

They simply show that the limited quantity of alcohol that was given with other food material in the diet of healthy men for periods of a few days was almost completely burned in the body and yielded a certain amount of energy, and that this energy was actually utilized by the body, as is the energy which the body obtains from sugar, starch, fat and other ingredients of food. The clear evidence of this fact presented by these experiments is an important contribution to our knowledge concerning the nutritive action of alcohol.

These experiments mark only a single step toward the settlement of the broad questions involved in the use of alcoholic beverages. It is believed that the facts presented by them are reliable. But it should be remembered that the physiological action of alcohol involves much beside its nutritive effect. Its influence upon the circulatory and nervous functions is especially important. These matters are not treated in Professor Atwater's experiments.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. SAMUEL W. STRATTON, associate professor of physics in the University of Chicago, has been appointed director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

THE Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has appropriated the sum of \$500, to Professor E. B. Frost of the Yerkes Observatory, to assist in the construction of a spectrograph especially designed for the measurement of stellar velocities in the line of sight.

PROFESSOR H. A. ROWLAND of the John's Hopkins University has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of Lombardy.

AT the November meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Mr. Rudyard Kipling was elected a foreign honorary member in Class III., Section 4; and Sir Benjamin Baker of London, a foreign honorary member in Class I., Section 4; the latter in the place of the late Sir Henry Bessemer.

OWING to the press of his official duties as the Hydrographer of the United States Geological Survey, Mr. F. H. Newell has been obliged to

resign the Secretaryship of the National Geographic Society (Washington, D. C.), an office which he has ably and zealously filled for the last two years. As a successor to Mr. Newell the Society has been fortunate in securing the acceptance of the office by Mr. Joseph Stanley-Browne, well known as the editor of the publications and proceedings of the Geological Society of America.

THE National Academy of Sciences is holding its annual autumn meeting at Columbia University as we go to press.

THE American Society of Naturalists will meet at Yale University, New Haven, on Wednesday, December 28th. The discussion in the afternoon will be on 'The Position that Universities should take in Regard to Investigation.'

PRELIMINARY announcements have also been prepared in regard to the meetings at New Haven of the American Psychological Association and of the Anthropological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The meetings will be on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 27th, 28th and 29th. In the case of the Psychological Association the address of the president, Professor Dewey, will be given on the afternoon of Wednesday, followed by an informal discussion, while on Thursday morning there will be simultaneous sectional meetings for technical papers.

THE New York Zoological Park was formally opened to the public on the 8th inst. An address of welcome was made by Professor Henry F. Osborn, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Zoological Society, which was responded to by Mr. Bird S. Coler, Controller of the City, and Mr. August Moebius, Park Commissioner of the Borough of the Bronx. Mr. Levi P. Morton, President of the Zoological Society, then formally declared the Park open. Twenty-five buildings and other installations for animals have been completed, and these now contain 850 animals.

M. BÉNARD, the French architect whose plans for the University of California are described in the present issue of SCIENCE, will leave Paris this month for Berkeley.

A DEPUTATION representing the committee of the proposed university for Birmingham has come to America to study American universities. The deputation includes Professor J. H. Poynting whose address as president of the Physical Section of the British Association was recently published in this JOURNAL.

PROFESSOR BATTISTA GRASSI has gone to Grosseto in order to complete his researches on the mosquitos concerned in the transmission of malarial infection.

THE Allahabad *Pioneer Mail*, as quoted in *Nature*, states that Mr. Douglas Freshfield has started from Darjeeling, with a party of friends and Alpine guides, to explore the glaciers and little-known passes of the Kanchenjunga range of the Himalayas.

MISS SUSIE P. NICHOLS, B.S., Cornell University, '98, and Fellow in Botany at Cornell University, 1898-99, has been appointed holder of the Woman's Table at the Zoological Station at Naples for the autumn of 1899 and spring, 1900. She is engaged upon certain studies in the embryology of plants and has already entered upon her work at Naples.

THE Medical Club of Philadelphia gave last week a reception to Professors Simon Flexner and John C. Clarke, who have this year severed their connection with the Johns Hopkins University to accept the chairs of pathology and gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Nature states that copies in bronze of the medal presented to Sir G. G. Stokes at his jubilee can now be obtained from Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes, Cambridge, price fifteen shillings each.

THE death is announced of Dr. A. Ernst, Director of the National Museum, Carácas, Venezuela.

DR. EDWARD PETRI professor of geography and anthropology, in the University of St. Petersburg, has died at the age of forty-five years.

MR. OTTMAR MERGENTHALER, the inventor of the linotype machine, died at Baltimore on October 28th. The linotype substitute for type setting was first devised by him in 1880 and is now extensively used in newspaper offices.

THE death is announced of Mr. James Simpson, curator of the anatomical museum of the University of Edinburgh. He did much towards devising methods of mounting and displaying museum specimens and was the author of papers on various scientific subjects.

PROFESSOR ANDREW GRAY, Lord Kelvin's successor at the University of Glasgow, chose as the subject of his inaugural address 'The Interaction of Theory and Practical Applications in Physical Science.'

AT a special meeting of the Appalachian Mountain Club on November 22d, President T. C. Mendenhall, of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, will address the Club on the 'Controversy over Alaska.' President Mendenhall it will be remembered was one of the Commissioners on the Alaskan boundary.

THE lecture courses offered by the National Geographic Society in Washington, of which a preliminary program has already been published in SCIENCE, have been successfully inaugurated. The Society is at present in a most flourishing condition, numbering some 1,200 active and 1,200 corresponding, or non-resident members.

THE collection of birds secured by Professor Charles F. McClure and Mr. Sylvester, who were members of the recent Peary Relief Expedition, have been placed in the ornithological museum of Princeton University.

AT the Detroit Art Museum there is now a special exhibition of 28 paintings and 38 sketches by Mr. Frank Wilbert Stokes, made while on the Peary Relief Expedition of 1892, and the North Greenland Expedition of 1893-94. Most of those of scientific interest are of geographical or geological subjects.

THE Folk-Lore Society of Great Britain has offered to place on permanent deposit in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology of Cambridge University the collection of objects illustrating the Folk-lore of Mexico, presented to the Society by Professor Starr of the University of Chicago, and the Antiquarian Committee has recommended that the offer be gratefully accepted. The collection consisting of upwards of 600 objects was made by Professor Starr in Mexico and was exhibited last June at a joint-

meeting of the Anthropological Institute and the Folk-Lore Society.

THE valuable library relating to American Indians collected by the eminent scholar, the late J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, has been acquired by the Reference Library of Watkinson, Conn.

It is stated in *Nature* that a British exploring expedition to Abyssinia has been arranged and will leave England at once. The members are Mr. James J. Harrison, Mr. Powell Cotton, Mr. W. Fitzhugh Whitehouse (of Newport, Rhode Island), and Mr. A. E. Butter. Mr. Donald Clarke will go as surveyor and geographer, and a taxidermist will accompany the party. The objects of the expedition are scientific and sporting, and it is expected that the journey will occupy about nine months.

THE first meeting of the new session of the Royal Geographical Society, was held on Monday, November 13th, when the President, Sir Clements Markham was expected to give a short opening address, to be followed by a paper by Mr. W. Rickmer Rickmers on his 'Travels in Bokhara,' illustrated by numerous lantern slides. The paper at the following meeting, November 27th, will be by Mr. Vaughan Cornish on 'Desert Sand Dunes.' At the December meeting Colonel Sir John Farquharson will probably give 'An Account of the Past Twelve Years' Work of the Ordinance Survey,' from the directorship of which he has recently retired. Other papers expected to be given during the session are: 'An Ascent of Mount Kenya,' by Mr. H. J. Mackinder; 'The Work of the Yermak Ice-Breaker in the Spitsbergen Seas,' by Admiral Makaroff; 'Travels in Central Asia,' by Captain H. H. P. Deasy; 'Travels in the Region of Lake Rudolf and the Sobat River,' by Captain Wellby; 'Travels in Abyssinia,' by Mr. H. Weld Blundell; 'Anthropogeography of British New Guinea,' by Professor Haddon.

THE Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers having decided to hold monthly general meetings during the ensuing session, the first of such gatherings took place on October 27th in the new buildings of the institution at Storey's-gate, St. James's Park. The London

Times states that the chair was taken by the president, Sir W. H. White, and there was a full attendance of members. In opening the proceedings the president referred to the new arrangements made by the Council. He said that the alteration in their meetings had been decided upon only after the very fullest consideration. The feeling of the Council was that, having entered into their new house, they ought to make full use of it, and that a good beginning would be made by arranging monthly meetings during the winter. It has also been decided to hold their meetings on a single evening rather than, as had been the custom hitherto, on two three evenings in succession. By that means they hoped to get a better discussion. He could only appeal to the members to help in every way they could to make the new arrangement work successfully. They hoped to begin the graduates' meetings to-day. They looked to members to help them also in this new departure. A paper was then read by Mr. W. Ingham on 'The Incrustation of Pipes at the Torquay Waterworks.' He described the mechanical action of the scrapers constructed to remove the incrustation of the water pipes at Torquay, and the increase in the discharging power of the main affected by their use. Speaking generally he said it might be laid down with a fair approximation to the truth that well waters had not as great an action on pipes as those from upland gathering grounds, but where the water was soft the corrosive action would be greater. Filtered water had also a less corrosive power than unfiltered water. Much had been done to get a satisfactory coating to pipes, but there was still considerable room for improvement. It was hardly necessary to point out that a fortune awaited the man who could invent something that would withstand the action of soft waters. A discussion followed, and the meeting was adjourned until Friday, November 24th, when Lord Charles Beresford will read a paper on the opening for English engineers in China.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

As the result of a competition in which six invited firms of architects and three architectural firms in the city of St. Louis competed,