to find relief, but with the completion of the electric railroad at Baguio, in the province of Benguet, this will no longer be needful, *as the climate at that altitude will afford the requisite change.*" (The italics are those of the compiler of these notes.) A study of the experience of European nations in the tropics leads to a much less optimistic view than that here set forth. Mountain stations, such as Baguio, are important, because they furnish some relief from the heat and humidity of the lowlands, and are above the zone of many tropical diseases, but they *do not solve the problem of acclimatization.* It is the monotony of the climatic conditions in the tropics which is one of the chief difficulties. The 'spur of the seasons,' which is so important an influence in giving the northern peoples their vigor and energy and 'push,' is lacking in the tropics. No mountain climate can supply this missing quality. A change to a colder latitude alone can do it.

THE NEW CAPITAL OF ERITREA.

CLIMATIC considerations have been the determining factor in bringing about the selection of a new capital for the Italian colony of Eritrea. The government offices have hitherto been at Massowa, on the Red Sea, where the climate is very trying. The present plan is to remove the seat of government to Asmara, on the high plateau of the hinterland, sixty miles in the interior, and 7,800 feet above the sea. Asmara is above the zone of the typical tropical diseases.

THE CLIMATE OF BALTIMORE.

PART 1 b, Special Publication, Vol. II., Maryland Weather Service, 1905, of a 'Report on the Climate and Weather of Baltimore and Vicinity,' by Dr. Oliver L. Fassig, has been issued. Part 1 a was recently mentioned in these notes. The present volume deals with humidity, precipitation, sunshine and cloudiness, winds and electrical phenomena, is a very thorough study, and contains abundant illustrations.

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

The Monthly Weather Review for December, 1904 (issued February 28, 1905), contains articles of general interest as follows: A review of Woeikof's new text-book of meteorology, by Dr. Stanislav Hanzlik (unfortunately this book is in Russian); a summary of the work done at the Aeronautical Observatory at Tegel, near Berlin, from October 1, 1901, to December 31, 1902; 'Evaporation Observations in the United States,' by H. H. Kimball (read before the Twelfth National Irrigation Congress, El Paso, November 16–18, 1904), accompanied by a chart showing lines of equal depth of evaporation in inches from a free water surface, computed from observations between July, 1887, and June, 1888; 'The Storm and Cold Wave of December 24 to 29, 1904,' by W. J. Bennett; 'Some Relations between Direction and Velocity of Movements and Pressure at the Center of Ellipsoidal Cyclones,' by Dr. Stanislav Hanzlik; 'Nitrogen in Rain Water,' 'The Vapor Pressure of Mercury,' 'Kite Work by the Blue Hill Observatory and the U. S. Weather Bureau.'

R. DEC. WARD.

MEMORIAL OF THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR A. A. WRIGHT.

THE executive committee of the Ohio Academy of Science has adopted the following memorial prepared at its request by Professor Lynds Jones in respect to the death of Professor A. A. Wright, of Oberlin, a member and a former president of the academy.

Albert Allen Wright died at his home in Oberlin on April 2, 1905, of acute peritonitis after an illness of scarcely twenty-four hours. Professor Wright was graduated from Oberlin College in 1865, received the degree of A.M. from Oberlin in 1868, the degree of Ph.B. from the School of Mines, Columbia College, 1875, was professor of mathematics and natural science at Berea College, Kentucky, 1870–73, and was called to the chair of geology and natural history of Oberlin College in 1874. With the change of title to professor of geology and zoology his service at Oberlin has been continuous since his first appointment.

Professor Wright was born in Oberlin in 1846. He served as a 100-day man during the closing days of the rebellion, and received his baccalaureate degree the following year at the age of nineteen. He began early to develop his natural taste

for science, and soon became recognized as a safe scientific thinker and investigator. He was one who never rushed to conclusions however enticing the facts discovered appeared, but took time to look into every possible avenue of approach to the subject, being satisfied only when his conclusions rested upon a foundation that could not be shaken. Consequently he was not a prolific writer. Indeed, he gave himself so unreservedly to his teaching and his students that research work was possible only during his brief vacations and at odd hours.

Professor Wright was a modest, retiring man, always shrinking from publicity, yet his service to the community and the state becomes conspicuous in his absence. Oberlin's unrivaled water and sewer systems are largely due to his hard study and keen insight. To him is almost wholly due the inception of the topographical survey of Ohio. In this he was at first defeated, but by untiring efforts and dogged determination saw the issue to a successful finish. He was also among the charter members of the Ohio State Academy of Science, which he served as president.

Probably among his most conspicuous contributions to science was his correction of Dr. Newberry's error in the true arrangement of the ventral armor of *Dinicthys*. While the publications over his own name were relatively few, his inspiration to others and his constant interest and unfailing kindness in spending himself for others who worked under him will continue long to be a potent factor in the advancement of science.

Professor Wright was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a fellow of the Geological Society of America, and member of the Ohio State Academy of Science.

HERBERT OSBORN, *President,*
L. B. WALTON, *Secretary.*

THE NEWFOUNDLAND WHALE FISHERIES.

THE returns of the Newfoundland Whale Fisheries for 1904 show that the eleven steamers employed took 1,270 whales, or an average of 116 each. In 1903 four steamers took 859 whales, or an average of 215 each. The Fisheries' 'Gazette' says that these returns make a very unfavorable showing and that comparison with those for 1903 is most depressing. That it is so is only what might have been expected. One can take out of a bucket only as much water as there is in it, and with the present rate at which whales are being killed, there is no reason to expect that the supply can at all keep up with the demand. Of course local causes may have been responsible for a part of the decrease, but this remains to be seen, and certainly a catch of 1,200 whales in the limited area around Newfoundland must be looked upon as enormous.

Those familiar with the history of fishing industries are quite aware that the fishermen never admit that their catch has any influence whatever upon the diminution in numbers of animal life; whales, seals and fishes are never exterminated, simply gone elsewhere, although that elsewhere is invariably where the wicked men cease from troubling and the weary animals are at rest.

The question is now being agitated as to what effect the diminution of whales will have upon other fisheries and in Norway the agitation carried on by the fishermen has progressed to such an extent that, right or wrong, the whale fishery in certain districts has been prohibited. That the diminution of whales may have an effect on fisheries is very probable, though it is extremely doubtful if the reasons assigned by the fishermen are the correct ones.

On the Newfoundland coast the whales feed entirely upon small isopods and it may be that the diminution in whales allows a wonderful increase of the *Euphausia,* who in turn feed upon the minute life on which the caplin and herrings are accustomed to feed. That the whales directly affect either herring or caplin or squid is more than doubtful, since none of these animals form any portion of the food of whales on the Newfoundland coast. Of the hundreds of whales examined none have contained anything save *Euphausia.* The smaller finback whales, such as *Batœnoptera acutorostrata,* feed actively upon the schools of caplin, but this species is not common about the Newfoundland coast and certainly has no appreciable effect upon the fishes.

F. A. L.

BROOKLYN INSTITUTE MUSEUM.

CONFERENCE OF ANATOMISTS AT THE WISTAR INSTITUTE.

TEN of the leading American anatomists were invited by the Wistar Institute of Anatomy of Philadelphia to take part in a con-