

in the offices of the bureau of ethnology on the fifth and sixth floors of the Adams Building. This was not so because there was any ill-feeling toward Professor Holmes, but because by careful and even scientific study and treatment Professor McGee was responsible for shaping a working system in the bureau of ethnology—each man and woman being fitted in the right place—that things ran, as it were, in a spirit such as that of Barnum's happy family. Secretary Langley and Professor Holmes arrived at 3:30 o'clock. They walked into the office room formerly occupied by Professor Powell. Scientists, stenographers and colored messengers formed a semi-circle around the desk where Secretary Langley stood prepared to pay a befitting tribute to Professor Powell, and then introduced the new director. He referred with praise to the competency of Professor Powell. Professor Holmes was installed into the office. He greeted the persons in the bureau, inviting them to become better acquainted with the National Museum. He was welcomed in his new place in behalf of the employees of the bureau in a brief address by Professor McGee. After Professor Holmes shook hands with every person in the room Secretary Langley went away. The office force then left the room one by one and tears were in the eyes of nearly every person who witnessed the unusual ceremonies. Professor Holmes and Professor McGee, who are the closest friends professionally and personally, remained in the director's room for a consultation and left the building together, both more or less affected by what had taken place.

Professor Holmes began his scientific career in 1889, when he entered the illustration division of the United States Geological Survey. He is a water color painter, having won highly valued medals in District exhibits. While painting in the Geological Survey he equipped himself for an office in the archeological department and in 1892 he became an ethnologist in the bureau of ethnology. He resigned this place afterward to accept a responsible office in the Columbian Museum at Chicago. About seven years ago he was offered the head curatorship in the National

Museum and came to Washington to fulfill the appointment that he has since held. Professor Holmes has published various papers of scientific importance, and his discoveries and investigations of aboriginal pottery have contributed much enlightenment to the study of the habitat of groups of American Indian tribes.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. W. H. WELCH, of the Johns Hopkins University, is attending the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Berlin.

WE learn from the *Botanical Gazette* that Mr. M. J. C. Willis, of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon, proposes to make a tour through England, the United States and Japan for the purpose of studying agricultural and botanical institutions.

THE Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine has sent an expedition to inquire into the health conditions of the Gold Coast. Dr. Logan Taylor is in charge of the expedition.

DR. EDWARD PALMER, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is now in Mexico, making collections illustrating the economic botany of that country.

THE British government has appointed Mr. W. F. King, chief astronomer, a commissioner to mark the forty-ninth parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Mr. Otto H. Tittmann, superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, has been appointed by the United States as commissioner for the same purpose.

A COMMEMORATIVE tablet has been placed on the house at Favières in which Professor A. A. Liébeault was born. It states that he opened a new era in the medical sciences by his discovery of the systematic application of suggestion and induced sleep in the treatment of disease. The tablet was unveiled in the presence of Professor Liébeault on his seventy-ninth birthday.

*Nature* states that at the opening ceremony of the new session of the Royal College of Science, held in the lecture theater of the Victoria and Albert Museum on October 2, the Huxley gold medal was for the first time

awarded to Mr. J. E. S. Moore, associate of the college, in recognition of work which he has already carried through and is still continuing in the Huxley Research Laboratory, in connection with his investigations into the African lake fauna and his studies in cytology and nuclear metamorphosis, commenced at the Naples Zoological Station. The medal is intended as an award for research carried out in the Huxley Laboratory in some branch of natural science in which Huxley was distinguished. The recipient has the option of a silver-gilt medal, and the award is in either case accompanied by the balance of the interest on the capital sum invested for the purchase of books, instruments or as an aid to research.

At a recent meeting of the Geographical Society of Christiania, at which Captain Sverdrup and other members of his recent expedition were entertained, it was announced that the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Olaf had been conferred upon Captain Sverdrup, that the Fram medal in gold was to be bestowed upon Peter Henriksen, and that the other members of the expedition were to receive the same in silver.

MR. J. ALLEN HOWE has been appointed curator and librarian of the Museum of Practical Geology in succession to Mr. F. W. Rudler, who has retired.

DR. WILLIAM RIDDICK WHITEHEAD, author of many works on medicine and surgery, died at Denver on October 13, aged seventy years. He established the departments of medicine in the University of Colorado and the University of Denver.

CHIEF ENGINEER HENRY SCHUYLER ROSS, U. S. N., retired, died in Lugano, Italy, on October 13.

DR. ADOLFO TARGIONI-TOZZETTI, emeritus professor of comparative anatomy at Florence, died at Careggi, on September 18, aged seventy-nine.

DR. ALEXANDER W. M. VAN HASSELT, for many years president of the Dutch Entomological Society, one of the oldest medical officers of the Dutch Army, has died in Amsterdam, aged eighty-eight years.

DR. RUDOLF FINKENER, professor of chemistry in the School of Mines at Berlin, died on September 14, aged sixty-eight years.

THE Harpwell Laboratory was open during the past summer from June 14 until September 12. Seventeen persons availed themselves of the facilities afforded. Considerable attention was devoted to the surface fauna and some of the forms collected prove interesting. Among them are a Copelate tunicate allied to Appendicularia, but with separate sexes, individuals with eggs and sperm being taken one evening. An actinotrocha differing considerably from that of more southern waters appeared on several evenings in small numbers. During a few evenings *Mitraria* was very abundant and on three nights large numbers of the small pteropod, *Spirialis gouldii*, were found. Later in the season (September) the young of some gymnosomatous pteropod (possibly *Clione*) were common. *Polygordius*, in all stages, was abundant, while the young of various annelids were present in great variety and enormous numbers. A few *Tomopteris*, one with ripe eggs, were taken late in the season, but these were smaller than those found farther down the coast. The whole season was very late. Echinoderm larvæ were very few and, except in the case of the sand dollar, *Echinarachnius*, attempts at artificial impregnation were unsuccessful.

It is reported that by the sale of a building at the corner of Madison Avenue and Forty-second Street to Dr. Andrew H. Smith and Davison H. Smith for \$250,000, another portion has been added to the site on which the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research is to be erected.

It is reported that M. Robert Lebaudy, the French traveler, has sent the vice-rector of the University of Paris \$1,600 to maintain two students at the University of Chicago for a year.

DR. SVEN HEDIN, the Asiatic explorer, has presented his zoological, botanical and geological collections to the University of Stockholm.

THE German government has presented the official reports of the German Deep Sea Expe-

dition in the ship *Valdivia* to the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition. The expedition has also been presented by the Belgian government with the official reports of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition.

THE Twentieth Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union will convene in Washington, D. C., on Monday, November 17, at 8 o'clock P.M. The evening session will be devoted to the election of officers and members and the transaction of other routine business. The meetings, open to the public and devoted to the reading and discussion of scientific papers, will be held in the United States National Museum, beginning on Tuesday, November 18, at 11 A.M., and continuing for three days.

WE learn from the London *Times* that the government of India is about to form a board of scientific advice, comprising the heads of the meteorological, geological, botanical, forest, survey, agricultural, and veterinary departments, and other scientific officers of special attainments. This board is to prepare every year a general program of research, and a report describing what has been done. The main object of the scheme is to promote the economic development of the country. The resolution mentions the various scientific officers appointed in recent years, and says that the development of machinery in the different departments has rendered more essential than ever the coordination of scientific inquiry. Experiments and investigations of a similar or cognate character are being independently carried on—chemistry, economic entomology, and economic botany are given as examples—and this should be prevented. Further, it is expected that the board will check a natural tendency on the part of the government scientific officers to give the claims of abstract science precedence over the demands of economic or applied science, which are of more practical importance. The Indian government, it is pointed out, owns the largest landed estate in the world, and the prosperity of the country is mainly dependent upon agriculture; hence practical research is the predominant consideration. The board will also act as advisers to the government.

AN account of the operations carried out during the first season by the French expedition for the re-measurement of an arc of the meridian in Ecuador was lately communicated to the Paris Geographical Society by M. Bourgeois, head of the survey party, whose paper is printed in *La Géographie*. According to an abstract in the *Geographical Journal* the mission reached Guayaquil in June of last year, and the difficult task then commenced of transporting the whole impedimenta of the expedition, weighing in all some ten tons, by the primitive mule-paths which still form, for the greater part of the distance, the only means of communication between the coast and the elevated 'Inter-Andine' region, in which the operations were to be carried on. Here the first place visited was Riobamba, where, during a stay of three months, the primary work of measuring a base-line and carrying out determinations of latitude, longitude and azimuth was satisfactorily accomplished. The base-line chosen measured some 6 miles, and such was the precision with which the measurement was effected that the two separate results differed only by 7 mm., or a quarter of an inch. When this had been done, the expedition divided, one part continuing the triangulation in the neighborhood of Riobamba, while the other measured a subsidiary base north of Quito, and determined the latitude of the northern extremity of the arc; the same being done for the southern extremity by an officer despatched for that purpose to Peru. During the stay at Tulcan, the northern station on the Columbian frontier, violent earthquake shocks were experienced, the whole region having been the scene of more than ordinary manifestations of volcanic activity during the last year. Eruptions both of Cotacachi, which had been regarded as extinct, and of Cumbal, in the Colombian territory, were observed. Although nominally Catholics, the Indians of the Inter-Andine region are very superstitious, and viewed the operations of the mission with great distrust, which they even manifested by acts of vandalism. During M. Bourgeois's absence the operations have been actively prosecuted under the direction of Captain Maurain.