portant series of publications. A bulletin on the clay industries of the State will soon be issued, being a second edition of one prepared in 1893. A report on the lime and cement of the State is nearly ready for the printer. Work is also rapidly progressing on the new edition of the geologic map of the State on the scale of five miles to the inch.

A NEW edition of the Economic and Geologic map published in 1894 is almost ready for the engraver. It is on a slightly enlarged scale and will contain a large amount of additional information. A relief model of Niagara River and the vicinity of the Falls on the scale of 1000 feet to the inch is being prepared by Mr. Edwin E. Howell, of Washington, D. C., for exhibition at the Pan-American exposition in Buffalo.

THE sixteenth annual report of the State geologist being the report of work done during the incumbency of the late Professor James Hall, has been issued. It contains a number of papers of importance, among them,

'Report on the boundary between the Potsdam and Pre-Cambrian rocks north of the Adirondacks,' by H. P. Cushing.

'The Naples fauna in western New York,' by John M. Clarke.

'The brine springs and salt wells in the State of New York and the geology of the salt district,' by D. D. Luther.

'The faunas of the Hamilton group of Eighteenmile creek and vicinity,' by A. W. Grabau.

THE department has received from Professor C. E. Beecher, of Yale University, a natural size restoration of the immense crablike crustacean *Stylonurus excelsior*, the largest invertebrate animal that has been found in the rocks of New York. It attained a length of about five feet, and its remains were found in the Catskill rocks of Delaware county.

Dr. J. M. CLARKE lectured on the 24th ult. in the Columbia University series on the 'Geological History of Parasitism' and will repeat the lecture before the Rochester Academy of Science.

A BULLETIN on early and recent sites of the Indian tribes of the State, illustrated by two maps, will soon be received from the printer.

IN zoology, the biological survey has been continued and volunteers have been organized to observe and report on the birds of New York. This is in continuance of the biological work originally begun under the natural history survey which led to the publication of the reports on zoology and botany in 1824, and which, though for some time suspended for lack of funds, was revived two years ago in the study and collection of fishes of Long Island by Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, and the preparation of a bulletin on the Mammals of New York, together with a key to their identification, now in press.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF OUR HOUSES IN WINTER.

'The Relative Humidity of our Houses in Winter' is the subject of a paper by R. De C. Ward in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for March 1st. Observations were made by means of an ordinary sling psychrometer in a furnace-heated room during three weeks of last November. The mean relative humidity in the room for the whole period was 30%, while the mean relative humidity outdoors during the same period was 71%. The minimum relative humidity observed for any whole day was 24% and the maximum for a whole day was 40%. For purposes of comparison, the relative humidities of several stations in arid regions are given in the paper. For instance, the lowest mean annual relative humidity in the United States is that for Yuma, Ariz., which has 42.9%, and a mean monthly minimum of 34.7% in June. Sante Fé, N. Mex., has a mean annual of 44.8%, with a mean monthly minimum of 28.7% in June. Death Valley, Calif., was found to have a mean relative humidity of 23% during five months (May–September) of the year 1891, when a temporary meteorological station was maintained there by the Weather Bureau. Southwestern Siberia and Western Turkestan have a mean of 45–50% in July. Ghadames, in Tripoli, has 27% in July. In India, Lahore has 31% and Agra 36% in May. It thus appears that the air of the room in which the observations were made was drier than that of many desert regions.

DRUNKENNESS AND THE WEATHER.

SCIENCE for August 11th last contained an

interesting paper by Dr. E. G. Dexter, entitled 'The Mental Effects of the Weather' in which the relations between certain weather elements and the occurrence of certain misdemeanors in New York City were discussed. In *Nature* for February 15th, Dr. Dexter returns to this subject in a communication which is supplementary to the article just referred to. In this note the writer refers to the results of a study made by him to determine the relation between temperature conditions and drunkenness in New York City. The number of arrests (males) for drunkenness for each day during the three years, 1893–1895, was taken from the records of the New York police force. The mean temperature, pressure, humidity and wind movement for each of these days were obtained from the records of the Weather Bureau in New York City. The curve showing the number of arrests for drunkenness plotted with reference to the twelve months of the year shows that the prevalence of intoxication during the cold months is much in excess of that for the warm ones. The curve of arrests for drunkenness plotted with reference to mean temperatures also shows, as a whole, a decrease in the number of cases of intoxication with increasing temperature.

INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS.

AN International Congress of Meteorology is to be held at Paris from September 10th to 16th of the present year. The President of the *Commission d'Organisation* of the Congress is M. Mascart, Director of the Central Meteorological Bureau of France. The Secretary is M. Angot. Membership in the Congress may be had on payment of 20 francs. The preliminary program includes a long list of subjects in meteorology proper, as well as in oceanography, and terrestrial magnetism and electricity.

RETIREMENT OF MR. R. H. SCOTT.

IT has already been announced in this JOURNAL that Mr. R. H. Scott, F.R.S., was to retire from the post of Secretary to the Meteorological Council of the Royal Society on February 28th. At the end of the year 1899, Mr. Scott had completed 33 years of service in the Meteorological Office, and for the last 25 years he has acted as Secretary of the International Meteorological Committee. Mr. Scott is to be succeeded by Mr. W. N. Shaw, P.R.S., Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and up to this time Assistant Director of the Cavendish Laboratory, and Lecturer in Physics in the University of Cambridge.

R. DEC. WARD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR P. TACCHINI has resigned the directorship of the Royal Italian Bureau of Meteorology and Geodesy after forty years of service. Professor Luigi Palazzo has been appointed temporary director.

THE Royal Academy of Turin has elected Dr. Charles S. Minot a corresponding member.

PROFESSOR MITAG-LEFFLER of Stockholm, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the Section of geometry.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY has offered the degree of LL.D., *honoris causa*, to Mr. A. Smith Woodward, the vertebrate paleontologist of the British Museum.

THE University of Aberdeen will confer the degree of LL.D. on Mr. W. R. Sorley, professor of moral philosophy in the University of Aberdeen.

MR. DEAN C. WORCESTER, whose appointment as a member of the new Philippine Commission we announced last week, has resigned the assistant professorship of zoology in the University of Michigan. It is reported that Mr. Worcester has been offered a salary of $15,000 a year as manager of certain mining interests in the Philippine Islands and that when his duties as commissioner are fulfilled he may accept the offer. His salary at the University of Michigan was $1600.

PROFESSOR PERRY G. HOLDEN has resigned the chair of agriculture in the University of Illinois to become manager of the agricultural department of the Illinois Sugar Refining Company.

Mr. W. A. Taylor, assistant chief of the division of pomology, department of agriculture, has sailed from New York to take charge of