

appreciation of those whom I have been privileged to lead in the early paths of truth. I can not express all that I would. I hope that you will take my wish in place of my inability."

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

THE board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution held an adjourned meeting on the morning of March 12, all the members being present with the exception of Senator Cullom, President Angell, Mr. Olney and Dr. White.

The chancellor, the chief justice of the United States, reported on behalf of the committee appointed at the last meeting of the board, to consider the whole subject of defining the powers and duties of the executive committee. Two meetings of the committee had been held, but two members, Senator Cullom and Representative Dinsmore, had been unable to attend, and the other members of the committee, considering the importance of the subject entrusted to their consideration, would not take the responsibility of making a report unless the matter could be considered by the full committee. The chief justice expressed the opinion, however, that the committee realized that under present arrangements too little time was afforded the regents for the consideration and discussion of the important matters entrusted to their care. He thought that there should be more frequent meetings of the board of regents, and regular and stated meetings of the executive committee. Senator Platt and Representative Adams of the committee agreed with him in this, and Representative Adams offered a resolution providing for three meetings of the board of regents each year: One, the annual meeting in January, for the transaction of the usual routine business, and the others—one on the sixth of December, and one on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March—for the discussion of the affairs of the institution, and for a free interchange of views among the members. This resolution was passed unanimously.

In the discussion the opinion was very generally expressed that the executive committee also should hold more frequent meetings, and

that they should have regular and stated meetings for the discussion of the affairs of the institution, but the members thought that the executive committee should provide for its own meetings, and that this was not a matter calling for the action of the board.

The members also very generally expressed the opinion that the board was not ready to define the powers and duties of the executive committee—that this demanded careful consideration and an examination of the organization, and of the United States statutes referring to it. It was therefore moved that the committee be continued and that it should make a report upon the subject at the next meeting of the board which will be on December 6, unless this should fall upon a Sunday, in which case the meeting will be on Monday following. This resolution was passed by the board, and it is understood that in accordance with the suggestion of Judge Gray the secretary will prepare for the use of the board, a pamphlet containing references to all the United States statutes referring to the institution and its allied bureaus.

The subject of the new building for the National Museum came up for consideration. Congress has appropriated the sum of three millions and a half dollars for a new building for the National Museum, and the making of contracts, etc., for the erection of the building has been placed by congress in the hands of Mr. Bernard R. Green. Action was taken looking to the beginning of immediate work upon the new museum building, authorizing the secretary with the advice and consent of the chancellor, and the chairman of the executive committee, to arrange with Mr. Bernard R. Green in reference to carrying out the act of congress.

The question of the management of the government bureaus in charge of the Smithsonian Institution and the policy of the institution towards these bureaus then came up for discussion. Dr. Bell recommended a return to the policy of the first secretary, Professor Henry, and urged the importance of granting autonomy to each bureau. He stated that it was the duty of the regents to consider

carefully, how the usefulness and value of the Smithsonian Institution and its allied bureaus could be improved, and offered the following resolutions:

The secretary shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the board of regents, shall appoint the heads of the various bureaus supported by Congress under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution—to wit—the National Museum, the Bureau of American Ethnology, the National Zoological Park, the Bureau of International Exchanges, and the Astrophysical Observatory.

The secretary shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen in these offices during the intervals between meetings of the board, by granting commissions which shall expire at the next meeting of the board of regents.

The head of each bureau shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the secretary, shall appoint the subordinates in the bureau under his charge.

The heads of the bureaus shall be termed directors; and the board of regents hereby creates the offices of director of the National Museum, director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, director of the National Zoological Park, director of the Bureau of International Exchanges and director of the Astrophysical Observatory, and instructs the secretary to fill these offices by temporary appointment to expire at the next meeting of the board, when nominations shall be presented for confirmation by the board.

There was no time for adequate discussion of these resolutions and it was believed by all the members that the subject was of too great importance to be passed upon at once by the board. Judge Gray thought that the resolutions should be examined and reported upon by a committee, before asking the board for a decision, and suggested that they might be referred to the committee having under consideration the definition of the powers and duties of the executive committee, for a report. Dr. Bell thereupon withdrew his motion, and moved to refer the resolutions to the committee as suggested by Judge Gray, and this motion was adopted by the board.

The question of the disposition of the remains of James Smithson, the founder of the Smithsonian Institution, then came up for consideration. It will be remembered that

the regents had been notified that the body of James Smithson would have to be removed from his grave, in order to make room for a quarry, and that the regents had decided that the remains should be transferred from the cemetery in Genoa, Italy, where they now rest, to another cemetery in the same city. Dr. Bell offered to have the remains removed to this country at his expense, if the regents would take charge of them upon their arrival, and in view of this proposition he moved a reconsideration of the decision of the board relating to the disposition of the body. The regents seemed to be very favorably impressed with the proposition, and in view of the fact that there was no immediate necessity for the removal of the grave, and that no time remained for discussion of the matter, the resolution was allowed to lie over to be acted upon at the next meeting of the board in December. The meeting then adjourned.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE National Academy of Sciences will hold its annual stated meeting at Washington beginning on Tuesday, April 17.

THE American Philosophical Society will hold at Philadelphia a general meeting on April 2, 3 and 4. The preliminary program contains the titles of thirty-one papers, including one by President Daniel C. Gilman, on 'The Carnegie Institution during the first year of its development,' and one by Dr. W. H. Welch on 'The objects and aims of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.' The sessions will be held in the hall of the society beginning in the morning at 10:30 and in the afternoon at 2. Luncheon will be served to members on each day; there will be a reception to members and ladies accompanying them on Thursday evening, and visiting members will be the guests of resident members on Friday evening.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has appointed the following as a commission to report to him on the organization, needs, and present condition of government work, with a view to including under the Department of Commerce bureaus not assigned to that department by congress: