of the Department of Insects; of Mr. Wm. H. Ashmead to the position of custodian of Hymenoptera, and Mr. D. W. Coquillett to the position of custodian of Diptera. All museum custodians are honorary officers. Mr. M. L. Linell will remain as general assistant to the honorary curator.

The Department is at present in excellent working condition. It contains a very great amount of material in all orders, and in many unusual directions surpasses any collection in the country. Among others the following are of especial interest:—

1. The large collection, in all orders, of the late Dr. C. V. Riley.

2. All of the material gathered during the past 18 years by correspondents, field agents and the office staff of the division of entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

3. The greater part of the collection of the late Asa Fitch.

4. The large collection, in all orders, of the late G. W. Belfrage.

5. The collections in Lepidoptera and Coleoptera made by Dr. John B. Smith down to 1889, together with the types of the Noctuidæ since described by Dr. Smith.

6. The collection of Lepidoptera of the late O. Meske.

7. The collection of Lepidoptera of G. Beyer.

8. The collection of Coleoptera of M. L. Linell.

9. The bulk of the collection, in all orders, of the late H. K. Morrison.

10. The collection of Diptera of the late Edward Burgess.

11. The type collection of Syrphidæ made by Dr. S. W. Williston.

12. The collection of Ixodidæ of the late Dr. George Marx.

13. The collection of Myriopoda of the late C. H. Bollman.

14. Sets of the neo-tropical collections of Herbert Smith.

15. The collection of Hymenoptera of Wm. J. Fox.

16. The collection of Tineina of Wm. Beutenmuller.

17. The large Japanese collection, in all orders, of Dr. K. Mitsukuri.

18. The African collections, in all orders, of Dr. W. S. Abbott, Wm. Astor Chanler, J. F. Brady, the last 'Eclipse' expedition to West Africa, and of several missionaries.

19. The large collection from South California of D. W. Coquillett, in Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera and Orthoptera.

20. The Townend Glover manuscripts and plates.

In addition to this material, there are minor collections which have been the result of the work of government expeditions, or are gifts from United States Consuls and many private individuals.

This enormous mass of material is being cared for by the active and honorary force of the Department, and the perpetuity of the collection is assured. The National Museum building is fire-proof, and this, together with the fact that it is a National institution, renders the Department of Insects perhaps the best place in this country for the permanent deposit of types by working specialists in entomology, and for the ultimate resting-place of large collections made by individuals.

The policy of the Museum at large, with regard to the use of its collections by students, is a broad and liberal one. Students are welcome in all departments, and every facility is given to systematists of recognized standing.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PSYCHOLOGY.

The third meeting of the Congress will be held at Munich, in the Royal University, from August 4th to 7th, 1896, under the presidency of Professor Carl Stumpf, of Berlin. Professor Lipps, of Munich, has been appointed vice-president and Dr. Frhr. von Schrenck-Notzing, secretary.

The list of members of the International Committee of Organization includes the names of well-known specialists in psychology from England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Italy, Denmark and the United States. The languages used at the Congress may be German, French, English and Italian. The length of papers to be presented before the Congress is limited to twenty minutes.

The program is divided into four parts, as follows: I. Psycho-physiology. II. Psychology of the Normal Individual. III. Psycho-pathology. IV. Comparative Psychology. The preliminary announcement of the Congress which has just been issued, and from which we have have taken the above particulars, contains the following request which is worth verbatim quotation·

"Please propagate this program and publish it in all journals.

"Membres, who intent to lecture at this Congress are asked politely to announce their themes and to send extracts of them to the Secretary's office (Munich, Max-Joseph street 2) before the 15. of Mai 1896.

"For themes announced after the 15. of May the committee cannot pass its word for admittance. It is much to be recommended to give orders for lodgings in advance, because at the beginning of August the hotels of Munich are very much occupied.

"Arriving members of the Congress may inquire at the station after the bureau of the 'Verein zur Förderung des Fremdenverkehrs,' and they will willingly get all informations about hotels, pensions and privat lodgings to be well recommended.

"The Secretary's office is stationed from the 3. of August during the congress at the royal university (Ludwigstrasse 17)."

The subscription to the Congress is 15

Marks. The meetings are open not only to psychologists, but to all interested in the progress of psychology.

GENERAL.

A RECENT Bulletion (No. 119) of the U. S. Geological Survey by Mr. G. H. Eldridge describes the area in northwestern Wyoming that lies immediately south of Montana and some distance east of the Yellowstone National Park. It is occupied by the Wind River and Big Horn River basins, and is chiefly covered by the Wasatch and Bridger strata of the Eocene, by Cretaceous and Jura-Trias, with minor areas of Carboniferous, Silurian, Cambrian, Archean and eruptive rocks. The region has long been a fruitful source of Eocene vertebrate fossils, and in its northwestern portion is now an important center of coal mining, as it has rail connections. Mr. Eldridge gave these matters of mineral resources especial attention, and after a geological sketch, based on a colored map, he takes up the following topics: Coal, with numerous analyses and cross-sections, petroleum, building materials, gold, hot springs and agriculture. The bulletin extends our knowledge to an area about which little detailed information had been previously available.

DURING the past summer Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, while at Bering Island, was fortunate enough to secure some bones of Pallas' Cormorant at the locality where he had found others in 1882. At the time these were the only known bones of this extinct species. Among the more recently obtained specimens is a fairly complete cranium which is somewhat larger than that of any existing species, and is peculiar in the character of the ethmoid and opening in the front part of the cranium. Mr. Grebnitski has also procured some remains of Pallas' Cormorant from the same deposit.

THE Library Bureau of London has inaugurated a Publishers' Central Showroom, to which most of the great English publishers will send all of their publications for inspection. To give the collection the character of a permanent exhibition and divest it of all the appearance of advertising, no books will be sold at the showroom and no orders taken.

PART 6 of Minnesota Botanical Studies is entirely given to Miss Josephine E. Tilden's Bibliography of American Algæ. No less than 1,544 titles of papers are listed, although the work professes to be but a preliminary survey of the literature. This is one of the most complete and valuable pieces of special bibliographic work yet prepared for American botany.

IN addition to the teaching botanical garden of the University of Pennsylvania, which has recently been greatly improved and enlarged under the direction of Professor Macfarlane, the University will have the scientific management of Bertram's Gardens, which have recently been made one of the city's parks.

A MEETING of the directors of the Marine Biological Laboratory of Wood's Holl was held in Boston on November 7th. It was reported that the attendance during the past summer had been large and that there had been an increase in the number of the coöperating educational institutions. Gifts had been received by the treasurer during the year amounting to $2,348. The laboratory is to a certain extent self-supporting, but subscriptions are needed for enlargements and to provide salaries for the officers and instructors.

IN a paper on 'The Stone Industry in 1894,' extracted from the recent report of the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Mr. W. C. Day passes in review the industries in granite, marble, slate, sandstone and limestone. An introductory discussion precedes each one, which affords both de-

scriptive and statistical information. The quarries are then taken up by States and much that is valuable for reference is placed in convenient and readily accessible from.

We have received at this somewhat early date the number for January of a new semi-monthly medical journal *Pediatrics* published in New York and London, and edited by Dr. Geo. A. Carpenter, with an editorial staff including Professor A. Jacoby, of Columbia College, and other leading students of the diseases of children.

Professor L. L. Dyche, of the University of Kansas, has returned from a six months' absence in the Arctic regions as a member of the Peary Relief Party. He has brought back to the University a valuable collection of skins and skeletons. With the exception of the musk-ox, Prof. Dyche has now personally secured a specimen of every known North American Arctic mammal.

Some of the friends of the late Professor Sir Thomas Francis Wade propose to raise and offer to the University of Cambridge, a sum of money sufficient to provide for the construction of a catalogue of the large and important collection of Chinese literature which during his lifetime he presented to the University Library.

Brussels is to be connected with the sea by a new canal, allowing vessels of 2,000 tons burden to reach the city, the estimated cost of which is 35,000,000 francs. The official name of the city will hereafter be 'Bruxelles Port de Mer.'

The mortality from diphtheria in London has greatly increased recently. During the week ending October 19th the number of deaths was nearly double the average for the corresponding week of the ten preceding years 1885–94.

The Carnegie Music Hall, Museum, Art Gallery and Free Library given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie to the city of Pittsburg, was formally dedicated on November 5th. The gift of the building and library is accompanied by an endowment of $1,000,000. Mr. Carnegie's gifts to the cities of Pittsburg, Allegheny, Braddock, Homestead and Duquesne amount to about $4,000,000.

At the request of State School Commissioner, John T. Glen, according to the Boston *Transcript*, Professor C. M. Strahan, of the State University, has drawn a map of Georgia, which shows the location and number of every common school (white and black), high school, college and university in the State. The map is twelve by ten feet and is the largest map of Georgia ever drawn.

The annual meeting of the New Jersey Forestry Association was held in Lakewood on November 8th and 9th. A lecture was given by Dr. J. T. Rothrock on 'The Relation of Forests to the Surface of the Country,' and there were special discussions on the prevention of forest fires and the preservation of the Palisades.

The Columbia University Press will publish shortly a life of the late President F. A. P. Barnard, prepared by John Fulton, of Philadelphia, at the request of Mrs. Barnard. The author had complete access to all Dr. Barnard's letters and papers, and traces his educational career in the South, as well as the development of Columbia College under his presidency.

A bronze bust, by Mr. D. W. Stevenson, of the distinguished botanist, Dr. Robert Brown, has been unveiled in his native town, Montrose, Forfarshire, Scotland. The bust is accompanied by a tablet bearing the inscription: "Robert Brown, D.C.L Oxon, L.L.D. Edin., F.R.S. Lond., President of the Linnean Society, Member of the Institute of France. Born in this house 21st December, 1773; died in London 10th June, 1858. 'Botanicorum facile princeps.' Alex. von Humboldt."

THE death is announced in Usambara of Dr. Stapff, the geologist who, at the request of the German East Africa Company, proceeded a few months ago to East Africa in order to prospect for gold.

FATHER HURST, known for his contributions to archaeology, died recently in his 53d year.

THE death is announced of Prof. Herman Hellriegel, the well-known agriculturist, at the age of 63. Most of his researches were concerned with chemical and physiological questions relating to the nutrition of plants. His chief discovery, which was communicated to the agricultural chemistry section of the *Naturforscher Versammlung* in 1886, was the fixation of gaseous nitrogen by leguminous plants through the medium of their root nodules. Dr. Hellriegel was an honorary member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and a foreign associate of the Société Nationale d' Agriculture of Paris.

THE fifth centenary of the birth of Gutenberg will be celebrated in 1897 by the city of Mayence.

THE new session of the Royal Geographical Society will be opened on November 11th, when, after a short opening address by the President, Mr. A. Montefiore, will give an account of the progress of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition. At the second meeting Dr. K. Grossmann will give an account of the results of his recent visit to the Faeroe Islands, and at the December meeting the Rev. Walter Weston will describe his explorations in the Central Alps of Japan. All the papers will be fully illustrated by means of the lantern. After Christmas among other papers that may be expected are the following: 'Various Movements of the Earth's Crust,' by Professor John Milne, F. R. S.; 'British Central Africa, Its Geography and Resources,' by Mr. Alfred Sharpe; 'Exploration in the Alps of New Zealand,' by Mr. E. A. Fitzgerald; 'Our Knowledge of the Oceans,' by Dr. John Murray; 'The Geography of the English Lake District,' by Mr. J. E. Marr, F.R.S. It is hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Littledale will have returned from their adventurous journey across Central Asia before the end of the session and will give to the Society an account of their travels. The afternoon meetings in the map room, begun last session, will be resumed during the present session. Among the subjects to be brought forward for discussion will be: 'The Construction and Uses of Globes,' by Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, F.R.S.; 'The Struggle for Life in the North Polar Region,' by Mr. A. Trevor-Battye; 'An attempt to Reconstruct the Maps of Herodotus,' by J. L. Miers.

M. B. C., PERTH AMBOY, N. J., writes to the New York *Evening Post*, as follows:

"My mother—a sister of Gen. Meade—was born in Spain, and lived there until she was four years old, at which time her parents returned to this country and settled in Philadelphia. For some years Spanish was the only language spoken in the family; but when old enough my mother and her sisters were placed at Madame Ségoing's boarding school, which in the early part of the century was one of the most famous schools in the country. There she finished her education, and throughout her life had perfect control of the French language. The Spanish, however, she entirely forgot. My mother's last illness was tedious, her mind becoming gradually weakened; but long after she had ceased to speak English she would talk fluently in French. Then there came an interval towards the close of her life when she did not speak at all; but the last few words of all were—Spanish!" Cases have been previously reported in which a person in his last illness has used the long forgotten language of childhood, but the above case is of interest owing to the use of an intermediate language."