a year. It will contain 'a résumé of the collections made by the Museum, notices of publications referring to museum work, and brief papers by the officers of the Museum.'

The present number contains two such papers, both by myself, one on 'The Pillars of Ben,' which are some curious monoliths in Chiapas, and the other on the Greek *Murmex* (referred to in Science, April 16, 1897). The notes on the accessions to the Museum are edited by Mr. Stewart Culin, the Director, and are arranged geographically. They present descriptions with cuts of a curious carved pebble from the Delaware valley, a horn arrow-straightener from the Pueblo Indians, name tablets from Corea, an inscribed stone from the thirteenth Egyptian dynasty described by the curator, Mrs. Sara Y. Stevenson, and a number of other interesting specimens.

Such a publication will be not only creditable to the Institution, but will prove a valuable reference work for students in archæology and ethnography.

BOTANY OF THE KLAMATHS.

A recent publication of the United States Department of Agriculture is a paper on the plants used by the Klamath Indians of Oregon, by Mr. Frederick V. Coville. It well illustrates how closely the aborigines studied their plant environment and drew their supplies from the vegetable world to the full extent that it was capable of furnishing. Mr. Coville gives the native names for more than a hundred species, all of which were utilized for food, clothing, dyeing, tool-making, 'medicine,' smoking, etc. He succeeded in identifying all the plants in use, and also obtained the native designations from educated Klamaths. He gives these with the diacritic marks used in the Century Dictionary; though it would have been better to have had recourse to the orthography adopted in the Klamath-English Dictionary, published by the United States Geographical Survey in 1890.

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NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

The *Revue Universelle des Mines* contains in the last number an article by Franz and Büttgenbach on the saline deposits of northern Germany in which a very full description is given of the Stassfurt salt beds. Twenty-five different mineral species are found in these deposits, of which the most important are the sylvine and kainite, so extensively used as fertilizers. The mean thickness of the potassium salt beds is at least twenty meters, and the quantity is estimated at ten billion tons. About three million tons are mined annually, so that at the present rate the supply would last thirty-three centuries.

The British Home Office has issued an amendment to their order of February last, regarding the keeping of calcium carbid. The new order permits the keeping of quantities less than five pounds provided it is hermetically sealed in closed metal vessels containing not more than one pound each. Unless so kept no quantity whatever may be held without a license. Such restrictions, which are not peculiar to Great Britain, illustrate one method of powerful corporations to stifle competition. It appears that these orders result not so much from the intrinsic danger in calcium carbid as from a fear, on the part of those interested in gas, oil and electric lighting, of rivalry in the use of acetylene.

G. P. Drossbach discusses in the *Journal für Gasbeleuchtung* the fact that, while pure thorium oxid has a feeble glow in the Bunsen flame, when a per cent. or less of cerium oxid is present the light is increased ten or twelve fold. He attributes the ac-

tion of the cerium oxid to 'resonance;' the vibrations of the thoria molecules are not synchronous with those of the Bunsen flame, but the presence of a small amount of ceria brings them in accord, as a bit of wax will bring into accord two tuning forks of slightly different pitch. This, Drossbach thinks, is the reason that the mantles for the Welsbach burner must contain ceria as well as thoria.

IN the *Ztsch. angewante Chemie*, Lunge and Millberg add a fresh chapter to the controversy regarding the solubility of quartz powder in alkalies. They find that the solubility depends very largely on the fineness of the powder; if fine enough the quartz dissolves completely in both caustic soda and caustic potash on boiling, and the carbonates exercise a decided solvent action. Since clays and similar derived material contain crystallized silica in a state of extremely minute subdivision, there is hence no method now known of accurately determining the proportions of crystallized and amorphous silica present.

IN January last at Hannover, after a period of cold weather, there fell on the rising temperature a snow in the form of compact balls. Many of these balls were simple and completely transparent, and consisted of single, simple, spherical crystals. These are described by F. Rinne in the *Jahrbuch für Mineralogie*. Apparently they were crystallized rain drops, but all efforts to make them artificially were without result. They resembled the chondrites of many meteorites, and these also Dr. Rinne finds it impossible to form artificially.

W. STELZER in the *Pharm. Centr.-Halle* records the examination of several solvents for ozone. Olive oil dissolves 100 volume per cent. of ozone, and this preparation is manufactured by Spranger, of Berlin, under the trade name of 'electron.' Codliver oil takes up 200 volume per cent. ozone, and loses thereby its disagreeable taste and odor. Spranger's 'tincture of ozone' is a solution of ozone in terpene and is probably a chemical compound. One sample examined had lost little of its ozone in fifteen months. Fats and oils which contain no oleic acid and which do not absorb iodin, such as vaseline and other petroleum oils, do not dissolve ozone.

J. L. H.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE prize established by the city of Moscow to be awarded at each International Medical Congress for the medical work of greatest benefit to mankind has been bestowed by the present Congress on M. Henri Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross Society.

PROFESSOR VON KÖLLIKER, of Würzburg, who recently celebrated his eightieth birthday and the fiftieth anniversary of his appointment as professor, has been awarded the gold Comenius medal of the Imperial Leopold-Carolina Academy of Halle.

IT is proposed to erect a tablet in honor of Professor Giuseppi Sanarelli, the discoverer of the microbe of yellow fever, at the University of Sienna, of which he is an alumnus.

THE death is announced, at the age of sixty-nine years, of Dr. Jules Bernard Luys, known for his researches on the brain and nervous system, and less favorably for his publications on hypnotism and telepathy.

WE regret also to record the death of Mr. Isaac N. Travis, taxidermist and naturalist in the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

MR. W. W. WOOLEN proposes to present to the city of Indianapolis fifty-six acres of land for a botanical garden and an ornithological preserve.

THE late Marshall Harris bequeathed $60,000 for a public library in Oshkosh, Wis., on condition that an equal amount be collected, and ex-Senator Sawyer, of Wisconsin, has subscribed $25,000 towards the amount.

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH, of Austria, has given his consent to the union of the two great