

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT a meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on November 28th, Professor O. C. Marsh, of Yale University, was elected a correspondent in mineralogy. Forty-four votes were given to Professor Marsh and four to Professor Zittel, of Munich.

WE regret to learn that Professor George J. Brush is dangerously ill at New Haven with pneumonia. It will be remembered that Professor Brush recently resigned the directorship of the Yale Sheffield Scientific School, to take effect at the end of the present year. Like President Dwight, he resigns owing to the fact that he has about attained the age of seventy years.

QUEEN VICTORIA has appointed Professor D'Arcy Wentworth Thomson, M.A., of University College, Dundee, to be Scientific Member of the Fishery Board for Scotland, in the room of Sir John Murray, F.R.S., resigned.

THE Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology will hold its second annual meeting at 505 Shermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, Tuesday to Friday, December 27th to 30th. On Tuesday evening, from 8 to 11, a reception is to be tendered by the Torrey Botanical Club, of New York, to the members of the Society and other visiting botanists, in the rooms of the Department of Botany in Columbia University. The address of the retiring President, Dr. W. G. Farlow, is to be delivered on Wednesday at 4 p. m. The Society will unite with the American Society of Naturalists in their programs for Thursday afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

THE local committee of the American Society of Naturalists and Affiliated Societies has, in view of the meetings next week, sent to members an announcement containing references to some of the more important institutions and collections of New York City. Since the Society of Naturalists met in New York, in 1889, the City has shown great scientific activity. Columbia University and New York University have been established on new sites, and special attention has been given to the erection and equipment of the scientific laboratories. The American Museum of Natural History—both the

buildings and the collections—has been greatly enlarged and will be open especially to members on Tuesday. An Aquarium and a State Pathological Institute have been established. The Botanical and Zoological Parks, in their present unfinished condition, will be shown to members of the Societies by Director Britton and Director Hornaday on Friday.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. John Stillwell Schanck, emeritus professor of chemistry and hygiene in Princeton University, which occurred at Princeton on December 16th. Dr. Schanck was born in 1817, and began the practice of medicine at Princeton in 1843. In 1847 he was made lecturer in zoology at the College, and in 1856 was elected professor of chemistry, to which the chair of natural history was added in 1869. In 1874 the professorship was limited to chemistry, and from 1885 until he was made emeritus professor, in 1892, his chair was entitled chemistry and hygiene.

WE must also note the death of Mr. George Woodroffe Goyder, late Surveyor-General of South Australia, and of M. D. Meritens, the French electrician.

THE *British Medical Journal* gives further details of the unveiling of the monument to Charcot on December 4th. Addresses were made by Professor Brouardel, who presented the monument to the city on behalf of the faculty of medicine; by M. Navarre on behalf of the Municipal Council; by Professor F. Raymond, Charcot's successor at the Saltpêtrière; by Professor Cornil, Charcot's successor in the chair of pathology in the École de Médecine, and by M. Georges Leygues, the French Minister of Public Instruction. The statue has been modelled in bronze by the distinguished sculptor, M. Falguière, with the collaboration of the well-known architect, M. Samson. Charcot is represented in his professorial robes standing in the act of giving a demonstration, the right hand indicating the left temporal region on the head of a dead body lying beside him, and the left making a gesture habitual to him in lecturing.

MR. A. E. SHIPLEY, of Christ's College, and MR. H. S. CRONIN, of Trinity College, have been appointed to represent Cambridge Univer-

sity at the celebration of the centenary of the Imperial Military Academy of Medicine at St. Petersburg on the 30th inst.

MR. J. GRAHAM KERR, of Christ's College, Cambridge, has been awarded the Walsingham medal for his researches on *Lepidosiren*.

THE Zoological Society of London has sent Mr. John S. Budgett to Western Africa to study the fauna and to make collections for the Gardens.

THE *American Naturalist* states that Mr. C. F. Baker, of the Alabama Experiment Station, is about to start on a collecting trip to South America which will last eighteen months.

FROM the *American Geologist* we learn that Mr. Oscar H. Hershey has returned to his home at Freeport, Illinois, after a scientific expedition to the Isthmus of Panama.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces that it is desired to establish an eligible register from which a selection may be made to fill an existing vacancy in the grade of assistant engineer; electrically qualified, at a salary of \$1,000 per annum, in the custodian service at Baltimore, Md. Eligibility for appointment will be determined from an examination into each applicant's experience, ability and character as a workman, and physical qualifications for the work to be performed.

A POLAR reflecting photographic telescope, with its building and dome, is being erected for the observatory of Cambridge University and is now nearly ready for use.

WE take from *Natural Science* the following items: Dr. Jonathan Hutchinson is erecting for Selby, in Yorkshire, an Educational Museum similar to the one established by him in Hazelmere. A Museum of Natural History has been opened at King Williamstown, Cape Colony. The Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Society has presented Dr. H. C. Sorby with his portrait, by Mrs. M. L. Waller, in celebration of his fifty years' connection with the Society (1847-1897).

THE French Academy has received a legacy of 120,000 francs for the establishment of a prize that will appear somewhat curious to

Anglo-Saxons. It is to be awarded for 'the most beautiful example of love and devotion between brothers and sisters.'

THE will of the late Edwin F. Knowlton gives \$40,000 for the establishment of a library in West Upton, Mass. Mr. G. F. Logan, of Chicago, has given \$35,000 for the erection of a library building for the Art Institute of that city. The will of the late John L. Gardner, of Boston, bequeathes \$275,000 for public purposes, to take effect on the death of his wife; \$100,000 is given to the Boston Society of Fine Arts, and \$25,000 to the Brookline public library.

THE Museum of Anatomy and Anthropology at Cambridge has received from Professor Flinders Petrie a collection of skulls and bones secured at Hieraconopolis, representing prehistoric and the early dynastic races of Egypt.

MR. ALFRED JONES has subscribed £350 annually for the maintenance in Liverpool of a laboratory of tropical diseases. It will be under the direction of Professor Boyce.

AT the nineteenth annual meeting of the Biological Society of Washington for the election of officers, on Saturday, December 17th, the following were elected for 1899:

President, F. V. Coville; Vice-Presidents, W. H. Ashmead, B. W. Evermann, F. A. Lucas, C. W. Stiles; Recording Secretary, H. J. Webber; Corresponding Secretary, O. F. Cook; Treasurer, F. H. Knowlton; Additional Members of the Council: C. L. Marlatt, T. S. Palmer, C. L. Pollard, F. W. True, M. B. Waite.

MR. J. LARMOR has been elected President of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. The Vice-Presidents are Mr. F. Darwin, Professor Forsyth and Dr. Gaskell; and members of the Council: Mr. H. Gadow, Mr. D. Sharpe and Professor J. J. Thomson, Mr. A. Berry and Mr. Wilberforce.

AT a special meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers on December 14th Mr. Hiram S. Maxim gave an illustrated lecture describing his experiments in artificial flight and the evolution of the automatic gun.

THE New York Society for Child Study will hold its fourth session at Syracuse on December 28th. Professor E. F. Buchner, the Secretary of the Society, will give an address upon its

work, and among the papers is one on fatigue by Dr. Smith Baker.

THE annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association was held on December 12th at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Philadelphia. President John Birkinbine made an address, and a report was read by the General Secretary, Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock. Dr. Rothrock said, according to the report in the Philadelphia *Ledger*, that there had been a great increase in the interest shown by the people during the last year in the work of the Association. They were apparently being educated up to an appreciation of the value of restoring the trees to the denuded hills. He also referred with gratification to the active sympathy shown by the Fish Commission and Game Protective Association, who had a mutual interest in the preservation of the forests. Referring to the three reservations authorized by the Act of Assembly, he said the land purchased by the State this year at tax sales amounted to 55,000 acres, and that he had personally examined many other tracts. Most of the tracts purchased are contiguous, but those which are not could be sold, as a rule, for more than they cost, and the proceeds used for purchasing tracts adjoining the nuclei of the three reservations.

THOSE interested in botany, whether or not they are special students of the science, are invited to become members of the Torrey Botanical Club, which meets twice monthly at the College of Pharmacy, 115 West 68th Street, New York. The program for the evening meetings of the Torrey Botanical Club during 1899 will include the following subjects:

Our Native Roses, by Dr. George N. Best.

A Comparison Between Geological Sequence and Biological Development in the Vegetable Kingdom, illustrated by lantern views, by Dr. Arthur Hollick.

Notes on the Flora of Santiago de Cuba, illustrated by lantern views, by Dr. Valery Havard, U. S. A.

Our Eastern Ferns, illustrated by lantern views, by Mrs. E. G. Britton and others.

The North American Blue-Eyed Grasses, by Mr. Eugene P. Bicknell.

The Adirondack Mountain Flora, by Mrs. Annie Morell Smith and others.

The Pine-Barren Flora of New Jersey, illustrated by lantern views, by Mr. Joseph Crawford and others.

Progress of Work on the New York Botanical Garden, illustrated, by Dr. N. L. Britton.

Sea-Weeds, illustrated by colored lantern slides, by Dr. C. C. Curtiss.

Cultivated Palms and their Cultivation, illustrated by living specimens, by Mr. H. A. Siebrecht.

The Spurges, by Mrs. Carolyn A. Creevy.

Evergreens, illustrated by lantern slides, by Mr. Samuel Henshaw.

Rocky Mountain Wild Flowers, illustrated by colored lantern slides, by Mr. Cornelius Van Brunt.

WE learn from *Natural Science* that the British Mycological Society held its second annual meeting in Dublin, September 19th-24th. Excursions were made to Howth, Powerscourt, Brackenstown near Swords, the woods of Avoca, Lucan and Dunran. These resulted in an addition of sixteen species to the fungus flora of Dublin and Wicklow; a list will appear in the December number of the *Irish Naturalist*. Dr. Plowright, President for the current year, delivered an address, discussing certain fungi figured in Cooke's 'Illustrations.' Papers were read by Messrs. Wager, Crossland, M'Weeney, Soppitt and Rea.

M. THIBEAUT, Chargé d'Affaires of France, has notified Secretary Hay that the French government is about to adopt precautionary measures against the introduction from this country of the San José scale, and that decrees will be issued prohibiting the importation of trees, shrubs and plants from the United States and requiring an inspection of all fruits, fresh and dried, at the point of landing in France. The general trade from this country to France will suffer little through this step, as the shipment of trees, plants and shrubs last year aggregated only \$328 and those of fruit \$40,000. The action of France was taken, it is said, only after some of the American States had adopted precautionary laws against the pest referred to.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the annual *conversazione* of the Röntgen Society was given by the President and Mrs. Mansell Moulton, at St. Martin's Town Hall, on Monday, November 21st. An inspection of the exhibits ranged round the hall emphasized the fact—which many who commence working at the X-rays very soon realize for themselves—that to make any advance in the knowledge of

Röntgen radiations is by no means an easy matter. The present state of knowledge and practice is certainly represented by the Röntgen Society, and the exhibits represented the utmost limits to which the process has been brought; yet, setting aside improvements in practical technique, the matter has not been pushed a step further than when Röntgen gave his remarkable discovery to the world. Mr. Mackenzie Davidson showed his beautiful method of localization of foreign bodies and some really practical applications of his stereoscopic radiographs. The same worker has also solved the difficulty of photographing stone in the kidney. This he does by the ingenious method of eliminating movements due to respiration by only exposing when a recording lever shows absolute rest of the abdominal parietes, the patient holding his breath the while. Professor Silvanus P. Thompson, F.R.S., demonstrated experiments with the Tesla oscillator, and Mr. Campbell Swinton showed a collection of tubes which he has used in his researches. There were many other exhibits too numerous to mention. The results which Mr. Wimshurst has obtained with his influence machine are extremely good; the steadiness of the shadows given on a screen by twelve 20-inch plates is remarkable.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, London, on November 28th, Mr. Charles W. Andrews read a paper entitled 'A Description of Christmas Island (Indian Ocean).' Mr. Andrews said according to the report in the *London Times* that, as it seemed desirable that a more complete examination of the island should be undertaken than had up to that time been made, Sir John Murray, in 1896, generously offered to pay the expenses of an expedition. The lecturer left England to carry out the undertaking in May, 1897. He gave a detailed account of the physical features of the island, and said that its climate was delightful. During the greater part of the year it resembled a very hot English summer tempered with sea breezes. The island was perfectly healthy, there being no marshes or stagnant pools, while there was a fair supply of good water. The whole island was covered with forest, except the spray-swept edges of the sea cliff and the vertical faces of the inland cliffs. Many creepers

and ferns added to the beauty and variety of the forest scenery. The fauna was not a rich one. There were only five species of mammals, consisting of two kinds of rats, a shrew mouse and two bats. Rats swarmed everywhere and were very destructive. The reptiles were few and small. Insect life was fairly abundant. There were several species of land crabs, the most common being a little red crab living in burrows all over the island. The robber-crab was also very numerous, and if one sat down for a short time anywhere in the forest numbers could be seen approaching from all sides. They were good climbers and ascended trees in search of food. For some years Mr. Andrew Ross, brother of Mr. George Ross, the owner of Keeling Cocos Island, had been settled in Flying Fish Cove with his family and a few men from Cocos. During his stay some substantial houses had been built, well sunk, and fruit trees and cocoanut palms planted, and a small experimental plantation of coffee had also been made, the results showing that the island was well suited for coffee growing. In May last the total population was about 40.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors of McGill University, on December 1st, Lord Strathcona announced his intention of endowing the new Victoria College for Women, which he built at a cost of \$250,000, to the amount of \$1,000,000. Mr. W. C. McDonald also announced that he intended to endow the chair of history in the arts faculty. At the dedication, on December 20th, of the new chemistry and surgery building of the University, given by Mr. McDonald, knighthood was conferred upon him.

It is expected that the New University of London will have its offices in the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, though it is possible that arrangements will be made to occupy the premises on Gower Street occupied by University College.

MR. AND MRS. L. LANSING ZABRISKIE have given \$500 to Wells College for the purchase of physical apparatus.

MR. E. F. HOLDEN has given \$6,000 to Syra-