work. The library contains about 1,500 volumes, and it is not difficult to obtain books from elsewhere when necessary.

On the ground floor of the central portion of the building is an aquarium well stocked from the native fauna and open to the public for a small fee. Above the aquarium is the main Laboratory, a well-lighted and well-ventilated room of moderate height, 70x34. The windows, which are very large, are separated by partitions about seven feet high, forming a series of alcoves, each about ten feet square. Through the center of the Laboratory runs a continuous line of aquaria designed for experimental work. The whole place is clean, orderly and well kept (except, of course, my own alcove), and as good a place for work as could be desired. Every investigator is given a pass-key to the Laboratory, which is available for work day or night and every day precisely as one wishes or as his work requires. Smoking is allowed everywhere, which is a luxury to me, for you may remember that an occasional cigarette is necessary for my health.

The staff consists of three naturalists, including the Director, and eight employees, such as janitor, boatman, Laboratory *Diener*, etc. The latter is well trained in the art of preserving marine animals in the expanded condition, in the art of mixing reagents, and the like. The Laboratory is provided with a steamer about 60 feet long and with a sail-boat, both of which are kept well employed collecting for the supply department, so that there is an abundant supply of fresh material constantly brought in. In the Official Reports of the Laboratory stress is naturally laid on its needs. Some with whom I have talked have seemed to interpret these appeals as signifying extreme poverty, and are surprised accordingly to find an establishment so well equipped. It is not, of course, perfect, but, in my opinion, it is an excellent laboratory, admirably managed.

In the university vacations the place, I am told, is full of workers, but during the present winter there have been in residence only the three naturalists on the staff and three other investigators besides myself.

I have read of the severe winter at home with many chuckles of satisfaction that I am not in it, for, as you know, I have no affection for our blizzards, and I am contented that they are unknown here. The lowest temperature recorded this winter at Plymouth was 29° F. on what the newspapers called a 'bitter cold night,' and the highest during January was 56°. As a rule, it has been 45° or thereabouts. We have a good deal of rain, but, by a fortunate meteorological arrangement, it is rarely cold and stormy at the same time. The south and southwest winds are mild and rainy and the easterly and northerly winds clear and cool. The winds are so tempered that sheep graze in the public parks all winter, while on tennis-courts, and on lawns where sheep are not allowed, lawn-mowers have been in constant use to keep the grass under control. Many of the more hardy garden plants bloom all winter, and the ivy and numerous shrubs are luxuriant with greenness. Spring is already at hand (February 17th), as is apparent from the wild violets and primroses, blossoms of which I have picked in the fields this week. One day it snowed for two hours, but at the end of that time there was no snow to be seen, every flake having melted as it fell.

Of course, the people exercise the right of all free men to grumble at the weather, but I have seen many climates which gave far more cause for grumbling. There is a widspread impression, which I suspect may be correct, that the big storms here are hatched on our side of the Atlantic and find their way across. Whenever we get a good strong southwester people say with an injured air, 'See how the Americans treat us,' almost as if there were personal spite in it. On the whole, the climate is to me infinitely more agreeable than that of New England.

To sum it all up, Plymouth and its surroundings are beautiful; the climate is (to me) agreeable; my family has been in most excellent health all winter; and, lastly, the Laboratory is a most delightful place for work.

THE DUPLICATION OF GEOLOGIC FORMATION NAMES.

THE custom of giving more or less local geographic names to geologic sub-divisions has become so universal that we are even now duplicating the use of such names to a considerable

extent. Geological literature is of too great bulk for the working geologist to attempt to ascertain whether or not names which he proposes to use have been preoccupied. To illustrate what the present system is leading to, a few instances of some prominence will be cited.

In 1883 Hague described, in a report of the U. S. Geological Survey, the Eureka quartzite, a sub-division of the Silurian, in the Eureka district, Nevada. In 1891 Simonds and Hopkins, in a report of the Arkansas Geological Survey, used the name Eureka shale for a supposed Devonian horizon; while in 1898 Haworth, in a report of the Kansas Geological Survey, proposes the name Eureka limestone as a subdivision of the Coal Measures.

In 1879 Peale, in the 11th Annual Report of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories, employed the term Cache Valley Group for a sub-division of the Pleistocene of Utah. Becker described, in 1888, the Cache Lake beds of California, in Monograph XIII of the U. S. Geological Survey, and referred them to the Tertiary. In 1896 G. M. Dawson, in a report of the Canada Geological Survey, uses the name Cache Creek formation for an horizon of the Carboniferous to include strata described by Selwyn in 1872 as Upper and Lower Cache Creek beds.

In 1842–46 Emmons, Vanuxem and Mather employed, the term Erie division as a sub-division of the New York system. In the Ohio Geological Survey reports, the Erie clay was used as a sub-division of the Pleistocene, and Erie shale was referred both to the Carboniferous and Devonian. In 1875 Lesley described, in a report of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, the Erie shale, which he referred to the Silurian. In 1898 Haworth described the Erie limestone of the Coal Measures of Kansas. The above references are given merely to illustrate the confusion that is likely to arise from use of new geographic terms if the literature is not carefully examined for previous use.

For the past eighteen months the writer has been engaged in preparing a card catalogue of geologic formation names, during such time as could be taken from other office and field work. This catalogue has already assumed considerable proportions, and is now being consulted by those geologists who are aware that such a work is being prosecuted. While preparing the annual bibliography of geological literature for 1898 the writer has found several instances of duplication of names that have become well established in geologic nomenclature. It will probably be a year or more before this catalogue can be published, and, in the meantime, to assist in avoiding such duplication, the writer offers to furnish geologists who will correspond with him such information as he possesses regarding names which they propose to use as formation names.

F. B. WEEKS.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE BERLIN TUBERCULOSIS CONGRESS.*

THE German Central Committee for the erection of Sanitaria for Consumptives have issued a call for a Congress to be held in Berlin, Germany, May 24–27, 1899, for the purpose of discussing the subject of tuberculosis. The Congress will meet in the new building of the Imperial Diet and is under the patronage of Her Majesty, The Kaiserin, while Prince Hohenlohe, the Imperial Chancellor, will serve as Honorary President. All of the German States, also local authorities, medical faculties and societies, and all corporations interested in fighting tuberculosis, have been requested to send delegates, and all foreign countries represented at the Imperial Court have also been invited to take part. The United States Embassy has been requested to extend a cordial invitation to American physicians to become members of the Congress, and the same invitation has been extended through other missions to physicians of other nationalities.

As a basis for discussion papers will be presented as follows: (1) 'Distribution and extent of tuberculosis' by Geheimrath Koehler, Director of the Imperial Health Office, and Geheimrath Krieger, of Strassburg; (2) 'Etiology,' by Professors Robert Koch and B. Fraenkel, of Berlin; (3) 'Prophylaxis,' by Pro-

* Written at the request of Dr. Pannwitz, General Secretary of the Congress, and forwarded simultaneously to several American journals. The medical, veterinarian and scientific press is requested to call the attention of its readers to this Congress.