

Professr Dr. J. Walther gave the only physiographic paper of the week. He described in most picturesque language the present forms of the Thüringer *horst*, and showed how much more the form of this elevated block, or *horst*, of the Thüringer Wald, is dependent upon the series of northwest-southeast faults of late Tertiary to recent time than upon the system of the eastnortheast-westsouthwest folds of Carboniferous time. Where, however, these planed folds of the Erzinian system are resurrected by the stripping off of the Mesozoic strata the forms are in great measure controlled by the earlier made folds, as, for example, in the Cambrian ridge, Lange Berg.

Mathematical geography was also represented by one paper: 'The shadow cast by mountains and its effect in the Alps and in the mountains of middle Europe,' by Dr. K. Peucker, of Vienna. The mathematical calculations were too intricate for the audience to follow, but the graphic diagrams, illustrating the effects of varying trends and elevations in different sections, were followed attentively. One of the excursions was to the immense plant for the manufacture of optical instruments belonging to Carl Zeiss, where applied mathematics is used to the great advancement of science. The various delicate processes connected with the grinding and polishing of the many forms of lenses, as well as the forging and cutting of the metal portions of the instruments, were all shown and explained. The new tele-objectives for photographing at a distance or in places difficult of approach were examined, and the wonderful details seen in photographs made several kilometers distant were duly admired. The opera glasses with long tubes, capable of being extended in any direction in a plane at right angles to the line of sight, will no doubt be highly appreciated in the United States, where theater hats are not as yet out of date.

The longest excursion of the week was made to Weimar, where a special performance for the benefit of the members of the Geographentag was given in the theater, which is under the patronage of the Grossherzog and is closely associated with the lives of Goethe and Schiller. The points of historical interest in Weimar were opened to the guests in the same way that they had been in Jena. Among the other excursions were those to the battle field of Jena, to the Ilm graben, to the Saale valley, to the glass works, as well as visits to the collections in the university, the specimens brought from various deserts by Professor Walther, the zoological and other University departments. Walking parties in the beautiful suburbs of Jena and some social gathering every evening brought the workers in geography into closer touch with one another. Geographers as well as other men in Germany are particularly social and companionable after saying 'prosit' over their beer.

Geography in Germany attracts men. The average attendance at the monthly meetings of the Gesellschaft für Erdkunde in Berlin is 400-600. The study of the earth in its relation to man should attract men; nothing could be more natural. As a science, geography should be made more systematic; scientific, but clear and simple so that children may understand; comprehensive, since man is so many-sided; and yet trimmed of all irrelevant matter. Let us strive toward a high-ideal development of geography in America.

F. P. GULLIVER.

GEOGRAPHISCHES INSTITUT, WIEN.

#### STATUS OF FOREST RESERVATION POLICY.

By the vote of the Senate, on May 27th, adopting the conference report on the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill, the United States government took one more forward step in establishing a forest policy; the

adoption of the report by the House of Representatives and the signing of the bill by the President being a foregone conclusion. That bill contains an amendment (based upon the so-called McRae Bill, the measure advocated by the American Forestry Association) under which the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to institute a forestry service for the forest reservations which had been established prior to the late proclamations by President Cleveland and such as may be made hereafter. These latter reservations, made upon the recommendation of the Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, have by this amendment been suspended, *i. e.*, the operation of the proclamations has been annulled until March 1, 1898, and until that time the lands embraced in these reservations are to be returned to the public lands open to entry and subject to the general land laws.

A survey of all the reservations, showing the distribution of the forests, by the Geological Survey is ordered and an appropriation of \$150,000 made for it, the supposition being, although not definitely expressed in the bill, that such surveys or sufficient portions of them can be accomplished before March 1, 1898, and give information as to existing conditions which will enable the President to entirely revoke or else intelligently modify the boundaries and extent of the reservations, power to do so being expressly given in the bill.

This entire legislation is, to be sure, a compromise measure and extremely crude and imperfect, having been precipitated by the strenuous opposition of the Western delegates to the reservations made by Mr. Cleveland's order. These, it is claimed, have been established hastily, without sufficient knowledge and discrimination, without opportunity for interested parties to be heard, embodying, at least in some cases, large areas that should not reasonably have

been included. To the last the Western representatives acted as a unit in discrediting in every way the hasty action of President Cleveland and his advisors, and in insisting that the proclamations be unconditionally and forever annulled.

In spite of the crudities and the emasculated condition of the legislation which finally saved the reservation policy and secures the first beginnings of a forestry service, it must be welcomed as such a first step, which may gradually be developed into a creditable forest administration. Thus, while it appeared a misfortune that the Committee of the National Academy advocated the extension of forest reservations before having submitted their report on the necessary administration of the same, it may have proved a blessing in disguise.

There is no specific appropriation with which to inaugurate the forestry service, unless the \$90,000 appropriated for Special Timber Agents is construed to be applicable.

The manner in which the Geological Survey will acquit itself of its difficult task of segregating the lands which are properly to be reserved or excluded from reservations which will have to do with allaying the opposition of the Western States and forwarding the establishment of a sound forest policy.

B. E. FERNOW.

#### CURRENT NOTES ON PHYSIOGRAPHY.

##### TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

By recent Congressional enactment, the topographic as well as the geologic maps and atlases of the U. S. Geological Survey may be sold to the public. Heretofore the distribution of the topographic sheets has been somewhat irregular; and, although a few years ago the statement was authorized that copies of the maps would be distributed to schools for use in teaching geography