

yearly. Dr. Henry Woodward and Mr. Oldfield Thomas explained the nature of the work, which can only be done by men of considerable scientific attainments and linguistic skill. Professor Cunningham suggested that the appointment of recorders in the different subjects should rest with the editor, and not with the council, to which the reply was that, as the editor was paid a merely nominal sum for his services, it would be unfair to impose this additional labor on him. The motion was carried without a dissentient, and the meeting adjourned to November 19.

The Geographical Journal states that a preliminary report has been received from the leader of the second expedition sent out to Brazil by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Vienna. After landing at Pernambuco, two excursions were made by rail to the neighborhood of Berberibe and Pas d'Alho, which gave a foretaste of the enormous wealth of bird-life in those tropical regions. A similar impression was made by excursions round Bahia, to Cabula, Rio Vermelho, the neighborhood of Barra near the Bahia lighthouse, and even on the outermost slopes, covered with vegetation, between the east of the town and the sea. Here was first seen the *Wistiti* (*Hapale Jacchus*), which is peculiar to Bahia and Pernambuco. On the journey to the Rio Sao Francisco extensive ornithological collections were made; a week was spent at Joazeiro, on the right bank of the great river. An imposing representative of the bird world here is the Nandu, or Ema (*Rhea macrorhyncha*). The characteristic mammals of this region are the armadillo (*Dasypus*), pouched rat and ant-eater. Fish are abundant in the river, but there are not many species. The Pirá (*Conarhynchus conirastris*), with a long curved tube-shaped snout, and Pacrí (*Myletes*), with a shark's mouth, are remarkable, being of larger size than most of the others. Hofrath Steindachner expects a particularly rich yield of fishes characteristic of the region from the stay at Barra, where the Rio Grande flows into the Sao Francisco. Lacertilians are represented in the neighborhood of Joazeiro by eight or nine species, including a very

delicate dark-striped Scincoid with a blood-red tail. Most of the small variegated or dark-colored snakes of this region are said to be poisonous. The Ema mentioned above is greatly valued as a destroyer of snakes, and is kept on the haciendas. The kites do their utmost in destroying animal 'undesirables,' and enjoy the greatest favor all over the country. The whole bird-life of the Joazeiro district resembles that of the Amazon region more closely than that of southern Brazil. In the middle of March the desolate solitudes of the bush were explored, starting from the railway at Carnahyba, and a nearly complete collection of the birds, consisting of some fifty specimens, was made. The most characteristic representatives are five species of pigeons and two of parrots.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MRS. CYRUS H. McCORMICK and her three sons, of Chicago, have given \$10,000 to Washington and Lee University, the interest of which is to be devoted to the development of the department of physics. A new laboratory of engineering and physics, the gift of another friend in Chicago, whose name is for the present withheld, is expected to be ready for occupation next summer.

DR. JOHANN HJORT and others offer courses of instruction on marine investigations at Bergen during the months of September, October and November. There is no charge for the courses which include lectures, laboratory work and field work.

MR. C. F. BAKER has been appointed assistant professor of biology in Pomona College, Claremont, Cal.

DR. O. SCHMIDT and Dr. Julius Meyer have qualified as docents in chemistry in the universities of Bonn and Breslau, and Dr. R. Gans and Dr. Kohl as docents in physics in the universities of Tübingen and Vienna, respectively.

DR. R. BRAUNS, professor of mineralogy at Giessen, has been elected rector for the coming year.