RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN MUSEUM.

THE second portion of the Cope collection containing the Fishes, Amphibia and Reptilia has recently been acquired by the American Museum of Natural History as the munificent gift of President Jesup. It includes 350 described species, represented in the majority of cases by the type specimens. The Amphibian collection is from the Permian formation of Texas, and represents many years' work by Cummings and other collectors. There are also large numbers of primitive reptiles belonging to the Proganausauria and other groups. The Trias is fairly well represented, mainly from Pennsylvania. The Jura is represented by collections both from the Colorado Sandstones and from the Como Beds. The former are the most valuable and in the most complete condition, including, especially, the type of *Camarasaurus* and types of other genera which Professor Cope described but never worked up. The Kansas Cretaceous is represented by a very large collection of Mosasaurs and Pterosaurs in fairly good condition and including many of Cope's types. From the Laramie is an especially fine Hadrosaur, a complete skeleton of Diclonius capable of being mounted, also remains of the Ceratopsia. From other parts of the Mesozoic and from the Tertiary are a great variety of reptile remains more or less complete, including some fine Belodontia, Crocodilia and Chelonia. This supplements the very large reptilian collection already made by the American Museum which will now be worked up for the first time.

At the same time there has been presented to the Museum, by Messrs. Havemeyer, Iselin, Dodge, James and Osborn, the valuable Pampean collection purchased by Professor Cope at the Paris Exposition of 1878. This was the first large exhibition in Europe from the Argentine Republic; it includes several entire skeletons, especially those of the great sabre-tooth tiger, *Machærodus*, and of *Lestodon*, and parts of the skeleton of *Toxodon*, also the carapace of several of the armored Edentates. This collection was mounted for exhibition in Paris and very carefully packed at the time of its purchase by Professor Cope; it has never been unboxed since.

Dr. O. P. Hay, formerly of the Field Columbian Museum, who for some time past has been working in the National Museum, has accepted a position in the American Museum as Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology and will be especially engaged in the arrangement of the Cope Mesozoic collection; he will enter upon his duties January 15th.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. G. K. GILBERT, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Professor Edward Orton.

WITH the close of the year, Assistant Charles A. Schott, who for nearly fifty years has been the distinguished and energetic chief of the Computing Division of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, retired from that important position in order to devote his whole time to special scientific work. Under Mr. Schott's careful supervision and training has developed a corps of skilled computers equalled by no other scientific bureau. To his labors, perhaps, more than to any other one man's, is due the high scientific character of the results which the Survey has given to the world. The completion last year of the great arc, begun over a quarter of a century ago, marks an epoch in the history of the Division, and, the beginning of the triangulation on the 98th meridian, would seem to be a fitting occasion for relieving Mr. Schott of the burden which he has borne for so many years. His official career has been coincident with the development of the Survey, and his untiring zeal and fidelity have done much to bring about its present standard. Assistant Schott will now devote himself to the discussion of the eastern oblique arc (Maine to Louisiana) and a similar arc in California. His successor is Assistant John F. Hayford, who for several months past has occupied the position of Inspector of Geodetic work, and has thus had general supervision, under the Superintendent's direction, of the field geodetic operations. His assumption of the duties of chief of the Computing Division in addition to his previous duties gives him the supervision of the geodetic