

cently issued, has for its frontispiece a view of the south front as it will appear when the work on the east and west wings, now in progress, is completed. This front will have a length of 700 feet and, great as it will be, the area covered is only about a third of that planned for the finished structure. This will afford room for growth for many years to come, without any crowding of the collections, and it is small wonder that the American Museum, with its spacious exhibition halls, laboratories and offices, is at once the admiration and envy of other institutions.

Other illustrations in this report are views of collecting parties at work in Nebraska, and some of the mounted specimens in the paleontological hall. Although the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology has been organized but seven years, this hall already contains what is probably the most impressive exhibit of fossil vertebrates in the world, and while the beauty of Mr. Hermann's preparations can be readily appreciated by the average visitor the phylogenetic arrangement of the collections is of great interest to the student.

The American Museum has also issued an illustrated catalogue of casts, models, photographs and restorations of fossil vertebrates which are to be had in exchange or, in certain cases, are for sale. The statuettes of Mr. Knight are extremely good and show the great advance that has been made in our knowledge of extinct forms since Waterhouse Hawkins perpetrated his flights of fancy for the Crystal Palace. Of course, it may be said that he had little or no data on which to base his 'restorations,' but it would seem better, under the circumstances, not to have attempted them at all, on the ground that it is better 'not to know so much than know so many things that ain't so.' The most striking and vigorous of Mr. Knight's restorations is probably the one most open to criticism, but

there are many who will hesitate to accept without reserve the form and attitudes ascribed to *Megalosaurus (Laelaps) aquilunguis*.

F. A. L.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY

THE CLIMATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE climatic conditions of the Philippine Islands are just now attracting considerable attention, and brief notes, usually very general in character, concerning these conditions are finding their way into print. The 'Philippine Number' of the *National Geographic Magazine* (June) contains an article by F. F. Hilder (also published, substantially unchanged, in the *Forum* for July), two pages and a-half of which are devoted to the climate of the Philippine group of islands. The seasons at Manila are described by the Spaniards as

"Seis meses de lodo,
Seis meses de polvo,
Seis meses de todo;"

six months of mud, six months of dust and six months of everything. Other brief notes are found in *Scribner's Magazine* for June, in an article on 'Manila and the Philippines,' by Isaac M. Elliott, formerly U. S. Consul at Manila, and in the *American Monthly Review of Reviews* for June, in an article by J. T. Mannix, entitled 'Notes on the Philippines.'

There is much confusion in the public mind just now as to the question of the health of North American troops during a temporary sojourn in the Philippines, and also as to the larger question of possible acclimatization of our people in those islands, in case of permanent occupation. No definite answers can be given to these two questions, but in their consideration three things may well be borne in mind. *First*: By means of a strict observance of hygienic principles, the death rate among foreigners in a tropical country can be very

much reduced. This has been nowhere better shown than in the case of the British troops in India and of the French troops in Cochin-China. *Second*: The great majority of the best authorities are agreed that complete acclimatization of Europeans (and hence, we may add, of North Americans) in the tropics is impossible. By exercising the greatest care, they may *live* in tropical countries, but, as has been well said by a recent writer, to tolerate a climate is one thing; to be independent of it is quite another. *Third*: The Anglo-Saxons are universally acknowledged to be the least fitted, the Mediterranean nations the best fitted, to colonize in the tropics.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW FOR APRIL.

THE April number of the *Monthly Weather Review* contains several articles of general interest. In an account of 'A Visit to the Highest Meteorological Station in the World,' R. DeC. Ward describes his experiences on two trips to the summit of El Misti (19,200 ft.), near Arequipa, Peru, where the Harvard College Observatory maintains a meteorological station which is at present, and is likely to be for some time to come, the highest in the world. In 'Meteorological Work in Alaska,' A. J. Henry, Chief of the Division of Records and Meteorological Data of the Weather Bureau, gives an account of the recent observations that have been made in that Territory. Two papers by A. Lawrence Rotch concern 'The International Aëronautical Conference,' recently held at Strassburg, and 'The Eighth General Meeting of the German Meteorological Society.' Professor Cleveland Abbe, the editor of the *Review*, contributes articles on 'The Rainfall and Outflow of the Great Lakes,' 'Lightning on the Kite Wire,' and other matters.

SONNBLICK VEREIN.

THE sixth *Jahresbericht* of the Sonnblick

Verein, a society which has for its object the maintenance of the now famous meteorological observatory on the Sonnblick, contains an appreciative account, by Dr. von Obermayer, of Dr. Jacob Breitenlohner, who had much to do in the original planning of the observatory on the Sonnblick; an account of the medal given to Dr. Hann on his retirement from active service in Vienna; the meteorological summaries for 1897 (for Sonnblick and Rauris), and a report of the annual meeting of the Verein. Several changes and improvements have been made during the year, the most important of which is the establishment of a new base station, connected by telephone with the summit and with the Rauris station. At this new station observations were begun on January 1st of this year.

NOTES.

DR. HANN contributes another noteworthy publication to the valuable series of meteorological discussions which have appeared in the *Sitzungsberichte* of the Vienna Akademie der Wissenschaften. The present report is entitled *Weitere Beiträge zu den Grundlagen für eine Theorie der täglichen Oscillation des Barometers*, a subject to which the author has already given much study. The data used in this investigation come from many different sources, and from widely scattered regions, and are analyzed with Dr. Hann's customary accuracy and care.

On the *Pilot Chart of the North Pacific Ocean* for July there is reprinted, from the Report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory for 1897, a classification of typhoons, based on the seasons of the year and the regions in which these disturbances occur. This classification is of special interest at the present moment.

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