

ical Survey. Dr. Day will discuss the geographical distribution of soft and hard coal in the United States, the methods of mining, and the manner in which the output is distributed throughout the country.

November 29—'Explorations in the Arctics, 1898-1902' (illustrated), Commander Robert E. Peary, U.S.N. Mr. Peary will describe his Arctic work of the last four years, during which he gained the most northerly known land and the highest point yet reached on the western hemisphere.

December 12—'Argentina, Present and Future' (illustrated), E. L. Corthell, C.E. Mr. Corthell for the past two years has been consulting engineer of the Ministry of Public Works in Argentina, and has thus had an exceptional opportunity to study the recent remarkable development and the tremendous possibilities of this vast South American republic.

January 9—'The Turk and His Rebellious Subjects' (illustrated), Mr. William E. Curtis. The restless and heterogeneous people of Macedonia and of the Sultan's European provinces will be the subject of an interesting address by Mr. Curtis.

January 23—'The Tragedy of Saint Pierre' (illustrated), Mr. George Kennan.

Provisional arrangements have also been made for lectures on Colombia and the Isthmian Canal; 'America before the Advent of Man'; 'The Geographic Distribution of Insanity in the United States'; 'Russia of Today' (by Paul du Chaillu), and a lecture by Mr. John Muir.

Regular meetings of the society for the presentation of technical papers and discussion will be held on Friday evenings, at 8 o'clock, commencing November 7, and alternating with the popular lectures. As the new home of the society will not be completed before January 15, 1903, these meetings will be held for the present in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club. The course has been planned to form a series on the geographic work of the great scientific bureaus of the government. Mr. Richard U. Goode, chairman of the committee on technical meetings, announces the following program:

November 7—'Some of the Administrative and Industrial Problems of Porto Rico,' Hon. Wm. F. Willoughby, Treasurer of Porto Rico.

November 21—'The Work of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,' Hon. O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

December 5—'The Work of the U. S. Weather Bureau,' Dr. Willis L. Moore, Chief U. S. Weather Bureau.

December 19—'The U. S. Signal Corps,' Gen. A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, U.S.A.

At later meetings the geographic work of the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department, of the Experiment Stations of the Agricultural Department, of the Census Office, of the Naval Observatory, of the Geological Survey and of the Library of Congress will be discussed.

The lenten course of five lectures will be delivered in Columbia Theater, F street, near Twelfth, at 4:20 o'clock, on Wednesday afternoons of February 11, 18, 25 and March 4, 11. The subject of this course and the speakers assigned for the special topics will be announced in a later program.

The headquarters of the society will continue to be Rooms 107-108 Corcoran Building, Washington, D. C., until the new home of the society, on the southwest corner of Sixteenth and M streets, is completed.

#### A GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

A COMMITTEE of this society, with Professor George F. Barker as chairman and Dr. I. Minnis Hays as secretary, has sent out the following letter:

The very gratifying success of the general meeting of The American Philosophical Society, held last April, has established most satisfactorily the claim that the interests of useful knowledge in the United States may be greatly promoted by holding an annual general meeting of the society. Such a meeting, not only from the information derived from the papers presented, but also from their discussion, has proved attractive to its members from all parts of the country and has markedly broadened the field of usefulness of this, the oldest scientific society in America.

At the concluding session of the general meeting held last April it was unanimously resolved that a second general meeting be held in April, 1903. In accordance with this resolution the said general meeting of the society will take place

on Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3, 1903, and the undersigned have been appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Members desiring to present papers, either for themselves or others, are requested to send to the secretaries at as early a date as practicable and not later than March 1, 1903, the titles of these papers, accompanied by a brief abstract, so that they may be duly announced on the program which will be issued immediately thereafter, and which will give in detail the arrangements for the meeting.

Papers in any department of science come within the scope of the society which, as its name indicates, embraces the whole field of useful knowledge.

The publication committee, under the rules of the society, will arrange for the immediate publication of the papers presented.

The society by means of its publications, which present a series covering 140 years and include *Transactions* in quarto and *Proceedings* in octavo, with its large exchange list embracing, practically, the scientific societies of the world, and with its exceptional facilities for immediate issue, offers unexcelled avenues for prompt publication and wide circulation of the papers read before it.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

It is reported that the Nobel prizes for this year will be awarded as follows: In chemistry, to Professor Emil Fischer, of Berlin; in physics, to Professor S. A. Arrhenius, of Stockholm; in medicine, to Professor Niels E. Finsen, of Copenhagen, and to Major Ronald Ross, of Liverpool. The value of these prizes, it will be remembered, is about \$40,000 each.

PROFESSOR H. V. HILPRECHT has been awarded the Lucy Wharton Drexel medal of the University of Pennsylvania for his archeological researches.

WE learn from *Nature* that Dr. P. L. Slater, F.R.S., has resigned the secretaryship of the Zoological Society of London, and only holds office until his successor is appointed. The council has passed the following resolution on this subject and ordered it to be entered on their minutes:

The president, vice-presidents and council of the Zoological Society of London desire to record

their sincere regret at the retirement of their secretary, Dr. Philip Lutley Slater, after a service of nearly forty-three years. They wish to tender him their hearty thanks for his most valuable services to the Society during this long period, not only in the management of the Zoological Gardens, but also in the conduct of the publications of the Society and the general direction of its affairs. These affairs have prospered to a remarkable degree during his long term of office. The income of the Society has doubled, the Society's library has been entirely created, the membership has increased from 1500 to 3200. Dr. Slater's own work as a zoologist is held in universal repute, and it is no exaggeration to say that the very high position occupied at the present day by the Zoological Society in the world of science is largely due to the exertions and the personal character of its retiring secretary.

DR. GARY N. CALKINS, of the department of zoology of Columbia University, has been appointed consulting biologist to the New York State Pathological Hospital.

DR. G. T. W. PATRICK, professor of philosophy and psychology, in the University of Iowa, is spending the year in Germany.

DR. SVEN HEDIN, the Swedish explorer, is expected to lecture in the United States early next year.

DR. ROBERT KOCH has presented to the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption, London, a portrait of himself.

THE French International Geodetic Association has elected General Bassot as vice-president in succession to General Ferrero.

THE ashes of Christopher Columbus, removed from the cathedral of Havana, were placed in a mausoleum in Saville cathedral on November 17.

WE regret to record the death of Professor Henry Mitchell, the eminent engineer. He was born in Nantucket in 1830, being the son of William Mitchell, the astronomer. His sister, Maria Mitchell, was also well known as an astronomer. Mr. Mitchell was at one time professor in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and took part in important engineering works in the harbors of Boston, Philadelphia and other cities. He took part in the surveys of the Mississippi river and of