

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

the Panama canal route. His publications were chiefly connected with tides, river currents and other hydrological subjects. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

MR. C. E. HOUGHTON has been appointed associate professor of mechanical engineering in New York University.

SIR JOHN STOKES, an eminent British engineer, died on November 17 at the age of seventy-seven years. He carried out important engineering works in connection with the Suez Canal, the opening of the mouth of the Danube and in other directions.

MR. H. C. HILL, inspector-general of forests to the government of India, died on November 7 at the age of fifty years.

THE death is also announced of Dr. T. R. Segelcke, professor of dairy farming in the Agricultural College at Copenhagen.

THE Harvard Corporation has voted to extend its Christmas holidays to January 5, thus leaving the week free for the convocation of scientific societies. Harvard University is, we believe, the only important institution that had not taken action favorable to Convocation Week.

M. GIACOBINI discovered a faint comet at Nice on December 2, and the comet was observed at the Naval Observatory on December 3.

THE Civil Service Commission announces an examination on January 3 for the position of assistant-chief, Dairy Division, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of \$1,800. It announces on January 6 examinations for the positions of scientific assistant in the Fish Commission and custodian in the Marine Biological Station at Beaufort, at salaries of \$720, and for the position of assistant chemist in the supervising architect's office, Treasury Department, at a salary of \$1,200.

THE Section of Geology and Geography of the American Association has arranged to devote a session of the meeting to the discussion of the recent eruptions of Mont Pelée and La Soufrière by the geologists,

Messrs. Russell, Hill, Heilprin, Jaggar, Curtis and Hovey, who visited the islands of Martinique and St. Vincent last summer, but the details of the session have not been elaborated in time for the preliminary program. The following papers, however, can be announced:

R. T. HILL: 'The geologic and physiographic history of the Lesser Antilles.' With illustrations.

E. O. HOVEY: 'The ejecta of the 1902 eruptions of La Soufrière, St. Vincent'; 'Some erosion phenomena on Mt. Pelée and La Soufrière,' with illustrations; 'The inner cone of the Mt. Pelée crater and its relation to the destruction of Morne Rouge.'

T. A. JAGGAR, JR.: 'The geological and recent history of the Caribbean volcanoes'; 'The protection of human life from volcanoes.'

ISRAEL C. RUSSELL: 'Martinique and St. Vincent.' (An illustrated lecture before the National Geographic Society, in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.)

J. W. SPENCER: 'The geological history of the Caribbean Islands.' With charts and illustrations.

THE ninth annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society will be held at Columbia University on Monday and Tuesday, December 29 and 30. The council will meet on Monday morning, and the annual election of officers and other members of the council will close on Tuesday morning. At the opening of the afternoon session on Monday the retiring President, Professor Eliakim Hastings Moore, will deliver his presidential address, the subject of which will be: 'The Foundations of Mathematics.'

THE Lowell Institute lectures for the current year include the following:

Professor N. S. Shaler, ten lectures on the general topic, 'Dynamical Geology.'

Professor H. P. Bowditch, eight lectures on 'Some Problems of Modern Physiology.'

Dr. T. A. Jaggar, six lectures on 'The Caribbean Volcanic Eruptions and their Bearing on Vulcanology.'

THE city of Ann Arbor has offered to the University of Michigan the perpetual lease of a piece of land of seven acres within one square of the present campus on condition that the

University improve the same, converting it into a botanical garden to parts of which the public shall have admission. The regents have signified their willingness to accept the offer, and will doubtless begin work on the land next spring. The ground is well adapted to garden purposes, three acres being high and level, and this area then running down a steep hillside some fifty feet to low land containing a natural pool.

At the invitation of Columbia University, the fourth annual conference of the Association of American Universities is to be held in New York on December 29, 30 and 31.

THE first sanitary conference of the American republics convened at Washington last week. The Governments of Mexico, Cuba, Chili, Costa Rica, Salvador, Honduras and the United States were represented. Dr. Walter Wyman, surgeon general of the marine hospital service, presided at the opening session and addresses of welcome were made by Secretary of the Treasury Shaw and Assistant Secretary of State Hill.

THE Ludwick Institute Courses of free lectures on the natural sciences and their applications, given under the auspices of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, on Mondays and Thursdays are for the present year as follows: Hygiene and physiology, by Seneca Egbert, A.M., M.D., beginning on November 13; Entomology, by Henry Skinner, M.D., beginning on November 17; Some phases of bird life, by Witmer Stone, M.A., beginning on January 5; The faunas of the new American dependencies, Porto Rico and Cuba, Hawaii and the Philippines, by Henry A. Pilsbry, Sc.D., beginning on February 5; Animals of the deep sea: a historical sketch of their discovery, by Philip P. Calvert, Ph.D., beginning on February 9; Geological history; descriptions of some critical epochs in the history of the earth, by Amos P. Brown, Ph.D., beginning on February 12; Vertebrate paleontology: types of extinct fishes and batrachians and their living kin, by J. Percy Moore, beginning on March 16; Characteristic features of the chief plant groups, by Stewardson Brown, beginning March 19.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY has offered to the University of Georgia a \$50,000 building, provided the Legislature will appropriate to the University for maintenance the sum of \$10,000 a year for two years and make improvements costing \$1,200.

THE University of California is about to erect a physiological laboratory at a cost of \$25,000. It will be under the charge of Dr. Jacques Loeb, recently called to the University from Chicago.

THE Yale Club of Chicago has voted to establish in the academic and scientific departments of the university four annual scholarships of \$600 each, to be given to students who are residents of Illinois. Beneficiaries will give notes for the amounts of the scholarships to be repaid at intervals after graduation.

THE education bill has been passed by the British House of Commons. Less attention has been paid to this bill in the United States than it deserves. It to a certain extent nationalizes the church and other religious schools, supporting them from a government grant and from local rates, but leaving them in part under ecclesiastical authority and permitting them to continue their religious teaching.

THE regents of the University of the State of New York have elected the Rev. William Crosswell Doane chancellor in the room of the late Anson J. Upson. Mr. Whitelaw Reed was elected vice-chancellor.

DR. A. S. CHITTENDEN has been appointed assistant in pathology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.

MAJOR RONALD ROSS has been elected to the newly established chair of tropical medicine at University College, London.

M. MAREY has succeeded the late M. Lacaze-Duthiers as president of the section of natural sciences of the Ecole pratique des hautes etudes, Paris.

DR. O. JUEL has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Upsala.