

pages, 1898, is now being issued. As it deals only with the British Columbian specimens of the exhibition series, the value of the entire collection is much greater than is suggested by the Catalogue.

The list of mammals includes information as to the source of each specimen and the distribution of the species. The catalogue and index of birds, including 339 species and sub-species, is of all those in British Columbia, while the species not represented in the Museum collection are specially indicated by a check mark. It is this mark which will enable the friends of the institution to devote their energies to securing the desired lacking specimens. Very little is known of the birds of the northeastern part of the province. It thus presents an attractive field for research. There are seven cases of bird groups. The catalogue of the study series of 740 bird skins is not published, but it is available to students. The eggs are listed.

Reptilia, Batrachia, Tunicata, Lepidoptera, Beterocera, Coleoptera, Crustacea, Echinodermata, Mollusca are all catalogued. The lists of fish, trees and plants, algæ and the paleontological specimens are extensive.

The ethnological collection is classified in the list under ceremony, dress, amusement, craniology, houses, monuments, fishing, war, travel, domestic utensils and industries. In the introduction to the list of ethnological specimens the visitor is cautioned against assuming that the Indians of British Columbia resemble the Japanese or were influenced by foreigners prior to European contact. Their difference from the Indians of the Plains is mentioned.

It is gratifying to have accessible so complete a list of the natural history and ethnological specimens of the whole province of British Columbia and to know where most of the specimens listed are available.

HARLAN I. SMITH.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has appointed as civilian members of a commission to report on the condition of the Philippine Islands: President Schurman, of Cornell University; Professor Dean C. Worcester, associate professor of zoology in the University of Michigan, and Colonel

Denby, for many years United States Minister to China. President Schurman, who is chairman of the commission, has been granted leave of absence until the end of the present year, and Professor T. F. Crane will during the year perform the duties of President.

THE sculptor Herr Ernst Herter has completed the statue of von Helmholtz, which is to be erected in the court of the University of Berlin, between the statues of the two Humboldts. The monument will be unveiled in the spring.

SENATOR PLATT, of Connecticut, has been appointed a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution in the room of the late Senator Morrill, of Vermont.

FATHER RODERIGUES DE PRADA has been made Director of the Observatory of the Vatican.

M. PANAS has been installed as President of the Paris Academy of Medicine, while M. Marey, the physiologist, becomes Vice-President.

THE following officers have been nominated by the French government for its 'Bureau des longitudes': President, M. Poincaré; Vice-President, M. Faye; Secretary, M. Lippmann.

PROFESSOR A. A. MICHELSON, of the University of Chicago, will give, during March, at Boston, a course of Lowell lectures on 'Light Waves and their Uses.'

Nature states that the recent retirement of Sir John Evans from the Treasurership of the Royal Society, after a period of service of twenty years, has given an opportunity for Fellows of the Society to show their appreciation of the efficient manner in which he discharged the duties of his office. It is proposed to have his portrait painted in oil colors, and to hang it on the walls of the Society's apartments at Burlington House.

THE honors annually conferred on New Year's Day in Great Britain include a K.C.B. on Professor W. C. Roberts-Austin, professor of metallurgy in the Royal College of Science, and a K.C.M.G. on Mr. W. T. Thistleton-Dyer, Director of the Kew Botanic Gardens. Sir Henry Thompson, a surgeon, who has also painted

pictures and written novels, has been given a baronetcy, and Dr. Herman Weber, known for his work on the prevention of consumption, has been knighted. Sir Charles Cameron, Medical Officer of Health of Dublin, has been made C.B.

PROFESSOR HENRY ALLEYNE NICHOLSON, regius professor of natural history at the University of Aberdeen, died on January 19th, aged fifty-four years. He was in 1871 called to the chair of natural history in the University of Toronto, and afterwards to Aberdeen. He was the author of important contributions to paleontology.

MAJOR JED. HOTCHKISS, who in 1895 was Vice-President for Geology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and who was the author of contributions to economic geology and engineering, died on January 18th, aged 71 years.

DR. WILHELM DAMES, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Berlin, died on December 22d, aged 55 years.

SIR JAMES MOUAT, K. C. B., a distinguished army surgeon, formerly Inspector-General of Hospitals in Great Britain, died in London on January 4th, aged 84 years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Eugen F. A. Obach, at the age of 46 years. He had made important contributions to electrical engineering and had made a thorough study of the chemistry of gutta serena.

DR. GIUSEPPE BOSSO, of the Turin University, died on January 17th, from infection contracted while cultivating bacilli in his laboratory.

DRS. EHLERT AND MÖNNICH have lost their lives by an Alpine accident on the Susten Pass. Dr. Ehlert had made valuable contributions to seismology, working at the University of Strasbourg. Dr. Mönnich was Assistant to the Bavarian Meteorological Central Station.

THE directors of the Benjamin Apthorp Gould fund, which, it will be remembered, Miss Alice Bache Gould gave somewhat more than a year ago to the National Academy of Sciences, announce that they are now prepared to receive applications for appropriations from the income of the fund, which will amount to about \$1,000

annually. Preference will be given to investigators working in America or to Americans working abroad, and to work in the astronomy of precision rather than in astrophysics. The directors of the fund, to one of whom applications should be addressed, are Messrs. Lewis Boss, Seth C. Chandler and Asaph Hall.

THE Cartwright prize of the Alumni of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical Department of Columbia University, will be awarded for an essay received not later than April 1st, of the present year. The essay must contain original investigations made by the writer. The value of the prize is \$500 and is open to universal competition.

THE Swiss Society of Chemical Industry offers a prize of 2,000 fr. for an essay that will promote electro-chemical interests in Switzerland. Essays must be sent by May 1, 1900, to the President of the Society, Mitlodi, Switzerland.

THE Washington Botanical Club was organized by a gathering of botanists held at the residence of one of its members November 11, 1898. The limit of membership was fixed at 20, and it was determined that the meetings should be, for the present at least, of a distinctly social and informal nature, with free scope for discussion and the general interchange of ideas. At a subsequent meeting, held December 14th, the organization was perfected by the election of Professor Edward L. Greene as President and Mr. Charles L. Pollard as Secretary. The Club is to hold monthly sessions, devoting itself chiefly to systematic and ecological work, the field of plant physiology and pathology being covered by the already existing Botanical Seminar.

At the annual meeting of the American Geographical Society, on January 16th, Judge Charles P. Daly, whose services to the Society have been so important, was re-elected President. The other officers elected are: Vice-President, the Rev. C. C. Tiffany; Treasurer, Walter T. Jones; Secretary, Chandler Roberts; Councilors, Rear-Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, William Hamilton, Henry Holt, Clarence King and Charles A. Peabody.

At the annual meeting of the Philadelphia

Academy of Natural Sciences the following officers, Councillors and members of the Finance Committee, to serve during 1899, were elected :

President, Samuel G. Dixon, M.D.; Vice Presidents, Thomas Meehan, Rev. Henry C. McCook, D.D.; Recording Secretary, Edward J. Nolan, M.D.; Corresponding Secretary, Benjamin Sharp, M.D.; Treasurer, George Vaux, Jr.; Librarian, Edward J. Nolan, M.D.; Curators, Henry A. Pilsbry, Henry C. Chapman, M.D., Arthur Erwin Brown, Samuel G. Dixon, M.D.; Councillors to serve three years, Charles E. Smith, Uselma C. Smith, John Cadwalder, William Sellers; Finance Committee, Charles Morris, Chas. E. Smith, Uselma C. Smith, William Sellers, Charles Roberts; Councillor for unexpired term of two years, Charles Schaffer, M.D.

The following standing committees were appointed for the year :

Publications : Thomas Meehan, Charles E. Smith, Henry A. Pilsbry, Henry Skinner, M. D., Edward J. Nolan, M. D.

Library : Arthur Erwin Brown, Thomas A. Robinson, Henry C. Chapman, M. D., Dr. C. Newlin Peirce and Charles Schaffer, M. D.

Instruction and Lectures : Uselma C. Smith, Benj. Smith Lyman, Samuel G. Dixon, M. D., Philip P. Calvert and Charles Morris.

Committee of Council on By-Laws : Isaac J. Wistar, Theodore D. Rand, Arthur Erwin Brown and Benjamin Sharp, M. D.

THE Ninth International Congress of Ophthalmology will be held at Utrecht from August 14 to 18, 1899. The scientific work of the Congress will be divided among three sections, as follows: (1) Anatomy, Pathological Anatomy and Bacteriology; (2) Optics and Physiology; (3) Clinical and Operative Methods.

THE annual meeting of the Board of Managers of the New York Zoological Society was held on January 17th, with the Hon. Levi P. Morton, the President of the Society, in the chair. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Professor Henry F. Osborn, reported the important progress in the construction of buildings and other installations, to which we recently called attention. It was announced at the meeting that Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt had contributed \$5,000 toward the building fund.

THE Finance Committee of the Philadelphia City Council has reported favorably upon a proposed loan of \$200,000 by the city for

the buildings and equipments of the Philadelphia Museums. The bill will probably be passed by the Council, and this insures the raising of the \$300,000 required under the Act of Congress appropriating \$300,000 towards the aid of the exposition of manufactured products of the United States to be held in Philadelphia next autumn. \$50,000 has been appropriated by the State Legislature and \$50,000 has been collected by private subscription. The United States government has also appropriated a further sum of \$50,000 for the purchase of samples of foreign goods to show the kind of goods that should be exported. Dr. W. P. Wilson, Director of the Museums, will be Director-General of the Exposition.

A CHEMICAL and pharmaceutical laboratory has been opened in Rajkote, in western India. 30,000 rupees have been given for the construction of the building by Azam Laxmon Meran. The equipment is paid for by the state. Mr. H. L. Lee has been appointed director of the laboratory.

M. EMILE DUBOIS has introduced into the French Chamber of Deputies a bill providing for the creation in each department of France of one or more bacteriological laboratories, with a view to the repression and prevention of contagious diseases, particularly tuberculosis.

E. C. SIMMONS, ex-Mayor of Kenosha, Wis., has offered to build and present to that city a library building and to purchase 25,000 volumes for it. The estimated cost of the gift is \$100,000.

THE Amesbury (Mass.) public library will receive \$10,000 by the will of the late Mary A. Barnard.

THE corner stone of the School of Practical Horticulture was laid at Hyeres on January 8th, in the presence of M. Viger, the French Minister of Agriculture.

THE Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, has secured, through the generosity of Mr. Stanley R. McCormick, a valuable collection of articles from the Moqui tribes of the Pueblo Indians. It was made by a missionary and represents the arts of the tribes from their earliest association with the pioneers up to the present time.

A TELEGRAM from Sydney has been received

at the Royal Society stating that the boring into the coral atoll of Funafuti had been discontinued on reaching a depth of 1,114 feet. Cores had been obtained, and the material traversed is described as 'coral reef' rock.

THE English papers state that arrangements are being made, under the direction of Signor Marconi, at the South Foreland lighthouse and on board the South Goodwin lightship for a series of experiments in wireless telegraphy. If the experiments are considered satisfactory, it is stated that the wireless system will be adopted forthwith as a means of communication between the South Foreland lighthouse and the South Sands Head lightship. The points of communication are about three miles apart.

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that M. Cruppi recently laid before the French Chamber of Deputies a bill for reforming medical expert evidence. M. Cruppi proposes that a list of medical experts should be drawn up every year. None but men of undoubted scientific ability should be on the list; the accused person should have the right to name his or her own expert, who should work in cooperation with the expert named by the Judge. In cases where the two experts do not agree the matter should be decided by a committee composed of eminent scientific men. The Commission of Judicial Reform is considering the question.

MEN of science will not be surprised to learn that an examination of the late John W. Keeley's exhibition room has brought to light tubes and other arrangements by which compressed air could have been used to run his motor. Wheels went round without doing any work and could have been readily turned by compressed air or in other ways, in the exhibition made some years ago to the present writer. It was at the time indicated that he would be given \$5,000 if he would state over his signature that the operations could not be accounted for by known natural forces.

It is stated in the daily papers that Mr. Elmer Gates, Washington, wishes to form a commercial company to obtain money to enable him to proceed with the invention of his microscope, which he is said to say magnifies 3,000,000 diameters.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

WE regret to learn that the California Courts have decided that the trust clause in the will of the late Adolph Sutro, giving Sutro Heights as a public park to the city of San Francisco, and San Miguel Ranch to support a scientific school, is invalid, and the property will now go into the residuary estate and be divided among six children. Perhaps these children will set the Courts an example by fulfilling the wishes of their father.

THE late Miss Rebecca Flower Squiers, of London, has bequeathed £2,000 for scholarships for students at Oxford or Cambridge, and the residue of her estate, the amount of which is not stated, for the benefit of these universities.

PROFESSOR CLEVELAND ABBE has given to the Johns Hopkins University his valuable collection of books, journals and pamphlets relating to meteorology. The library has also received an anonymous gift of \$5,000 for the purchase of books.

REV. DR. GEORGE E. MERRILL, of Newton, Mass., has accepted the call to the presidency of Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y.

PROFESSOR J. B. JOHNSON, who holds the the chair of engineering in Washington University, St. Louis, has been called to the University of Wisconsin, where he will be made Dean of the College of Engineering.

MR. G. F. STOUT, Anderson lecturer on comparative psychology at Aberdeen and formerly lecturer on psychology at Cambridge, has been appointed to the newly established Wilde lectureship of mental philosophy at Oxford.

THE professorship of physics in the University of Sydney, New South Wales, is vacant. In accordance with the British custom, applications for the position, with eight copies of all testimonials, must be received not later than February 18th by Sir Daniel Cooper, acting agent-general for New South Wales, 9 Victoria St., London, S. W. The salary of the professorship is £900 per annum, with a conditional pension of £400. Candidates must be under 35 years of age. We presume that citizens of the United States are eligible.