

a decimal division of time and angles, the Congress desires to preserve the present division of time and of the circumference into 360° , but allows that the adoption of a different subdivision of the angle might be studied, and considers that in certain cases the decimal subdivision of the degree of arc presents no objection.

(8) The Congress is of opinion that the *Bibliotheca Geographica*, published by the Berlin Geographical Society, may be accepted as an efficient international bibliography of geography.

(9) The Congress considers the construction of statistical population maps to be very desirable, and appoints an international committee to draw up a scheme, at the same time expressing the hope that national committees will be formed in various countries to promote the preparation of such maps.

(10) The Congress considers the collection of data as to the distribution of floating ice to be very important, and appeals to the hydrographic and meteorological institutes of the countries whose ships frequent high latitudes to induce the masters of vessels to keep a regular record of the occurrence of drifting ice. The Congress believes that the Danish Meteorological Institute in Copenhagen is the best adapted as an international centre for collecting the records.

(11) The Congress nominates an international committee to consider the nomenclature of the floor of the ocean, and to produce and publish at latest in time for the next Congress a chart of the ocean with revised nomenclature.

(12) The Congress hopes that the names of oceanic islands, especially in the Pacific, will be revised with a view to ascertaining and preserving the native names. Where no native names exist or can be ascertained, the names given by the discoverers should be used. The arbitrary changing of established names ought to be opposed by every means.

(13) The Congress recognizes the desirability of obtaining data for a more exact estimate than now exists of countries in which there is no means of taking a census, and desires to bring the matter to the notice of such Governments as have foreign possessions.

(14) The Congress expresses sympathy with the proposal to equip an expedition in New South Wales, with the sole object of endeavoring to discover remains or traces of the route of the Leichhardt expedition, which perished in the interior of Australia fifty-two years ago.

(15) The Congress is favorable to the foundation of an international seismological society, and appoints an international committee for the study of earthquakes.

(16) The Congress believes the production of a map of the world on the scale of 1:1,000,000, the sheets bounded by meridians and parallels, to be both useful and desirable. The Permanent Bureau of the Congress is instructed to deal with the question, and in the first instance to secure the preparation of a projection for the map with degree lines on the determined scale.

(17) The Congress considers the establishment of an International Cartographical Association of service, and appoints a committee to take preliminary steps.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE family of the late Dr. Daniel Garrison Brinton have requested Mr. Stewart Culin, of the University of Pennsylvania, to prepare a memoir of the distinguished Americanist. Mr. Culin is desirous of obtaining copies of Dr. Brinton's letters and other literary materials, which may be sent him at the University of Pennsylvania.

PROFESSOR SIMON NEWCOMB has returned to Washington from Europe. His last official services while abroad were to represent, together with Professors Remsen and Bowditch, the National Academy of Sciences at a conference held at Wiesbaden, on October 10th and 11th, to form an International Association of Academies.

SIR WILLIAM MACCORMAC, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and one of the greatest authorities on gunshot wounds, has volunteered his services in South Africa, and the British War Office has accepted his offer.

MR. ALEX EVERETT FRYE, the geographer, has been appointed superintendent of schools for Cuba.

THE daily newspapers report that Professors Lengfeld and Smith and four students have

been injured by the explosion of chemicals in the Kent Laboratory of the University of Chicago.

DR. MARCUS BAKER, who was one of the experts assisting the United States members of the Venezuela arbitration commission at Paris, has returned to Washington.

DR. LUTHER DANA WOODBRIDGE, since 1884 professor of anatomy and physiology in Williams College, died suddenly of heart disease at his home in Williamstown on November 3d. He was born in 1850 and was a graduate of Williams College and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

THE death is announced of the African explorer, Dr. Oscar Baumann, born in Vienna in 1864. In 1885 he acted as geographer to the Austrian Congo Expedition, subsequently visiting the island of Fernando Po, the Cameroons and part of East Africa. He made several further trips to Africa on one of which he explored Usambara and made studies for the projected railway from Tanga to Karog.

DR. J. W. HICKS, fellow of Sidney-Sussex College, Cambridge, and Bishop of Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, has died at the age of fifty-nine. He was at one time demonstrator in chemistry in the University, and was the author of a text-book of inorganic chemistry; he was also doctor of medicine.

WE also regret to record the deaths of Dr. F. Kuhla in Manaos, Brazil, where he was engaged in botanical explorations; of Percy S. Pilcher on October 2d, as the result of an accident while experimenting with flying machines on September 30th, and of Professor Hayduck, privat dozent for chemistry at Berlin.

THE National Museum has recently come into possession of a large portion of a stony meteorite which fell at Allegan, Michigan, on July 12th last. A preliminary examination shows the stone to be of the chondritic type, composed essentially of olivine and enstatite with the usual sprinkling of particles of metallic iron and undetermined sulphides. The stone will be known as the Allegan meteorite, and as soon as described will be in part broken up and made available for exchanges with other institu-

tions. The Museum has also received, through Mr. O. C. Charlton, of Waco, Texas, permission to study and describe an iron meteorite found near Mart, McLennan County, in the same state. This mass weighed, entire, 19½ pounds and will be known as the Mart iron.

THE report of the Australian Museum for 1898 again notes that the appropriation for its maintenance is entirely inadequate and that the Museum is forced to depend entirely on its friends for any increase of the collections. Fortunately the friends are numerous as is shown by the many accessions. There is, however, a special appropriation for the construction of the superstructure of the new wing, the basement, which is devoted to workrooms, having already been built. It is noted that a new and satisfactory crematory has been erected so that as regards facilities for the work of preparation, the Australian Museum is probably far in advance of any institution in the United States, save possibly the Wistar Institute. Part 6 of the Memoir on Funafuti has been published, and two parts of a revised catalogue of Australian birds, and it is announced that the report on Funafuti will be finished this year and that on the Thetis trawling expedition commenced. The Australian Museum is to be congratulated on the amount of work it is able to do with its small appropriation.

Nature reports that at a meeting of the Council of the London Mathematical Society, it was resolved that the president (Lord Kelvin,) the three vice-presidents, the treasurer, and the two secretaries should be nominated for the same offices at the annual meeting on November 9th next. Of the other members, Messrs. W. H. H. Hudson, D. B. Mair and W. D. Niven, C.B., retire from office, and Messrs. W. Burnside, H. M. Macdonald and E. T. Whittaker were nominated to fill the vacancies. The Council also empowered the secretaries to publish an 'Index' to the first thirty volumes of the *Proceedings*, on the lines of the similar index to the first fifty volumes of the *Mathematische Annalen*. Mr. Tucker was further authorized to draw up a complete list of members from the foundation of the society in 1865.

AT the first general meeting this season of

the members of the Boston Society of Natural History, held on November 1st, a paper was read by Professor W. M. Davis on 'Geographical Notes of a Year in Europe.'

PROFESSOR LEITH, on taking the new chair of pathology and bacteriology at Mason University College, Birmingham, on October 9th, delivered an address on the advance of bacteriological science in the diagnosis and prevention of disease.

THE library of Harvard University has sent out circulars to various cattle-breeders' associations throughout the country, requesting them to contribute complete files of their published pedigrees of cattle, horses, sheep and swine. The collection is to aid students in research into the heredity of domesticated animals, and will be placed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

A SOMEWHAT acrimonious attack has been made by 'a correspondent' in the *Aberdeen Free Press* upon the trawling work of the Scottish Fisheries Commission. The article has been reprinted and is said to have been widely distributed. The author concludes "that their so-called scientific experiments on trawling have been carried on with no regard whatever to uniformity and in such a slipshod manner that the public money might, considering the results accruing, have been more profitably thrown into the sea." The author does not explain how the greater profit from the sea is to be secured. He demands an investigation of the work.

ACCORDING to *Nature*, a scientific and commercial mission, under the direction of M. Ernest Milliau, Director of the Laboratory of Technical Experiments in connection with the Ministry of Agriculture, Paris, has been sent to Russia and Roumania with the object of taking measures for facilitating and extending business relations with those countries, especially with regard to the exportation of olive oils.

THE New York *Evening Post* states that Dr. Robert T. Hill of the United States Geological Survey and four companions have arrived at Langtry, Texas, from a voyage through the cañons of the Rio Grande, their trip being the second successful one down that

river ever attempted. The party left Presidio, Texas, and completed the five hundred miles of the tortuous course of the river without seeing a human habitation. Veins of gold and silver-bearing rock were seen at several points, and there were indications in the almost inaccessible cañons that they had at one time been occupied by cliff dwellers, but it was found impossible to explore the ruins from below.

MR. JOSEPH B. BANCROFT, of Hopedale, Mass., has built a public library building for that town, at a cost of \$50,000, which will be dedicated during the present month.

THE School Board of the City of Chicago has decided to appoint fifty medical inspectors with special reference to preventing the spread of contagious diseases among children. The inspectors will examine pupils who have been absent from school four days or more and all those who show symptoms of fever or sore throat. The plan, which is modeled on that already adopted in New York and Boston, will be tried for two months as an experiment.

THE Committee of the British Association Table at the Naples Zoological Station announces, says *Nature*, that the Table is fully occupied until the middle of April next, but that applications for its occupancy from then until the end of August, 1900, should be sent at once to the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, Professor Howes, F.R.S., at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. Mr. Kyle will occupy the table from now until Christmas, when he will be succeeded by Mr. M. D. Hill, who will continue investigations on the reproduction processes of Crustacea, and in March Professor Herdman will go out and devote a month to the study of the Tunicata of the Bay.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MAJOR HENRY LEE HIGGINSON, of Boston, has given \$150,000 to Harvard University for the establishment of a university club, and the corporation offers as a site the property at the corner of Harvard and Quincy streets.

IN the Supreme Court of the United States, on October 30th, the petition for a writ of cer-