

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Judge McPherson; the Comptroller of the Currency, Hon. Charles G. Dawes, and the Assayer of the New York Assay Office, Dr. Herbert G. Torrey.

The work of the Commission consists in counting, assaying and weighing samples representing the coinage of the mints at Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco. For this trial one one-thousandth of all gold coins and one two-thousandth of all silver coins made during the year are sent to the Philadelphia mint under seal and kept for the meeting of the Commission. The coinage during the past year was larger than ever before and hence the labor of the Commission was increased. The trial pieces numbered over forty-one thousand. The work of the Commission was divided among three committees; the chairman of which, as announced by Mr. George C. Roberts, Director of the Mint were: Counting, Hon. E. J. Hill; Assaying, Dr. H. S. Pritchett; Weighing, Dr. J. A. Mathews. The investigations of these committees serve as a check upon the accuracy of the work at the several mints, as well as upon the Bureau of the Mint in Washington.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

SINCE making appropriations in March, 1899, of \$500 to Professor Charles L. Doolittle, and of \$300 to Mr. Henry M. Parkhurst, from the Benjamin Apthorp Gould Fund, a considerable additional amount of income has accrued, for the distribution of which the Directors are prepared immediately to arrange. Applications for appropriations may be made by letter to Mr. Lewis Boss, Albany, Dr. Seth C. Chandler, Cambridge, or to Professor Asaph Hall, Cambridge.

AN item in the Urgency Deficiency Bill, which has now passed both Houses of Congress, makes an appropriation of \$7500, for continuing the biological and economic investigations on the lobster and clam. The investigations deal with the practical aspects of the subject, and it is purposed to carry on the work in all States having clam and lobster fisheries, from Maine to Delaware inclusive.

A COMMITTEE, consisting of Mr. James E. Scripps, Mr. George W. Bates, of Detroit, and

Professor Francis W. Kelsey, of the University of Michigan, was appointed at the annual meeting of the Detroit branch of the Archaeological Institute of America, and was instructed to name a general committee to prepare a memorial to be submitted to the next State Legislature on the subject of an archaeological survey of Michigan. The present knowledge of Michigan archaeology is meagre, and is given in 'The Data of Michigan Archaeology,' by Harlan I. Smith, published in the *American Antiquarian* for May, 1896.

THE University of Edinburgh will confer the degree of LL.D., on Eleanor A. Ormerod, the entomologist. The University of Edinburgh has not hitherto conferred an honorary degree on a woman.

WABASH COLLEGE, situated at Crawfordsville, Indiana, has conferred an honorary degree of Ph.D. on Professor Asa H. Morton, professor of romance languages, at Williams College. If Professor Morton has not been consulted in regard to this doubtful honor, he may see fit to decline it.

DR. CHARLES W. DABNEY, president of the University of Tennessee, has received notice from the French Government of his appointment as a member of the Committee on International Awards at the Paris Exposition.

PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD, of the University of Wisconsin, who is now in England, will return to Madison at the end of March after visiting Berlin and Paris.

MR. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY has presented two fine bisons to the New York Zoological Park. One of them is from the herd of the late Austin Corbin at Blue Mountain Park, N. H. The other is from Mr. Whitney's herd at Lennox, Mass.

PROFESSOR E. J. McWEENY, professor of pathology and bacteriology at the Catholic University of Dublin, has been appointed to the newly created post of bacteriologist to the Irish Local Government Board.

THE trustees of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery announce that the Samuel D. Gross prize was not awarded on January 1st, as no suitable essay was presented. It will be awarded on October 1, 1901. The prize, the

value of which is \$1,000, is awarded to an American citizen for an essay not exceeding 150 octavo pages, containing original investigations on surgical pathology or surgical practice.

THE Senate Sub-Committee, responsible for the bill interfering with vivisection in the District of Columbia, gave a hearing on February 21st. Among those who opposed the bill were Professor H. P. Bowditch, Surgeon General Sternberg, Professor W. W. Keen, Professor W. H. Welch, Professor William Osler, Professor Howard A. Kelly, Professor H. H. Hare, Dr. Mary P. Jacobi, and Bishop Lawrence.

WE regret to record the death of M. Émile Blanchard, member of the section of anatomy and zoology of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

WE must also announce the death at the age of 76 years of Dr. Hermann Schaeffer, honorary professor of mathematics at Jena.

It is perhaps not generally known that the late Professor D. E. Hughes, the physicist and inventor, whose death we were recently compelled to record spent about twenty years in the United States. He was educated at Bardstown, Ky., where he afterwards taught 'natural philosophy.'

THE first part of Römer und Schaudinn's *Fauna Arctica* has appeared. It is a beautiful quarto, and contains papers by Schulze, Thiele, von Linstow and Ludwig, on the Hexactinellidæ Proneomenia, the Nematodes and Holothurians, respectively.

DURING the present month lectures on metallurgy are being given at the American Museum of Natural History under the auspices of Columbia University. The lectures, which are on Saturday evenings, are as follows:

March 3. 'The Constitution of Steel as revealed by the Microscope,' by Professor Henry M. Howe, of Columbia University.

March 10. 'The Constitution of Metallic Alloys in the Light of Modern Research,' by Mr. Albert Sauveur, Lecturer on Metallurgy, Harvard University.

March 17. 'Toledo Blades: Rationale of the Procedure in Manufacturing them and other Steel Objects explained by the Microscope,' by Henry Souther, Consulting Engineer, of Hartford, Conn.

March 24. 'Lead Smelting in the United States,'

by Professor H. O. Hofman, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass.

March 31. 'Aluminium,' by Professor J. W. Richards, of the Lehigh University, South Bethlehem, Pa.

THE thirteenth Lecture Course on science and travel at the Field Columbian Museum will be given during March and April on Saturday afternoons at 3 o'clock. The subjects and dates of lectures are as follows:

March 3. 'The Age of Steel,' by Mr. H. W. Nichols, Assistant Curator, Department of Geology, Field Columbian Museum.

March 10. 'Conditions of Life in Inland Lakes,' by Dr. E. A. Birge, Professor of Zoology, University of Wisconsin.

March 17. 'Gigantic Fossil Reptiles from the Jurassic of Wyoming,' by Mr. E. S. Riggs, Assistant Curator of Paleontology, Field Columbian Museum.

March 24. 'Primitive American Art with Illustrations Drawn chiefly from Studies in Aboriginal Games,' by Mr. Stewart Culin, Director of the Museum of Science and Art, University of Pennsylvania.

March 31. 'Archæological Discoveries on the North Pacific Coast of America,' by Mr. Harlan I. Smith, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

April 7. 'Soyaluna, a Hopi Winter Solstice Ceremony,' Stanley McCormick Expedition, by Rev. H. R. Voth, Missionary to the Hopi Indians.

April 14. 'The 'Struggle for Existence' as a Factor in Animal Development,' by Dr. D. J. Rettger, Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute, Indiana.

April 21. 'The Yellowstone National Park,' by Professor J. P. Iddings, University of Chicago.

April 28. 'Indian Tribes of the Great Plains,' by Mr. James Mooney, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.

A TELEGRAM has been received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor J. E. Keeler at Lick Observatory stating that the following elements and ephemeris of Comet 'a' were computed by Professor Perrine.

Time of passing perihelion	= $T$ = 1900 April 29.08
Perihelion minus node	= $\omega$ = 24° 37'
Longitude of node	= $\Omega$ = 40° 25'
Inclination	= $i$ = 146° 25'
Perihelion distance	= $q$ = 1.3289

#### Ephemeris.

1900 Feb. 26 R. A.	2 <sup>h</sup> 09 <sup>m</sup> 52 <sup>s</sup>	Dec. + 1° 43'	Lat. 0.85
Apr. 2 "	2 05 36	"	2 56
Mar. 6 "	2 01 52	"	4 07
Mar. 10 "	1 58 32	"	+ 5 15 Lat. 0.82

Computed from observations on February 3d and 8th.