

lished in the Minnesota Botanical Studies as a part of the publications of the State Geological and Natural History Survey. Appearing at intervals in the form of a periodical, the 'Studies' are unique among the botanical publications of the country. Here is a case of the endowment of research which is to be commended to other States. Eight titles appear in the current number (Part II., Second Series) including 'Seedlings of certain woody plants, Comparative anatomy of hypocotyl and epicotyl in woody plants, Seed dissemination and distribution of *Razoumofskya robusta*, Observations on Constantinea,' etc., etc.

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THE BRAIN OF HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ.

PROFESSOR DAVID HANSEMAN, of the University of Berlin, has contributed to the *Zeitschrift für Psychologie* (Part I. of Volume XX., issued on March 7th) an account of his examination of the brain of the late Professor von Helmholtz. Death was due to apoplexy and occurred on September 8, 1894, when Helmholtz was 73 years of age. The circumference of the head outside the scalp was 59 cm. and of the skull 55 cm. The width of the skull was 15.5 cm. and its length 18.3 cm. The cephalic index was consequently 85.25, which represents a broad head. The size of the head was about the same as that of Bismarck and slightly smaller than that of Wagner, both of whom had large heads. Darwin's head, on the other hand, was only 56.3 cm. in circumference. The weight of the brain with the coagulated blood was 1700 g. and without the blood about 1440 g., which is nearly 100 g. heavier than the average. It is, however, now generally recognized that the weight of the brain alone is not an index of mental capacity. The convolutions are more important, and here the examination of von Helmholtz's brain showed that the sulci were peculiarly deep and well marked, this being especially the case in those parts of the brain which the researches of Flechsig have shown to be concerned with associations. The frontal convolutions are so deeply cut by numerous sulci that it is difficult

to follow the recognized fissures. The article contains two photographs of the brain taken from plaster casts. The brain itself has not been preserved.

We are informed, both on the authority of von Helmholtz himself and as the result of the post-mortem examination, that he had been in youth somewhat hydrocephalous, which was also the case with Cuvier, who had one of the heaviest (1830 g.) brains known. It has been maintained by Perls, and more guardedly by Edinger, that hydrocephaly in youth is an advantage in enlarging the skull and giving the brain space for growth. Hansemann thinks that the pressure on the brain resulting from slight hydrocephaly is an adequate anatomical explanation of unusual intelligence. He refrains, however, from recommending the making of geniuses by injecting fluid into the skulls of babies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A MEETING of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been called by the President, Professor F. W. Putnam, and the Permanent Secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, on Tuesday, April 18th; at 4:30 p. m., at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C.

THE New York Academy of Sciences will hold its annual exhibition and reception on Wednesday and Thursday, April 19th and 20th. As has been the case in other years, the first evening will be reserved for members of the Academy and specially invited guests, while a large number of those interested in science will be invited to be present on the second evening. On Thursday afternoon students of the universities and schools will be invited to attend. Tickets for Thursday afternoon or evening can probably be obtained from Professor William Hallack, Columbia University, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

THE Committee of Organization of the International Geological Congress, which meets at Paris from the 16th to the 28th of August, 1900, is as follows: President, M. Albert Gaudry, professor in the Museum of Natural History; Vice-Presidents, MM. Michel Lévy and Margel Bertrand; General Secretary, M. Charles Barrois.

DR. G. W. HILL has declined to accept the

Damoiseau Prize, which was awarded to him by the Paris Academy of Sciences last December.

MISS CATHERINE WOLFE BRUCE has, through Professor J. K. Rees, given \$10,000 to Columbia University, to be used for the measurement and discussion of astronomical photographs. Miss Bruce's gifts to the department of astronomy amount to \$22,100.

AT the recent session of the Legislature of Oregon the office of State Biologist was created, whose duty it is to conduct investigations on and develop the biological resources of the State. Professor F. L. Washburn, of the University of Oregon, has been appointed to the office by the Governor. A small appropriation was made for experiments in propagating Eastern oysters in Oregon waters. Professor Washburn has been working along this line for three years, and results of artificial fertilization are coming to light. Some young Eastern oysters hatched and grown in Yaquina Bay, Oregon, have recently been received.

DR. W. S. CHURCH has been elected President of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

AT the fourth annual meeting of the North Carolina Section of the American Chemical Society, the retiring President, Dr. F. P. Venable, made an address on 'The Nature of Valence.' Dr. Charles Baskerville was elected President of the Section.

AT the last meeting of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Mr. Arthur Tannett Walker, a member of the Council of the Iron and Steel Institute, was elected a Vice-President in place of the late Sir Douglas Galton.

PROFESSOR R. S. WOODWARD, of Columbia University, will represent the University at the Jubilee celebrations of Sir George Stokes, to be held at Cambridge in June.

PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART, of the department of physics of the University of Michigan, has been granted a year's leave of absence.

M. NAUDIN, the French botanist, has died at the age of 83 years.

MADAME MICHELET, who shared with Jules Michelet the preparation of his books on natural history, has died at Paris.

A WOMAN assistant to the New York State

Entomologist will be selected by civil service examination on April 22d. The duties are clerical, but require some scientific knowledge, and entomology is part of the examination. At the same time a Janitor of the Geological Hall will be chosen, with a salary of \$1,200. This appears to be more than twice the salary of many museum curators.

DR. HANS DELBRÜCK, professor of history in the University of Berlin, has been fined 500 Marks and censured by the Prussian disciplinary court for criticising the action of the government in expelling Danes from North Schleswig. The prosecution proposed that Professor Delbrück be transferred from Berlin to another university. There are evident limitations to academic freedom in Germany.

THE Royal College of Surgeons, of England, was founded by royal charter in 1800, and a committee of the College has been appointed to decide whether its centenary should be celebrated and, if so, in what manner.

A COLORADO Ornithological Association has recently been organized, with Dr. W. B. Bergtold as the first President.

THE French Physical Society held its annual exhibition on April 7th and 8th.

THE opening ceremony of a Spinoza Museum took place at Rhynsburg, near Leyden, on March 24th, in the house where Spinoza lived during the last years of his life, and which has been restored in the 17th-century style. Professor Bolland, of Leyden University, delivered a speech on the life and work of Spinoza.

COMMUNICATION between England and the Continent was obtained on March 27th by the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy. The stations were at South Foreland and Wimreux, 32 miles apart. The Morse code was used, and the messages were read as distinctly as though the termini had been connected with wires.

THE gift from Mr. Llewellyn W. Longstaff of £25,000 towards a British Antarctic expedition, with the £15,000 already subscribed, assures the sending of an expedition in 1900 to cooperate with that from Germany. The Berlin Geographical Society has published a chart indicating the routes that might be followed by the two expeditions. It is proposed that the British ex-

pedition shall confine itself chiefly to the Pacific side of the Antarctic, while the German expedition explores the side facing the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

NEWS has been received from the *Belgica*, of the Belgian Antarctic expedition. The extreme latitude reached was 71 degrees, 36 minutes south, longitude 92 degrees west. Maps were prepared of Hughes Bay and Palmer's Land, south of the South Shetland Islands.

THE expedition of Mr. H. O. Forbes and Mr. Ogilvie Grant to the Island of Socotra has returned, after successful explorations. The island has been mapped and its geological features and its fauna thoroughly studied.

IT is stated in *Nature* that the Russian expedition for taking meridian measurements in Spitsbergen will leave St. Petersburg on May 1st. Two steamers have been placed at the disposal of the expedition by the Russian Ministries of Marine and Ways and Communications, and the Minister of Finance has granted 50,000 roubles for two years. M. Bjalinizki, the zoologist, and Dr. Bunge, the Polar explorer, will accompany the expedition, which will be under the leadership of Staff-Captain Sergievski.

AN international congress against the abuse of alcoholic liquors was held in Paris from April 4th to 9th. The subjects considered included medical science and hygiene, political and social economy, legislation, instruction, education and propaganda.

THE Autumn Congress and Exhibition of the British Sanitary Institution will be held at Southampton on August 29th and following days.

THE extensive and valuable library of works in natural history collected by the late Professor Mariano de la Paz Graells, as also the botanical library of the late Professor Axel Blyt, is offered for sale by Felix M. Dames, of Berlin, from whom catalogues can be obtained.

THE annual dinner of the British Institution of Civil Engineers took place on March 15th. Speeches were made by the President, Mr. W. H. Preece; Lord Wolseley, Lord Claude Hamilton and Mr. W. L. Jackson.

WE called attention recently to the recommen-

dation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Museums of the Science and Art Department that the Frank Buckland Fish Museum should be abolished. The *London Times* states that on March 15th a memorial with a large number of signatures, including those of representatives of many piscatorial societies and the chairmen of various provincial fishery boards, was presented to the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Ritchie, praying that this decision be withdrawn. The memorialists point out that the Select Committee consisted of 15 members, of whom seven only approved the report; three, including Sir John Gorst, voted against it, and five abstained. Against the opinion of Sir John Donnelly and Major-General Festing is cited that of Sir Richard Owen, who considered that the collection would be a most valuable appendage to the Salmon Fisheries Commission and Office. The memorial relates the history of the museum, and submits suggestions for extending its usefulness as suggested on different occasions by the Prince of Wales and by Professor Huxley. For this the cooperation of the Board of Trade is considered essential. It should, it is submitted, be made a part of the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries to preserve and deposit in the Museum of Economic Fish Culture any objects of permanent interest which may come under their notice, together with photographs or models of improvements in fish-passes, fish culture apparatus and appliances, and other matters useful for reference or record; while the Inspectors' knowledge and varied experience may perhaps be further utilized for the public benefit, by lectures in connection with the museum. The Secretary and Inspectors of the Fisheries Department, together, perhaps, with representatives of the Fishmongers' Company, or other important bodies connected with the sea and river fisheries, should, it is suggested, be appointed visitors to advise on and aid in the management of the museum.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

SIR WILLIAM MACDONALD has made another munificent gift to McGill University. The gift is for the School of Mining and provides for a lecturer, a demonstrator, an assistant and a com-