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

the United States exhibit of fruits at the Paris Exposition.

THE Rumford medal, which, as we announced sometime since, was awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences to Mr. Charles F. Brush, was presented to him at a meeting held last week in Boston. Professor Charles R. Cross, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Chairman of the Rumford Committee, made a brief address, describing the grounds for the award and the arc lamp invented by Mr. Brush; Professor Trowbridge presented the medal and Mr. Brush made a reply. Professor Elihu Thomson read a paper describing a new method of producing an electric current of high voltage.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has been given a statuette of Professor Charles Hackley, who held the chair of mathematics and astronomy in Columbia College from 1843–1861.

WE regret to record the death at her home in New York city, of Miss Catherine Wolfe Bruce, who made generous gifts for the advancement of astronomy to Harvard University, Columbia University and other institutions.

M. EMMANUEL LIAIS, Mayor of Cherbourg, has died at the age of seventy-four. For many years he held posts at the Paris Observatory, and he was sent in 1857 to South America to watch the solar eclipse. He organized telegraphic meteorology in France, and devised the use of chronographs in determining longitude by electricity. He bequeaths his property to the municipality of Cherbourg in trust for scientific purposes.

DR. WILLIAM MARCET, F.R.S., died at Luxor, Egypt, on March 4th, in his seventy-second year. He had been president of the Royal Meteorological Society, and was the author of books on health resorts and on the history of the respiration of man.

DR. F. JAGOR, known for his scientific expeditions, died at Berlin on February 11th, at the age of 83 years.

DR. CARL MARIA PAUL, geologist of the Austrian bureau, died at Vienna on February 10th.

MR. JAMES G. SMITH, one of the inventors of the duplex system of telegraphy, died in New York City, on March 13th.

THE Fish Commission steamer *Albatross* has arrived at Yokohama. After refitting, the vessel will proceed to Alaska for the purpose of continuing the investigations in the salmon streams begun some years ago.

AN expedition consisting of Professor E. B. Poulton and Mr. E. S. Goodrich, from Oxford University, and Messrs Oldfield Thomas and R. I. Pocock, from the British Museum, is just starting for the Balearic Isles to make zoological collections. Although within easy reach, these islands are still little known to naturalists, so that the collections, if containing no novelties, will be of much service in completing the faunal series of the London and Oxford Museums.

MRS. PHOEBE HEARST has undertaken to defray the expenses of explorations and excavations in various parts of the world, to secure collections for the archæological museum to be established at the University of California. Dr. George A. Resinel is expected to have charge of the work in Egypt; Dr. Alfred Emerson in Greece and in Etruria; Dr. Euler in South America and Yucatan, and Dr. P. M. Jones in California and Mexico.

DR. J. W. GREGORY, the new professor of geology at Melbourne, has been appointed director of the scientific staff on the British Antarctic Expedition, which, as at present arranged, is to start in August, 1901. It is to be hoped that Dr. Gregory's recent severance from the British Museum will not prevent the natural history collections coming to that establishment as was originally intended. Another scientific man who thinks of taking a trip to the Antarctic is Dr. Otto Nordenskiöld.

THERE will be a Civil Service Examination, on April 17th, to fill the position of Field Assistant in the Division of Forestry, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of $1000 per annum.

BELGIUM has established a botanical garden and experiment station at Coquilhatville in the Congo Free State.

A BRANCH of the American Chemical Society has been established for the State of Michigan, with its headquarters at the University of Michigan. The first officers are: *Presiding Officer*,

Professor A. B. Prescott; *Secretary*, Alfred H. White; *Councillor*, Professor Paul C. Freer—all of the University of Michigan. The members of the executive committee are: A. F. Shattuck, chemist to the Solvay Process Company, Detroit; Professor F. S. Kedzie of the Agricultural College, and J. V. Wolfe, Jr., chemist to the Detroit Sugar Company at Rochester.

THE New York *Evening Post* reports that a contract to slaughter 20,000 birds of all sorts near Milford, Delaware, for the benefit of a millinery firm in New York, has aroused a storm of indignation. Fully a dozen societies, headed by the Academy of Natural Science have taken action to prevent the killing of the birds. A notice denouncing the proposed slaughter has been sent out by Mr. Witmer Stone, Chairman of the American Ornithologists' Commmittee on Bird Protection. The committee will prosecute wherever the law is violated.

THE *Scientific American* states that the Geographical Society of Philadelphia is to continue its work of setting wooden casks adrift on the ice north of this continent, to demonstrate the currents of Arctic waters north of Behring Strait. Each cask will contain a blank to be filled in by the finder.

READERS of this JOURNAL have doubtless noticed in the daily papers the announcement of the excommunication of Dr. George St. Mivart from the Roman Catholic Church, because he would not revoke articles contributed by him to the *Fortnightly Review* and the *Nineteenth Century*. The formula sent by Cardinal Vaughan to Dr. Mivart for his signature has been published in the London *Times* and is herewith in part reproduced as an explicit statement of what must be believed by communicants in the Roman Catholic Church:

I therefore firmly believe and profess that the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived and brought forth the Son of God in an ineffable manner by the operation of the Holy Ghost, and absolutely without loss or detriment to her Virginity, and that she is really and in truth, as the Catholic Church most rightly calls her, the 'Ever Virgin'; that is to say, Virgin before the birth of Christ, Virgin in that birth, and Virgin after it, her sacred and spotless Virginity being perpetually preserved from the beginning, then, and for ever afterwards. * * * I firmly believe and profess in accordance with the Holy Council of Trent that the first man Adam, when he transgressed the command of God in Paradise, immediately lost the holiness and justice in which he had been constituted, and that he incurred through that prevarication the wrath and indignation of God, and that this prevarication of Adam injured, not himself alone, but his posterity, and that by it the holiness and justice received from God were lost by him, not for himself alone, but for us all. * * * I reject as false and heretical the assertion that it is possible at some time, according to the progress of science, to give to doctrines propounded by the Church a sense different from that which the Church has understood and understands, and consequently that the sense and meaning of her doctrines can ever be in the course of time practically explained away or reversed.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Reale Institute Lombardo has awarded its prizes as follows: The 'ordinary' prize offered by the Institution for the best catalogue of remarkable meteorological phenomena prior to 1800 was unawarded, but premiums of 400 lire have been awarded to three of the competitors, and the judges consider that the publication of the results arrived at conjointly by the three would be of great value. Under the Cagnola foundation five prizes were offered, and none awarded, the only award being a premium of 1000 lire to the sole competitor who sent in an essay on illustrations of Hertz's phenomena. On two of the other subjects no essays were sent in, and on the other two the essays were not of sufficient merit to justify an award. The Pizzamiglio prize and the Ciani prize, for essays in political science, and the Zanetti prize, for discoveries in pharmaceutical chemistry, are all unawarded. The Fossati prize, for an essay illustrative of the macro- and micro-scopic anatomy of the central nervous system, has been conferred on Dr. Emilio Veratti. In striking contrast to the paucity of competitors in subjects of a more or less academical character is the keen competition for the Brambilla prize, given "to one who has invented or introduced into Lombardy some machine or some industrial process from which the population may derive a real and proved benefit." Seventeen competitors entered for this prize, the awards including a gold medal and 500 lire each to Bianchi and Dubini, for desiccators of silk-cocoons; to

Aurelio Masera, for new processes connected with the textile industry; and to M. Rusconi, for developing the 'Mercer' process in the cotton industry. In addition, gold medals and 400 lire are awarded to Carlo Carloni, for his invention of a mastic called magnesite, as a substitute for red lead for junctions of pipes, also for a bicycle brake; to Demetrio Prada and Co., for extracts used in tanning and for the manufacture of oxygenated water; and to J. Löffler, for introducing into Milan the manufacture of artificial flowers in porcelain. A gold medal and 300 lire is awarded to the Italian Color Manufactory under Max Meyer & Co., and a bonus of 300 lire to E. Tuffanelli, of Milan, for an invention connected with water and gas pipes.

At the Royal Institution on March 2d, Major Ronald Ross delivered a lecture on 'Malaria and Mosquitoes.' According to the London *Times*, he first alluded to the discovery of the parasite of malaria by Laveran in 1880, and the failure of the subsequent attempts to find the parasites in the water and soil of malarious places. He described the theories of King, Laveran, Manson and Bignami that mosquitoes conveyed the disease, and said that it was Manson's theory alone which led to the solution of the problem. Believing that it was the only one of practical value, he undertook to verify Manson's theory, and began work in India in 1895. The task presented many difficulties, but after two and a-half years of failure he at last found the parasites growing in mosquitoes belonging to the genus called *Anopheles*. That was in August, 1897. The following year he completely traced the development of the malaria parasite of birds in the mosquito, and finally, in June, 1898, he succeeded in infecting a number of healthy birds with malaria by the bites of mosquitoes. His investigations had proved that not only the infection itself but the severity of it could be transmitted through the mosquito. Out of 28 healthy sparrows which were used, he succeeded in infecting 22, although he failed to transmit the infection from sparrows to several other kinds of birds. In December, 1898, his investigations were repeated and confirmed by Professor Koch and Professor Grassi, and Drs. Bignami and Bastianelli, who also succeeded in infecting healthy men by the bites of mosquitoes in Italy. The investigations had undergone great development since then. The mosquito theory explained all the facts about malaria.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

The Chicago *University Record* gives an account of the meeting of representatives of certain institutions held at the University of Chicago, February 27th and 28th. The invitation to this meeting was made by the Presidents of Harvard University, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California. There were present representatives of the University of California, the Catholic University of America, the University of Chicago, Clark University, Columbia University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Leland Stanford Jr. University, the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, the Federation of Graduate Clubs, and the United States Commissioner of Education.

After a full discussion, it was unanimously voted that the universities represented in the conference organize themselves into an association. A committee was appointed, consisting of President Jordan, President Harper, Professor Pettie, President Conaty, and Professor Newbold, to prepare the constitution of the association. At an adjourned meeting the following articles were adopted:

Constitution.

This organization is called the Association of American Universities.

It is founded for the purpose of considering matters of common interest relating to graduate study.

It is composed of institutions on the North American Continent engaged in giving advanced or graduate instruction.

Its initial membership consists of the following institutions:

University of California.	Clark University.
University of Chicago.	Cornell University.
Columbia University.	Johns Hopkins University.
Harvard University.	Princeton University.
University of Michigan.	