

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE State Board to select a new magazine rifle for the National Guard of the State of New York organized at Albany, Tuesday, November 12th, Col. A. D. Shaw, of Watertown, in the chair. The other members are Professor R. H. Thurston, of Ithaca, and Mr. E. W. Bliss, of Brooklyn. Mr. H. E. Abell, of Brooklyn, was made secretary to the board. After consultation with Governor Morton and the Adjutant General's office, it was determined to notify inventors that they would be allowed until December 15th to present arms for examination and test at the office of Adjutant General of the State. Only American inventions can be accepted for examination. All tests are to be made at the State Camp at Peekskill. The purchase of 15,000 guns is authorized at a price not to exceed, for guns and accessories, \$20 each. Aside from the construction and action of the lock and repeating mechanism and the behavior of the gun in action, it is expected that the question of varying the calibre from that of the U. S. Army, and that of interchangeability in other respects with the army gun, will be carefully studied.

A BILL has been introduced into the Congress of Mexico empowering Marshal Saville, the agent of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, to make archæological excavations in Mexico. The bill provides that half of the objects secured shall be the property of the museum, and is said to have the approval of President Diaz.

PROF. FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, will go in December to Guadalajara, Mex., to study a submerged city in Lake Chapala, and the mountain dwarfs inhabiting the mountains near by. His intention is to try to determine whether these people are racially small or have become so by disease.

A PETITION praying the Royal College of Physicians, of London, to admit women to examinations and diplomas was the subject of an interesting debate before the *Comitia* on October 24th. The petition was rejected by fifty-nine votes to fifty. Eighteen years ago the same question was debated in the College, and the admission of women was rejected by sixty-eight votes to sixteen.

M. PERROTIN described before the Paris Academy of Sciences, on October 28th, the new observatory on the summit of Mounier, in the Maritime Alps. The observatory was planned by M. Bischoffsheim as an annex to the Nice observatory and is at an altitude of 2,741 m. In addition to a stone house for the astronomer and his assistant, there is a revolving dome, 8 m. in diameter, in which is mounted a 38 cm. equatorial telescope. A meteorological station has been organized in conjunction with the observatory. The observatory is connected by telephone with the village of Beuil, 8 km. distant.

THE Conseil Municipal of Arbois, the birthplace of Pasteur, has decided to erect a statue to his memory, and that henceforth the municipal college shall be called the Pasteur College.

THE first number of a new quarterly journal, '*Terrestrial Magnetism*,' is announced for January, 1896. It will be edited by Dr. L. A. Bauer, of the University of Chicago, with the coöperation of the leading students in America and Europe of terrestrial magnetism and allied subjects.

FRIEDRICH VIEWEG UND SOHN, Brunswick, have issued a list of their scientific publications which can doubtless be obtained on application to them. The catalogue extends to one hundred pages, and includes a large number of important works in the natural and physical sciences.

PROF. CHARLES S. MINOT, according to the *American Naturalist*, will give a special

course in vertebrate or human embryology at the Harvard Medical School. The course will run through two terms and is arranged for morphologists, anatomists and general practitioners who may wish to devote themselves chiefly to the study of these subjects for that length of time. The facilities offered by the Embryological Laboratory are unusually favorable both for the purposes of general study and of special research. Especial stress will be laid on laboratory work. The course will cover the whole field of embryology, "including the genital products, the theories of heredity and sex, the formation of the germ-layers, differentiation of the organs, the history of the placenta and the general morphology of vertebrates and of man."

A BUSINESS meeting of the Scientific Association of the Johns Hopkins University was held on October 17th, at which the following officers were elected for the current academic year: Ira Remsen, *President*; Wm. H. Howell, *Vice-President*; Charles L. Poor, *Secretary*.

THE Botanical Gardens of the University of Berlin are too small for the present requirements and will probably be removed to Dahlem, where some 125 acres will be provided. It is, however, feared that the distance of the Gardens from the other departments of the University will prevent their use by those who are not special students of botany. A Pharmaceutical Laboratory will be built at the Gardens.

THE new Museum of Toronto University was opened to the public for the first time on November 15th.

A RECEPTION was given to Lieut. Peary by the American Geographical Society and the American Museum of Natural History on November 14th, in the lecture hall of the Museum. Addresses were made by Lieut. Peary and Judge Daly.

A CABLEGRAM has been received from Dr.

Donaldson Smith announcing his safe return from his expedition in eastern Africa, where he has been engaged in explorations during the past eighteen months.

PROF. GEORGE LAWSON, a writer on chemistry and botany, and professor of these subjects in Dalhousie's College for thirty years, died at Halifax on November 10th.

Climate and Health for August gives the following vital statistics for the five weeks ending August 31st: In a population averaging 13,174,361, there were 25,746 deaths representing a death rate of 20.3 per thousand per annum. The mortality of infants under one year of age 33.3 per cent. of the total mortality and that of children between one and five years of age 14.2 per cent.

EXPERIMENTS are about to be undertaken by the Agricultural and Electrical Departments of the University of California to determine the feasibility of destroying phylloxera by electricity. It is hoped to succeed in doing this without injuring the vines.

In addition to the regular courses given at Johns Hopkins University by Prof. William B. Clark and Dr. E. B. Matthews and Dr. R. M. Bagg, the following lectures have been arranged: Sir Archibald Geikie, Director General of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, has accepted the invitation of the President and Board of Trustees to inaugurate the George Huntington Williams Memorial Lectureship, and has selected October, 1896, as the time for delivering his lectures. Mr. G. K. Gilbert will begin a course of lectures on Physiographic Geology the second week in January, and will lecture four times weekly until about the end of February. This course embraces a discussion of the origin of the forms of the earth's surface, and its treatment will include the systematic presentation of a large body of the principles of dynamic geology, especially those which apply to

the sculpture of the land by the various processes of erosion. The lectures will be illustrated by maps, models and lantern views. Mr. Bailey Willis will lecture twice a week during the months of March, April and May on Stratigraphic and Structural Geology. This course will consist of a description of the processes which result in the formation and upheaval of sedimentary rocks, and will lead to a discussion of the principles which should govern interpretation of the sedimentary record. In connection with these lectures Professor Cleveland Abbe will deliver four lectures on Climatology in its relations to Physiography. The lectures will given on January 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1896. The subjects are: 1. Sunshine and Temperature. 2. The Wind. 3. The Rain. 4. Snow and Ice.

THE Iceland Althing has requested the King of Denmark to communicate with other nations in regard to laying a cable from Iceland to the Continent. The resolution calls special attention to the importance of such a cable in the interests of meteorology.

ABOUT twelve of those who attended the Stirling County Ball on October 1st have since been seized with typhoid fever and three deaths have occurred. It is alleged that this resulted from eating contaminated oysters. At the opening meeting of the winter session of the Hull Scientific and Naturalists' Club, held on October 31st, Mr. Hollingworth, the President, delivered his presidential address on the artificial cultivation of edible molluscs. He said that in 1893 cholera broke out in 50 separate localities, attacking 287 persons, of whom 135 died; and out of these 50 localities, in 42 only single cases occurred, a circumstance hitherto unprecedented in the history of cholera, and pointing to special modes of infection. Of these cases 40 per cent. had eaten or handled shellfish within twenty-

four hours of being attacked, and in most cases the shellfish had come from the Grimsby and Cleethorpes beds. Cholera had been imported into Grimsby from abroad, and the position of the oyster, mussel and cockle beds of Grimsby and Cleethorpes was such that they might have been infected.

DR. PHILIPP BERTKAU, assistant professor of zoölogy at the University of Bonn, died on October 22d.

MACMILLAN & Co. announce for early publication 'The Child in Primitive Culture and Folk-Thought,' by Dr. Alexander F. Chamberlain, of Clark University. The subject will be treated under the following subdivisions: Names of the Child; Child and Mother; Child and Father; The Child in the Primitive Laboratory; The Bright Side of Child-Life; Childhood the Golden Age; Children's Food; Children's Souls; Children's Flowers and Plants; Children's Birds and Beasts; Child-Life in General; The Child as Factor in Society; The Child as Linguist; The Child as Actor and Inventor; The Child as Musician and Poet; The Child as Wiseacre, Oracle, Judge; The Child as Hero and Adventurer; The Child as Fetish, Divinity, God; The Christ-Child; Proverbs and Sayings about Children and Childhood. An extensive bibliography is appended.

It is stated in *Garden and Forest* that Dr. Chapman's herbarium of Southern plants, upon which is based his *Flora of the Southern States*, has been purchased by Mr. George W. Vanderbilt, and will serve as a nucleus of the scientific collections which he is establishing on his estate at Biltmore, in North Carolina, in connection with an arboretum and systematically managed forest.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE last Legislature appropriated a quarter of a million dollars to the Regents of