

classification of cyclones of the far east, and the relation between the average motion of the higher clouds in the northern hemisphere and the general cyclonic tracks.

#### CLIMATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

PHILIPPINE climatology is a subject which interests a considerable number of Americans, and it is well that there should be generally available an authoritative presentation of the most important facts in this connection. In the 'Report of the Philippine Commission' for 1900, there was published an account of Philippine climates, and this, with some additions and many modifications, appears in Bulletin 2, Census of the Philippine Islands, 1903, 'The Climate of the Philippines,' by Father José Algué, S.J. (Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, 1904, 8vo, pp. 103). The bulletin is illustrated by means of twenty-seven plates, showing graphically the variations of the different climatic elements, the tracks of typhoons, etc., and there are also two colored maps of the islands, showing the mean annual rainfall and the mean annual temperature. On the latter, four shades of yellow are employed to indicate respectively the regions of high, intermediate and mild temperature, and also cool temperature 'because of altitude.' Of course, the word *cool* is relative, and the lower temperatures of higher altitudes in the tropics do not mean seasonal changes such as are experienced in the extra-tropics, especially in the northern hemisphere.

R. DEC. WARD.

#### GOSSIP ABOUT LAMARCK.

A MOVEMENT is afoot in Paris, to erect, probably in the Jardin des Plantes, an imposing monument to Lamarck. This will take the form of a bronze bust, or possibly a statue, surmounting a large stone base, and on the latter, after the fashion in French design (as in the newly dedicated monument to Pasteur) figures will appear in full relief. In the present case, these will represent the naturalist, blind and infirm, seated on a bench in the Jardin, and standing by his side his devoted daughter, pronouncing her memorable prophecy. And one might add that the little

model of this relief loses none of its pathos when one sees it in the historic house, in the room indeed in which Lamarck suffered and died.

The proposed monument is but one of the many signs that interest in the work of Lamarck is increasing among French zoologists. M. Landrieu, au élève of Giard, has prepared a translation of Packard's 'Life of Lamarck,' but we are told that he has added to it so much material that it will appear almost as a new work. It will shortly be published as a separate volume of the Zoological Society publications (Paris). In this regard it may be added that, thanks to the cooperation of a number of French scientists, notably Professor Hamy and Professor Joubin, M. Landrieu has been able to glean many details as to the life of the French naturalist. Some of these details, it appears, have been obtained through members of Lamarck's family, his descendants having finally been traced, and, curiously enough, one has still a personal interest in the Jardin, if for no other reason than that she has married one of the professors. It appears, furthermore, that a descendant of Lamarck is at present high in station, and is indeed, if gossip be repeated, slightly annoyed at the prominence which is being given an ancestor who was in his day obscure and who was, above all things, tainted with republicanism! An interesting item, which I learned recently from one of the authorities of the Jardin, is that there probably exist many memorabilia\* of the naturalist; among them, for example, is a sketch book which was known to contain many portrait sketches of him made by one of

\* In this regard cf. SCIENCE, 1904, vol. XIX., pp. 798-800, as to a recently discovered letter signed by Lamarck and Geoffroy (1796) dealing with evolutionary matters. The writer may also mention that he has in his possession what is said to be the lid of Lamarck's *tabatière*. It is ivory-rimmed, and in the glass top appears a signature of Jean Jacques, together with a specimen of *Hypnum protiferum*. The name of the plant is in Lamarck's hand, and the specimen is possibly a souvenir of Lamarck's friendship with Rousseau and of their traditional walks on Mont Valérien.

his sons. An original portrait has also been discovered painted between 1795 and 1799. *A propos* of the family of Lamarck, I noticed that the library of the Institute has preserved one of the *annonces* sent out by Lamarck on the occasion of the wedding of his son, the engineer, Auguste de Lamarck; and that, in another file, a nephew, Auguste de Longs-champs, is mentioned (1825) as having been given the privileges of the library. The archives of the Institute, however, I am sorry to say, fail to show the unpublished portion of Cuvier's *éloge* of Lamarck: this we hope may still be forthcoming among the extensive papers of Cuvier which the library has recently acquired. The missing portion of the *éloge*, it need hardly be mentioned, is of special interest, since it will probably throw light on a side of Lamarck's life and work which must to no little degree have been responsible for his neglect. For the rest I may quote an explanation of the contemporary lack of appreciation of Lamarck which was made by an eminent professor at the Jardin. "Lamarck," he said, "was found to be lamentably weak in the facts upon which he based his theories, geological, chemical and meteorological: and as an immediate result his views in these fields came in course of time to be regarded as chimerical. Was it not natural, therefore, that both his friends and foes should query whether his evolutionary doctrines were better founded? His methods were thus known to be in strong contrast to those of Cuvier, who, whatever were his limitations, had at least a thoroughly modern spirit in his laborious quest for facts with which to test the relation between cause and effect."

A final item is the installation in the Jardin des Plantes of a Lamarckian museum. This has been brought together during the past year by Professor Joubin and placed appropriately in a room adjoining the malacological collection. It aims to include all specimens which are known to have passed through the hands of Lamarck. The identification of this material, which thus far consists entirely of invertebrates, has proven by no means an easy task, for original labels have frequently been displaced or lost, or covered

by later labels. It is to be hoped that the authorities may see fit to extend the scope of the museum in many directions.

B. D.

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*THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF SEPTEMBER 9, 1904.*

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun occurred on September 9, 1904. The shadow path crossed the central Pacific Ocean from west to east without touching known land, except that it reached the coast of northern Chile six or eight minutes before sunset. Astronomer William H. Wright, in charge of the D. O. Mills expedition from the Lick Observatory to Santiago, Chile, states that Dr. Obrecht, director of the National Observatory of Chile, established an observing station at Taltal, but that the sky was cloudy at the time of totality. At Santiago the sun set, partially eclipsed, on a fine horizon.

W. W. C.

LICK OBSERVATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
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*THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGISTS.*

THE American Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists will hold its second annual meeting in Philadelphia on December 28 to 30. By arrangement with the American Association for the Advancement of Science the meetings of the Zoological Section of the association will be held in the mornings while those of the Paleontological Society will be held in the afternoons at the same time that the Zoological Society is in session. Thus it is understood that the meetings of both societies will not conflict with the morning sessions of the American Association section, in which the papers will be of a general character.

For the Paleontological Society papers are already promised by Messrs. Osborn, Scott, Sinclair, Matthew, Merriam, Loomis and Hay. The presidential address by Professor Osborn will be entitled 'Ten Years' Progress in Mammalian Paleontology,' including a résumé of the principal discoveries of the past ten years and their bearing upon present and future problems. There will also be a discussion on the evolution and classification of the Reptilia,