

Wall streets, where the men will be housed and cared for during the period of the investigation, doubtless for about nine months.

In this study there are no special theories involved and no special systems of dietetics, but the object especially aimed at is to ascertain experimentally whether physiological economy in diet cannot be practiced with distinct betterment to the body and without loss of strength and vigor. There is apparently no question that people ordinarily consume much more food than there is any real necessity for, and that this excess of food is in the long run detrimental to health and defeats the very objects aimed at. It is with a view to gather as many facts as possible on this subject that the study in question is undertaken.

This investigation is merely a continuation, on a larger scale, of earlier observations made in the Sheffield Laboratory of the Sheffield Scientific School last year, and referred to in an article in the *Popular Science Monthly* by Professor Chittenden, and bears directly upon the question of a possible physiological economy in nutrition.

#### THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES.

ON the first of last July the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries, until then an independent bureau not attached to any government department, became a part of the new Department of Commerce and Labor.

With the transfer the name was changed. The 'United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries' is now a thing of the past, so far as the name is concerned, and it will hereafter be known as the 'Bureau of Fisheries,'—a title certainly much shorter and more usable than the old. Many of us loved the title under which this branch of our government gained and still maintains an honored name among biologists, fish-culturists and anglers throughout the world, cumbersome and unwieldy as that title was; but we welcome the more simple name and have no doubt but that the 'Bureau of Fisheries' will soon become equally honored and well known.

The principal positions in the Bureau of

Fisheries and the men who fill them are as follows:

Commissioner, Hon. Geo. M. Bowers.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. H. M. Smith.

Assistant in Charge of Scientific Inquiry and Ichthyologist, Dr. Barton Warren Evermann.

Assistant in Charge of Fish Culture, Mr. John W. Titcomb.

Assistant in Charge of Statistics and Methods of the Fisheries, Mr. A. B. Alexander.

Chief Clerk, Mr. Irving H. Dunlap.

Disbursing Officer, Mr. W. P. Titcomb.

Engineer and Architect, Mr. Hector von Bayer.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY, the eminent British chemist, and M. Henri Poincaré, the eminent mathematical physicist, have been elected corresponding members of the Vienna Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR M. ALLEN STARR, M.D., LL.D., of the Medical Department of Columbia University, of New York, has been elected a corresponding member of the Neurological Society of the United Kingdom, London. Dr. Weir Mitchell is the only other American member.

THE International Geological Congress awarded its Spendiarrow prize to Professor W. C. Brogger of Christiania.

PROFESSOR C. S. SHERRINGTON, of the University of Liverpool, gave the address at the opening of the new medical buildings of the University of Toronto, which have been fully described in SCIENCE. Professor Sherrington will visit some of the medical centers of the United States before returning to England.

PROFESSOR THEODORE WILLIAM RICHARDS, having recovered from his illness, has been made chairman of the Division of Chemistry in Harvard University, in place of Professor Charles Loring Jackson. Professor Jackson retains the Erving professorship and all his other work in research and instruction, resigning the chairmanship alone.

DR. W. W. CAMPBELL, director of the Lick Observatory, was expected to lecture this week at Wellesley College, on 'The Motions of the Solar System through Space.'

DR. LOUIS PARKES has been appointed consulting sanitary adviser to the British Department of Public Works and Buildings to succeed the late Professor Corfield.

MR. CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD, assistant curator in the Botanical Department of the United States National Herbarium, has been granted a furlough for the period of two and one half years. He will spend this time in Springfield, Mass., being occupied in literary work on the staff of the G. and C. Merriam Company.

DR. GERVASE GREEN, formerly instructor in psychology in Yale University, has returned from a year spent abroad, and will enter a law office in Omaha.

PROFESSOR GARMAN, professor of philosophy at Amherst, has been given leave of absence during the year. His courses will be given by Professor A. H. Pierce, of Smith College. Professor F. J. E. Woodbridge, of Columbia University, will give a course of lectures during the winter on 'Representative Philosophers.'

CHARLES E. CASPERI, Ph.D., has resigned his position as director of the Research Laboratory of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, of St. Louis, to accept the chair of chemistry in the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

THE Associated Press has received a despatch stating that Dr. F. A. Cooke and his party failed to reach the summit of Mount McKinley, but have made various geographical observations in the vicinity.

THE Swiney lectures on geology in connection with the British Museum of Natural History, will be given by Dr. John S. Flett during November. The lectures, twelve in number, are on the volcanoes of the world.

WE learn from *Nature* that a movement is in progress for erecting a memorial of James Watt, and at a meeting recently held it was decided that the form the memorial should take should be an institution for scientific research, and an appeal is now being made for funds to carry out the project. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who is the secretary for America, has promised a subscription of £10,000 towards the object.

MR. C. J. CORNISH has prepared a life of the late Sir William Flower, which will be published by the Macmillans.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN G. BROWN, for thirty-five years professor of mathematics at Tufts College, died on September 29 at the age of sixty-six years.

PROFESSOR HUDSON A. WOOD died at Vernon, N. Y., on October 28, aged sixty-two years. He had been a teacher of mathematics and was the author of several text-books.

DR. OSKAR SCHNEIDER of Dresden, the geographer, died on September 8, at the age of sixty-two years.

THE Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Profontaine, has stated in the House that he is in favor of the government appropriating \$80,000 to build a boat for Captain Bernier's polar expedition.

THE National Statistical Institute met at Berlin beginning on September 21. Professor von Iname-Sternegg was elected president.

ACCORDING to *Nature* Professor Graham Kerr has received a letter from Mr. J. S. Budgett in which the latter announces that he has solved the important problem of the development of *Polypterus*. The letter is written from Southern Nigeria and dated August 28. "It appears that Mr. Budgett has been able to fertilize a large quantity of eggs of *Polypterus senegalus*, and that the early development is 'astoundingly frog-like'—segmentation being complete and fairly equal, and the process of invagination resembling that of the frog's egg. Prominent neural folds are formed which arch over in the normal fashion. Mr. Budgett had already made three expeditions to various parts of tropical Africa in his endeavor to obtain material for studying the development of *Polypterus*, and zoologists will rejoice that his efforts have been at last attended with success. The Crossopterygians have been for some time the most important vertebrate group awaiting the investigation of the embryologist, and the results gained by Mr. Budgett in the working out of his material in the laboratory will be looked forward to

with the greatest interest by all vertebrate morphologists."

THE Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, begins its twentieth free lecture course on Saturday afternoons as follows:

October 3, 'A Visit to the Island of Sumatra,' Professor E. E. Barnard, University of Chicago.

October 10, 'A Tour of the Plant World—Japan,' Dr. C. F. Millsbaugh, curator, Department of Botany.

October 17, 'Travels on Vancouver Island,' Mr. Harlan I. Smith, American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

October 24, 'Bird Migration,' Mr. W. E. Praeger, University of Chicago.

October 31, 'On the Isthmus of Tehuantepec,' Dr. Seth E. Meek, assistant curator, Department of Zoology.

November 7, 'In Eastern Mexico,' Dr. Seth E. Meek, assistant curator, Department of Zoology.

November 14, 'Where Sea and River meet,' Dr. Chas. B. Davenport, University of Chicago.

November 21, 'How Ores grow,' Mr. Henry W. Nichols, assistant curator, Department of Geology.

November 28, 'Cats and Dogs, their Origin and Distribution,' Dr. S. W. Williston, associate curator, Division of Paleontology.

WE noted recently that Mr. Robert E. Peary had been given three years' leave of absence from the navy to continue his Arctic explorations. It is now stated that Mr. Peary's plan contemplates the construction of a strong wooden ship with powerful machinery, in which he will sail next July to Cape Sabine and, after establishing a sub-base there, force his way northward to the northern shore of Grant Land, where he will spend the winter with a colony of Whale Sound Esquimaux, who will be taken there by him from their homes further south. This winter base will be at or in the vicinity of Cape Columbia or Cape Joseph Henry, situated about the 82d degree of north latitude.

WE learn from the London *Times* that Mr. W. N. McMillan, who has just returned from a six month's sporting trip in East Africa, has presented to the Zoological Gardens the animals trapped by his men or given him by native chiefs. These include three Arabian

baboons (*Papio hamadryas*), three variegated jackals (*Canis variegatus*), two spotted hyenas (*Hyæna crocuta*), one striped hyena (*H. hyæna*), one young lioness (*Felis leo*), one leopard (*F. pardus*), one Abyssinian duiker (*Cephalophus abyssinicus*), and three Somali ostriches (*Struthio molydophanes*). The duiker fills a gap in the Regent's Park menagerie, for till now this species has never been exhibited. Indeed, a good deal of confusion existed about it since it was described by Rüppel, and this was not cleared up till Mr. Oldfield Thomas described all the duikers in a paper presented to the Zoological Society in 1892. Since then the result of his work has been made more generally accessible in the 'Book of Antelopes,' on which he collaborated with Dr. Sclater, the late secretary. The animal is much greyer than the forms living further south, and is also easily distinguished by the median line of dark hair on the face, which ends in a tuft. The suborbital glands are large, and their dark color gives the face a curious appearance. The hair on the front aspect of the fore limbs is dark, and the tail is black above and white on the under surface. The observations of Rüppel and the later ones of Dr. Blanford showed that this antelope lived at high elevation. Mr. McMillan confirms this, and his experience is that it is rarely, if ever, met with on terraces at great elevations, but always on sloping ground. At one time he had three in his camp, all quite tame, but two unfortunately died. The jackals are of interest, as this species differs very widely from others found in North Africa in its lank form and curious coloration of pale buff, washed and blotched with black on the back and tail. The first specimen exhibited at the gardens was sent home in 1894 by the late Dr. Anderson, in whose 'Mammals of Egypt' there is an excellent figure.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE late Richard W. Foster, of Clinton, Mass., has bequeathed \$25,000 to Harvard University. Other public bequests are made, and the residue of the estate is left for a club house for the factory hands of Clinton