

The Board has given permission to the Philadelphia Natural History Society to hold its meeting in the Institute. This Society is in a most flourishing condition and there is an average attendance at the meetings of from 35 to 40 persons.

The number of accessions to the Museum during the year was 386, making a total of 14,880 exhibits, not including the insects of which there are about 5000 species. The collection of Florida Pliocene Fossils is one of the best and most complete in the country. Among the most important contributions are 100 species of fossils collected by Dr. H. G. Griffith on the Caloosahatchie River, Florida; 50 species of minerals presented by Mr. Joseph Wilcox, a number of zoological crustacea and mollusks collected by the Zoological Expedition to Florida in June, 27 local species from the Academy of Natural Science Exchange, 22 species of birds and nests from J. Harris Reed, and a collection of coal plants from the Rock Hill Coal and Iron Company. The local collection of insects is now the most complete in the City.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MAJOR J. W. POWELL, director of the bureau of American ethnology, and Professor W. H. Holmes, head curator of anthropology in the United States National Museum, are in Cuba engaged in carrying out a plan for archæologic researches which are expected to throw light on pre-historic migrations of several native tribes, as well as on aboriginal commerce and interchange of arts. Their operations will extend to Puerto Rico and several other Antillean Islands.

THE REV. FATHER JOSÉ ALGUE, director of the Manila Observatory, and his associate, Father José Clos, have arrived at San Francisco on their way to Washington. They wish to arrange for the continuation of the work of the Observatory and the publication of the results by the government.

PROFESSOR A. J. HENRY, who has been for twenty years connected with the Weather Bureau and who is at present chief of the Division of Meteorology, has been appointed to

fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late H. A. Hazen.

MR. A. A. HELLER has returned to Puerto Rico to extend his collections made in 1899 for the New York Botanical Garden. He will keep the field during January and February, with headquarters at Mayaguez in the western part of the island.

WE are glad to learn that Professor R. H. Chittenden of Yale University who has been seriously ill with typhoid fever is now better.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Council of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society have awarded the Wilde Medal for 1900 to Lord Rayleigh, for his contributions to mathematical and experimental physics and to chemistry; a Dalton Medal (struck in 1864) to Sir H. E. Roscoe, for his remarkable original researches in chemistry, and for his distinguished services to scientific education; and the Wilde Premium for 1900 to Professor A. W. Flux, for his papers on economic questions read before the Society. The presentation of the medals and the premium took place at a special meeting, when Lord Rayleigh delivered the Wilde Lecture for 1900.

M. POINCARÉ has been awarded the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

It is understood that Sir John Lubbock, on his elevation to the peerage, has decided to take the name of Lord Avebury, after a property of his in Wiltshire. According to Sir John Lubbock's description in 'Prehistoric Times,' the temple of Avebury, Wiltshire, was the greatest of all so-called Druidical monuments.

M. M. DARBOUX and Moissan have been appointed delegates of Paris Academy of Sciences to the celebration of the second centenary of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society, London, on January 17th, Mr. G. J. Symons, F.R.S., was elected president for the ensuing year.

At the first meeting of the Académie de Médecine for 1900 the retiring president, Professor Panas, gave his valedictory address, reviewing the important work and communica-

tions of the past year. Professor Marey succeeds him in the presidency and Professor Guyon has been elected vice-president.

THE annual general meeting of the Neurological Society of London was arranged for February 8th, when it was expected that the president-elect, Dr. A. D. Waller, F.R.S., would deliver an address on the 'Excitability of Nervous Matter, with special reference to the Retina.'

WE regret to learn of the death of Mr. John Bernard Stallo, who died at Florence, on January 6th. He was born in Oldenburg in 1823, and came to the United States when he was sixteen years old. Mr. Stallo was a lawyer by profession, had been a judge at Cincinnati, Ohio, and had been minister of the United States at Rome, and had lived in Italy since 1885. He was the author of a volume in the International Scientific Series entitled, 'The Concepts and Theories of Modern Physics,' which is in many ways a remarkable and important work. He was also the author of 'General Principles of the Philosophy of Nature,' and 'Redung. Abhandlungen und Briefe.'

A TELEGRAM has been received at Harvard College Observatory from Professor Kreutz, at Kiel Observatory, stating that a comet was discovered by Giacobini at Nice, January 31^a. 292 Greenwich Mean Time in R. A. 2^h 57^m 44 and Dec. — 7° 55'.

A COMMITTEE of the Pan-American Medical Congress has asked the U. S. Department of Agriculture to coöperate with other nations in an investigation of the medicinal flora of the United States, and Secretary Wilson has asked for an appropriation of \$10,000 for this purpose.

ON the 21st of February the Senate committee on the District of Columbia will hold a hearing on the subject of the anti-vivisection bill now pending before the Senate. This hearing will be attended by leading advocates of vivisection from all parts of the country, as well as by those who favor the pending bill. Dr. W. W. Keen, president of the American Medical Association, has published in the *Philadelphia Medical Journal* an appeal to the medical profession of the United States in regard to the bill. Dr. Keen in his appeal states that the

"Bill is speciously drawn to seem as if it were intended only in the interest of prevention of cruelty to animals," that the "real object of the Bill is twofold: first, to prohibit vivisection, and secondly, to aid the passage of similar Bills in all the State Legislatures." He says "that this would seriously interfere with, or even absolutely stop, the experimental work of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and the three medical departments of the Government—the Army, the Navy and the Marine Hospital Service." He therefore appeals "to the entire profession of the country to exert themselves to the utmost to defeat this most cruel and inhuman effort to promote human and animal misery and death, and to restrict scientific research."

THE Senate Committee on Commerce, on February 1st, practically decided on a favorable report upon the bill creating a department of commerce, but owing to the desire to change some of the details of the measure, it will not be reported for some time.

AT a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming, the herbarium connected with this institution was officially recognized as The Rocky Mountain Herbarium, and Dr. Aven Nelson, professor of botany in the University, was named curator. The object of the herbarium is to make an accessible and serviceable collection of the plants of the Rocky Mountains. The collection will be a general one but plants of economic importance will have special attention. It is especially desired to represent fully forage of all kinds, useful and ornamental trees and shrubs, and herbaceous plants which are of interest to the gardener or are desirable for the decoration of the home grounds. Besides these the parasitic fungi and the fleshy fungi are to be fully represented. The present collection numbers nearly 18,000 sheets. The coöperation of botanists and collectors is requested. Sets of plants collected in the Trans-Mississippi portion of the United States are especially desired as well as co-types or representative specimens of new species from this region. Correspondence concerning specimens and exchanges should be directed to the curator.

PLANS are being made for the enlargement

of the John Crerar Library, Chicago, which it will be remembered is devoted to scientific works. The Library at present occupies the sixth floor of the Marshall Field building, and a part of the fifth floor is now to be added. A room will be provided for society meetings. The number of accessions to the library during the past year is 12,360, and the total number of books and pamphlets in the library is now 80,000.

MME. MEDVEDNIKOVA, who died recently near Moscow, has left \$3,000,000 to charities, chiefly to hospitals and asylums.

THE department of superintendence of the National Educational Association will meet in Chicago on February 27th and 28th, and March 1st. Professor Nicholas Murray Butler will make an address at the first session on the 'Status of Education at the Close of the Century.' Other addresses will be made by President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, Mr. Walter H. Page, and others. Professor W. O. Atwater, of Wesleyan University, will present a paper on alcoholic physiology and superintendence.

AT a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society held on January 23d, in the theatre of the University of London, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, reader in geography at the University of Oxford, read a paper describing his recent journey to the summit of Mount Kenya, British East Africa. The results of the expedition were a plane-table sketch of the upper part of Kenya, together with rock specimens, two route surveys along lines not previously traversed, a series of meteorological and hypsometrical observations, photographs by the ordinary and by the Ives color processes, collections of mammals, birds and plants, and a small collection of insects.

THE new German Society for Volkshygiene held its first public meeting during January in Berlin. Dr. Boediker took the chair, and there were delegates present from the German Ministry of the Interior, from the municipalities of Berlin and Charlottenburg, and from the government of the Province. Professor Fuchs, rector of the University, and Professor Riedler, rector of the technical high school, were

also present, and many medical men of distinction, among them Professors v. Leyden, Jolly, Ewald, Rubner, and Lassar. In his introductory address, the president described the objects of the new Society.

THE New York *Medical Record* gives the following summary of the invasion of the Islands of the Pacific by the plague: In Honolulu, up to January 17th, there had been thirty-nine deaths, one of a white woman and the others among natives and Asiatics. The board of health has burned ten blocks of houses in the plague-infected section. A Red Cross society, formed by some of the ladies of Honolulu, has done most effective work, and the local physicians and clergymen have continually gone among the sick and dying, submitting to voluntary isolation in order to minister to the needs of the sick. In Noumea, New Caledonia, the disease has prevailed since early in December. There were sixteen deaths during the first ten days following the development of the malady. Up to December 23d there had been no deaths among the whites, eight of whom had been infected, but nine Kanakas, two Japanese, and five Tonkinese had died of the disease. The part of the town where the infection first developed has been surrounded with a high galvanized iron fence seven hundred yards long. The principal business houses, official buildings, and the banking and shipping offices are guarded by posses of soldiers. Twenty buildings in the infected quarter of the town were demolished by the health authorities, but, despite all the precautions, the plague has continued to spread, the number of new cases averaging three daily. At Sydney, New South Wales, general alarm is felt in consequence of the arrival of eleven passengers from Noumea, who landed before news of the plague's presence was received. Extraordinary precautions have been taken throughout Australia and strict quarantine is established. In the case of a wharf laborer in Sydney, who was attacked on January 24th, the inoculation was apparently traced to a flea bite. In Argentine Republic the plague is officially announced to exist at Buenos Ayres and Rosario, both of which ports have in consequence been closed.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that the King of Italy has promised to open a hygienic exhibition at Naples in April, and it will remain open until September. The construction of the buildings is being pushed on with great zeal, and funds are assured partly by direct donations and partly by redeemable shares. Several conferences will be held. The most important will be those on the prevention of tuberculosis, and on the promotion of physical education. Amongst the most interesting 'side shows,' will be an exhibition of works of 'Sacred Art.' The Minister of Public Instruction has directed that objects of this description at present located in public museums and buildings shall be lent. There will also be a 'Pompeian Pavilion,' in which will be reproduced the public and private baths of Pompeii and other objects of interest.

THE Medical Society of the State of New York held its 94th annual meeting, at Albany, on January 30th and 31st, and February 1st. We learn from the report in the *New York Medical Record*, that the inaugural address of the president, Dr. W. G. Macdonald, reviewed especially the work of the Society. He said that the efforts of the Society's committee and of the New York Bar Association to improve the status of medical expert testimony had unfortunately resulted in nothing more than a better general understanding of the intricate problems involved. In the opinion of the speaker the legal profession is responsible for the present order of things. Presiding judges could readily remedy existing abuses by excluding medical advocates from the witness box. A voluntary society of men doing expert work could do much to regulate the condition. On the topic of State control of such chronic diseases as tuberculosis and syphilis, the speaker stated that the tendency at present was toward such State control and isolation in sanatoria. The Committee on Legislation reported that two hundred and sixty-five bills of a medical nature had claimed the attention of the committee during the four months' session of the last legislature. The committee on the United States Pharmacopœia, favored the establishment of a bureau of materia medica for the disinterested

investigation into the character and value of new drugs, the bureau to be under the authority of the dicennial convention of 1900, subject to the provision that this bureau should report annually. The Society recommended the continuation of the State appropriation for the support of the Pathological Institute, but there was some criticism of its methods.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Regents of the University of California have adopted the policy of giving the professors of the University one year's leave of absence in seven. They are usually to receive two-thirds of the regular salary, but those who have not yet received a leave of absence may receive full salary.

It is now said that the decision of the Court of Appeals of New York sustaining the will of William Lampson, ends the litigation over his will, so far as any question of law is concerned. The heirs, however, will contest the will on the ground of the incompetency of the testator. The value of the propeerty which is largely real estate is estimated at \$350,000 or more.

PRESIDENT LOW of Columbia has been asked to deliver the address at the celebration at Dartmouth College next year of the centennial anniversary of the graduation of Daniel Webster from that institution.

DR. G. A. MILLER of Cornell University was recently elected to membership in the Mathematical Society of France.

M. GABRIEL TARDE, well known for his contributions to psychology and sociology, has been elected to the chair of modern philosophy in the Collège de France.

PROFESSORS Ebner and Schaffner, who have hitherto acted as assistants in the Embryological Institute of the University of Vienna, have been appointed acting directors on the retirement of Professor Schenk.

DR. A. KLAUS, professor of chemistry in the University of Frieburg in Br., has retired on account of ill health.