

tural Colleges and Experiment Stations requested the Smithsonian Institution to consider the organization of post-graduate study in Washington. The matter has been considered by a committee of the regents, consisting of ex-Senator Henderson, President W. L. Wilson, Professor A. Graham Bell, President James B. Angell and Representative Hill, which has drawn up a report that concludes as follows:

"The committee does not hesitate to express its warm and decided sympathy with the general purpose of the movement thus made by the associated colleges. The object sought commends itself to us all, and the zeal and ability with which it has been pressed upon our consideration by the very able and distinguished educators and scientists connected with these colleges furnish ample assurance that the consummation of the great and leading object sought by them is only a question of time. The material already collected in the bureaus and departments of the government furnishes a rich mine of the educational wealth that will not be permitted to remain forever undeveloped. This material is now being constantly enriched by the most valuable additions to its present enormous wealth. Already it has invited to the national capital many distinguished scientists, anxious to avail themselves of the superior advantages thus offered for investigation and research.

"Your committee, however, is painfully impressed with the fact that the powers of the Smithsonian Institution as at present organized are scarcely broad enough to embrace the work proposed. And the committee is equally impressed with the fact that even with enlarged authority its present financial condition would absolutely prevent anything like efficient and creditable performance of the work contemplated.

"It is well known to the members of this board that a great wealth of material—material which would be of immense utility in the successful accomplishment of the purposes indicated by the associated colleges—lies buried in the crypts and cellars of the National Museum.

"If our institution is unable for want of room, as it undoubtedly is, even to place this valuable material on exhibition for the public

eyes, and as little to arrange it for scientific uses, the problem of providing halls for lectures and meeting the necessary expenditures incident to the work proposed becomes serious and formidable in the extreme. Your committee is not prepared to make definite recommendations to the board for its final or ultimate action. That which is clearly inexpedient to-day may become not only expedient but eminently desirable to-morrow."

THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN.

FROM advance sheets of the administrative reports for 1899 of the Missouri Botanical Garden, it appears that as contrasted with the preceding year there was a slight increase in revenue, and that by a decree of the Supreme Court of the State of Missouri, affirming a decision of the lower court, handed down some years since, the Trustees of the Garden are now empowered to sell real estate originally inalienable, which, when improved, should sell for at least \$1,500,000. The Garden expenses for the year were \$32,174.36, in addition to which a small sum was spent on special improvements.

The Director's report shows that 71,021 visitors to the Garden were counted during the year, and that the collection of living plants, which included 8009 species and varieties at the beginning of the year, made a net gain of 1118, bringing the total at the end of the year up to 9127.

There were 32,890 sheets of specimens incorporated in the herbarium, which now comprises 340,350 sheets. The additions to the library comprise 642 books, 172 pamphlets, and 9042 cards, bringing the contents of the library at the end of the year up to 33,462 parts, of which 14,287 are books, and 19,175 pamphlets. The total value of the herbarium is now stated to be \$51,052.52, and of the library \$54,683.24.

It is stated that as a result of the recent decision of the Supreme Court touching the unimproved real estate constituting a part of the endowment of the Garden, the Trustees are now able to look forward to the gradual conversion of a large amount of unproductive, heavily taxed property into an income-produc-

ing form, while relieved from the need, which they have experienced during the past ten years, of withholding a large part of the current revenue annually for the protection of this property whenever the improvement of the streets through it should be ordered by the city. As a first step in the marked advance to be looked for, the Trustees have authorized the immediate grading of about twenty acres of ground adjoining the present Garden, according to plans prepared some years since by Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, the intention being to plant this area as a permanent addition to the grounds, in such a way as to add greatly to their attractiveness and to present in a compact form the leading features of the North American flora, which it is proposed to arrange essentially in the well-known botanical sequence of Bentham and Hooker; while some eighty acres adjoining are expected to be improved within a few years, in accordance with plans furnished by the same landscape architects, in such a manner as to represent as many as possible of the natural orders of plants, so arranged as to exemplify the more modern classification of Engler and Prantl.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Academy of Arts and Sciences has granted from the income of the Rumford fund \$500 to Professor E. C. Pickering, for the purpose of carrying out an investigation on the brightness of faint stars by coöperation with certain observatories possessing large telescopes, and \$100 to Professor T. W. Richards, in aid of a research on the transition points of crystallized salts.

COLONEL F. F. HILDER, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has just been detailed as a special agent of the Government Board of the Pan-American Exposition, to visit the Philippines, for the purpose of making scientific and especially ethnologic collections. It is his plan to visit as many of the islands as practicable before the opening of the rainy season, and make collections illustrating the industries, modes of life and social conditions prevailing among both the wild and settled tribes.

MR. EDWARD G. GARDINER, Secretary of the

Marine Biological Laboratory, accompanied by Mr. George M. Grey, Collector and Curator of the Supply Department, have left for Puerto Rico for a few week's tour along certain portions of the coast, with the intention of examining and making collections of the marine fauna. Mr. Gardiner expects to have the companionship and assistance of Admiral Grinell, retired, who is familiar with the language and mode of life in this island.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER, professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society and last year president of the British Association, has consented to become a candidate for the University of London's seat in Parliament, vacant by the elevation of Sir John Lubbock to the peerage.

THE Hon. Richard Olney has been appointed to the vacancy in the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution caused by the death of D. P. Johnston.

DR. H. C. BOLTON has been elected president of the Chemical Society of Washington, and Mr. Whitman Cross president of the Geological Society of Washington.

PROFESSOR MILNE-EDWARDS has been elected vice-president of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

DR. F. FREIHERR VON RICHTHOFEN, professor of geography at Berlin, has been given the Bavarian Maximilian order for art and science.

DR. E. R. SCHNEIDER, professor of chemistry at Berlin, has been given an order of the crown on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate. The same order has been given to Dr. Felix Klein, professor of mathematics at Göttingen.

M. TH. RIBOT, professor of psychology of the Collège de France, has been elected to the chair of the Paris Academy of Moral Sciences made vacant by the death of M. Nourrisson.

PROFESSOR HENRY S. CARHART of the department of physics of the University of Michigan, who has been spending the year in Germany, is now in Zürich studying the subject of electrical engineering with Professor Weber.

PROFESSOR W. P. MASON, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has gone to Europe to be absent until May.