

finest technical library in the world, to need larger and better quarters for its work, and it is even crowded in its own building by squatting bureaus of the Treasury Department Land Office.

The report on the number of patents issued in 1899 gives the number from New York as 3798; Pennsylvania, 2355; Illinois, 2152; Massachusetts, 1774; Ohio, 1501. Connecticut, however, as famous as ever in this direction, leads the list in inventiveness, securing one patent to each 945 inhabitants; the District of Columbia, curiously enough, but probably by a legal fiction, follows with 1 to every 1151, Massachusetts with 1 to each 1261 people, Rhode Island with 1 to 1270, New York coming in as number eight, with 1 to 1579. South Carolina ends the list with 1 to 25,024 people and North Carolina is next with 1 to 21,012. New England, as always, stands in the van, for the United States and the world, in inventiveness.

Of other countries, Great Britain leads, Germany stands next, and France is third in the list of foreign patentees in the United States Patent Office.

In performing their work of research, to solve the question of originality on the part of the inventor, the examiners have to seek among 700,000 earlier United States patents, 1,250,000 foreign patents and 74,000 published volumes of inventions and scientific and industrial treatises. But, as the Commissioner states, "The lack of suitable room greatly hampers and unnecessarily delays the work in many divisions."

This is now the regular and invariable general formula of the report of the United States Patent Office. It has been thus for many years past; exhibiting an enormous amount of work, performed under most unfavorable conditions; giving our country the leading position in invention, and in many industries; promoting the wealth of the nation enormously; earning an annual surplus; yet refused the use of its own earnings even to provide imperatively needed space and equipment, and forbidden even to add to its own library, its most essential tool, or to dispose of duplicate and useless books in exchange for others more needed.

Through the efforts and the genius of our in-

ventors, the cost of products in every department of industry has been reduced to a fraction of the figures of a generation ago; the work of one man had been made more effective than was then the work of, in some cases, a dozen, and the wealth of the country is, by these means, being augmented, and all its attendant comforts and privileges increased to the average citizen, at the rate of one hundred per cent. in a generation. Yet the inventor is ungratefully neglected, and Congress devotes itself to 'politics' rather than statecraft.

Many organizations, and hundreds of individual citizens, made aware of these discreditable facts, are urging upon members of Congress to give proper attention to the Patent Office; but it apparently will require more pressure than the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and all the other national associations seeking to promote this reform, can exert to insure attention to a primary duty. Every citizen has an interest in this matter, and should do what he can to bring about a reform in Congress, and the provision for the Patent Office of every need and convenience.

R. H. THURSTON.

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*BRINTON MEMORIAL CHAIR IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.*

SCHOLARS the world over are appreciative of the achievements of the late Daniel Garrison Brinton for he established on a firm basis the branches of learning to which he devoted his life. He is justly named the 'Founder of American Anthropology.'

A close student of the intricate problems of his science, he possessed the rare art of clearly and concisely presenting facts at their true values. He believed in 'The general inculcation of the love of truth, scientific, verifiable truth' and that knowledge should subserve usefulness.

A keen observer, a classical scholar, an adept in the methods of logic and philosophy, Dr. Brinton had ever the practical application of truth in view. To the systematic study of man he brought to bear his all rounded culture to further the happiness and fullness of the individual life. He regarded the individual as the starting point and goal of anthropology. Upon

individual improvement, he claimed, depended group or racial improvement, social amelioration, and the welfare of humanity.

Anthropology, the New Science of Man, in Dr. Brinton's own words "is the study of the whole of man, his psychical as well as his physical nature, and the products of all his activities, whether in the past or the present."

This broad comprehension indicates the significance of anthropological study. Its limits of attainment are limited only by the nature of man himself, and Dr. Brinton asks "who dares set a limit to that?"

Although the youngest of the modern sciences anthropology is none the less one of the most important of the sciences, for in its development is bound closely the progress of society. To carry out the aims of anthropology are required the results obtained from the study of ethnography, ethnology, psychology, folk-lore and archæology—more especially pre-historic archæology which concerns itself not only with the ancient but with 'the simplest' and 'most transparent and therefore the most instructive.'

Notwithstanding the extension of this work in America, comparatively few professorships of anthropology or its branches exist, and the limited opportunity afforded students to qualify themselves for investigation in these various subjects is manifest. Dr. Brinton pointed out the insufficiency of facilities for students to acquire the necessary preliminary training to fit them for research, and he advocated and urged that anthropology should be studied generally in our colleges. Provost Harrison referred to this in his address at the Brinton Memorial Meeting held in Philadelphia in January last, and stated that Dr. Brinton had the utmost confidence in anthropology as a science and also in its practical worth as an applied science in politics, education and legislation.

It is proposed in recognition of the great services he rendered to the world by his teachings, numerous publications, and untiring zeal in unearthing the false and proclaiming the true, to establish in his memory a Brinton Chair of American Archæology and Ethnology in the University of Pennsylvania.

This proposition has received the universal

commendation and approval of anthropological scholars both in Europe and America.

At the Memorial Meeting the plan was favorably mentioned and grateful recognition accorded to Dr. Brinton's unselfish devotion to his chosen life work. Provost Harrison thought that to honor his memory no more worthy tribute could be given than the foundation of a Brinton Memorial Chair in the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Putnam, following these remarks, said that he trusted the suggestion would not be dropped but that something tangible would come from Provost Harrison's words.

The choice of this place for the seat of the Brinton Memorial seems especially appropriate since the University of Pennsylvania now possesses Dr. Brinton's valuable library, his own gift shortly before his death. The association of Brinton's name with the University from 1886, when the chair of American Anthropology and Linguistics was created for his occupancy, may in this way be made permanent.

In order to accomplish the proposed plan, it will be necessary to secure an endowment of fifty thousand dollars from individual sources. Patrons of science and others interested in the endowment may apply to the Brinton Memorial Committee, 44 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., where further information is to be obtained if desired.

Messrs. Drexel & Co., bankers, Philadelphia, have kindly consented to act as Treasurers on certain conditions which will be explained to contributors on application to the Brinton Memorial Committee.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE annual stated meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held next week beginning on Tuesday, April 17th.

At the annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, held in San Francisco, on March 31st, the Bruce Gold Medal of the Society was awarded to Dr. David Gill, H.M. astronomer, at the Cape of Good Hope. This is the third award of this medal.

DR. ALEXANDER AGASSIZ has returned to the United States from his expedition to the