

of one of these parties, which will do the field work necessary to enable him to complete his monograph on the Yellowstone National Park. This was interrupted by his work on the Forestry Commission of the National Academy of Sciences last year. Professor Hague will survey the Absaroka Range, one of the most rugged and inaccessible of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. W. H. Weed will continue the study of ore problems, etc., in Montana.

Mr. S. F. Emmons will be in Europe the greater part of the season, but under his direction surveys of the Tintic mining district of Utah will go on.

The Pacific region is covered by five parties, but the appropriation of \$5,000 made for work in Alaska was not passed in in time to be available during the present year.

The paleontologic work is to be continued on the same lines as during the last year. "Special attention," says Professor Walcott, "will be given to the identification of certain fauna and flora in the coal regions of the Appalachians and the Rocky Mountains, and a thorough study will be made of the Cretaceous fauna of Colorado, Texas and Kansas, and the Tertiary fauna of California and Oregon, with relation to areal and vertical distribution, for the purpose of aiding the geologist in the solution of problems in areal geology. This will require that several members of the paleontological force shall continue field work, either independently or in connection with geologic parties."

It is also proposed to continue the collection and publication of data touching the mineral resources of the United States. Dr. D. T. Day has direction of this work, and \$20,000 has been specifically appropriated for it.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars has been allotted for topographic surveys proper and \$150,000 for forestry sur-

veys, and the plan of work will not be changed in character and organization from that of last year, except that additional work is imposed by the survey of the forest reserves.

The work of subdivision and topographic mapping in the Indian Territory is continued under C. H. Fitch, with the same organization as last year. Mr. Fitch expects to complete his field work by December 1st, with the exception of the resurvey of the Chickasaw Nation, for which \$141,500 has been especially provided.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THE Physical Society of London (or, as it is more generally called, the Physical Society) was founded in 1874 and was the outcome of a movement set on foot by the late Professor Frederick Guthrie, at that time professor of physics in the institution now known as the Royal College of Science. Among the original members of the Society were Professor W. G. Adams, Dr. Edmund Atkinson, Mr. Crookes, Professor Carey Foster, Dr. Gladstone, Professor Guthrie, Mr. Haddon, Professor John Perry, Professor A. W. Reinold and Professor Tyn-dall.

The purposes of the foundation were the receiving and discussing communications relative to physics, the exhibition of apparatus for physical research and of experiments illustrating physical phenomena and the publication of communications made directly to the Society and of other papers relating to physics.

Through his official connection with the Royal College of Science, Professor Guthrie was able to secure the consent of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, who are the authorities having jurisdiction in the matter, to the meetings of the Society being held in the physics lecture room of the College of Science and to the use of the physical laboratory and apparatus of the

College for the experimental illustration of papers read. The Society was thus relieved of all charges for rent of its meeting room and was consequently able to carry on its work without charging a larger subscription than one pound a year, or a single payment of ten pounds as a life composition for annual payments, with an entrance fee of one pound.

On this slender financial basis a very large amount of good work was done. Not merely were Proceedings issued containing the papers which had been presented to and accepted by the Society, but the works of Joule and of Wheatstone were printed in extenso and distributed to the members. Similarly were published in English Helmholtz's Memoir 'On the Chemical Relation of Electrical Currents,' Hittorf's Memoirs 'On the Conduction of Electricity in Gases,' Pulfj's Memoir on 'Radiant Electrode Matter' and Van der Waal's Memoir 'On the Continuity of the Liquid and Gaseous States of Matter;' a useful work of reference by Mr. Lehfeldt entitled 'A List of the Chief Memoirs on Physics of Matter' and a table of 'Hyperbolic Sines and Cosines' by T. H. Blakesley.

The founders of the Society purposely avoided setting up a new journal, being of the opinion that the unnecessary multiplication of the sources to be consulted in search of scientific facts was a thing to be avoided. By an agreement with the proprietors of the *Philosophical Magazine* it was arranged that such of the papers read before the Society as the Council might decide to publish should, in the first instance, be printed in that magazine, and afterwards collected and issued to the members of the Society in the form of Proceedings. A large circulation was thus at once secured and the creation of an additional physical journal avoided.

As the Society grew it became desirable that it should have a local habitation not

far from the other leading scientific societies of London, and the Council were fortunately able to make arrangements with the Chemical Society, whereby since 1894 the meetings have been held in the rooms of the latter Society in Burlington House.

In 1895 the Proceedings of the Physical Society, which had hitherto appeared at irregular intervals, began to be published in monthly parts, and at the same time the Society began the publication of Systematic Abstracts of papers in Physics printed in foreign journals. It is hoped that these Abstracts will be of great use in facilitating a knowledge by English-speaking physicists of the work which is being done by their colleagues in other countries. The increased activity of the Society has involved an increase of expenditure, and to meet this it has been necessary to raise the subscription payable by members. At the present time the annual subscription is £2 and 2s.

The number of members is over 400 and the list includes nearly all the leading physicists of the United Kingdom.

The Regulations of the Society provide for the election of a limited number of foreigners as honorary members, and in this way some of the most distinguished physicists in many countries are connected with the Society.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE NATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES.

It is well known that the Philippine Islands had when first discovered by Europeans two quite different classes of population. On the coast was a light colored race similar to the Malayo-Polynesians and speaking an allied dialect. In the interior was a small-sized, black race, called by the navigators 'Negritos.' In the Proceedings of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, 1897, No. XVI., Professor Virchow figures and describes a large deformed skull from a cave in the Archipelago, which, in its antiquity