

and wet the straw. Some of these ponds, of very early date, perhaps Neolithic, are still in working order.

PILOT CHARTS OF NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORTH PACIFIC OCEANS.

THERE is much of interest to teachers of physiography and of meteorology on the monthly pilot charts of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans issued by our Hydrographic Office. So far from containing only information for the use of mariners, there is a large amount of material which may easily be employed in school and college teaching. For example, the conditions of prevailing winds and calms; the limits of the trades; the interaction of general and local winds near the coasts of continents and islands; the distribution of fogs and many other subjects of direct meteorological interest are discussed, as well as charted, on these publications.

SUICIDE AND THE WEATHER.

M. DENIS has recently published a study entitled 'Le Suicide et la Corrélation des Phénomènes moraux en Belgique' (*Mem. Acad. roy. Belg.*), in which the relation of suicide and the weather is considered. At Brussels the number of suicides increases up to July and August, and the minimum is usually in December (*Ciel et Terre*, Vol. 26, 1905, No. 6).

R. DEC. WARD.

RECENT VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY.

PARTIES are now in the field from the Carnegie Museum, the Field Columbian Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. From the last institution three parties have been sent out, one to continue the work of excavation in the 'Bone Cabin' Quarry in search especially for additional skulls of dinosaurs; the second to the Bridger Eocene basin, in order to verify the stratigraphic exploration which has been done there and to complete our knowledge of certain little known forms; the third to the Laramie or Upper Cretaceous of northern Montana in search of dinosaurs. In the absence of Professor Bashford Dean in Japan, his assistant, Mr. Hussakof, is exploring several of the type localities of Devonian fishes.

Much activity is also being displayed in the arrangement of the collections in the various museums. Mr. J. W. Gidley, who resigned his position in the American Museum for an appointment as preparator in the National Museum, is completely overhauling and cataloguing the rich National Museum collection. In the Carnegie Museum the specimens are temporarily withdrawn from exhibition pending the completion of the new building. In the American Museum of Natural History the skeleton of the little Bridger armadillo *Metacheiromys* has just been placed on exhibition, while the skeletons of the Pampean horse *Hippidium*, of the Jurassic carnivorous dinosaur *Allosaurus* and of the Pleistocene mammoth *Elephas columbi*, are being prepared for mounting. Mr. Richardson, who prepared such an admirable model of *Stegosaurus* for the National Museum exhibit at the St. Louis exposition, is now preparing for a life-size reproduction of *Allosaurus* after a model by Knight from the skeleton in the American Museum of Natural History.

The principal researches in this museum at the present time are the following: Dr. O. P. Hay is monographing the Testudinata on a grant from the Carnegie Institution. Dr. E. C. Case is writing a memoir upon the Permian Pelycosauria, especially the great fin-backed lizards *Naosaurus* and *Dimetrodon*, fine specimens of which are preserved in the Cope collection in this museum; the drawings for this memoir are being made from a grant from the Carnegie Institution. Dr. W. D. Matthew has been revising the Bridger fauna, especially the Carnivora and Insectivora. Mr. Barnum Brown has completed a description of an important Pleistocene cave fauna of Arkansas. Volume II. of 'The Fossil Vertebrates in the American Museum of Natural History' has recently been issued, including forty-four collected bulletins, from 1898 to 1903, by Osborn, Wortman, Matthew, Hay, Granger, Gidley, Loomis, Brown, Lull, Gregory.

The status of the U. S. Geological Survey monographs at present is as follows: The monograph on the Ceratopsia by the late Mr. J. B. Hatcher will be published first. The

author at the time his fatal illness overtook him was in the midst of the final pages of the systematic revision of genera and species; he left his manuscript, so far as prepared, in perfect condition. Professor R. S. Lull, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has completed the monograph, carefully conforming, so far as possible, to the plans of the author. It has been found necessary, however, to add considerable original matter. The Titanotheres monograph is progressing rapidly in the hands of Professor Osborn; recent discoveries in Wyoming have added greatly both to the material and to the work involved in completing this volume. The Sauropoda monograph by the same author is also under way, but will not be completed for at least two years. It has been practically decided to confine the Stegosauria monograph, in the hands of Mr. F. A. Lucas, to the genus *Stegosaurus* and thus avoid the delay incidental to the study of the European members of this order.

H. F. O.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE fiftieth year of public service of the eminent chemist Dr. D. J. Mendeléef will be celebrated at St. Petersburg on August 30.

DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON, president of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, has been appointed commissioner of health for the state of Pennsylvania.

PROFESSOR W. W. MILLS has been appointed state geologist of Michigan.

DR. ROBERT KOCH, who is said to be making important discoveries in the interior of Africa, expects to return to Germany in the spring of next year.

PROFESSOR C. H. HITCHCOCK, of Dartmouth College, is this summer studying the volcanoes of the Hawaiian Islands.

PROFESSOR G. F. WRIGHT, of Oberlin College, is making a trip to southern Russia and the Red Sea to continue his geological and anthropological studies in that region.

DR. J. F. NEWSON, associate professor of mining and metallurgy at Stanford University, has leave of absence for next year.

PROFESSOR MORIZ BENEDIKT, of the University of Vienna, known for his work on diseases of the nervous system, has celebrated his seventieth birthday. A dinner was given in his honor by the Neurologic Society of Vienna and congratulations were presented from various societies of which he is a member.

THE gold medal of the British Medical Association has been presented to Sir Constantine Holman and to Mr. Andrew Clark.

THE French Académie de Médecine has awarded a silver medal to Dr. Alan Green, bacteriologist in charge of the vaccine lymph department, Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, for his work on vaccine.

DR. GUSTAV KRAATZ, president of the German Entomological Society, has been given the title of professor.

DR. RICHARD ASSMANN, titular professor of meteorology at Berlin, has been appointed director of the aeronautical observatory at Lindenberg.

WE learn from the London *Times* that Mr. Edgar Schuster, the Francis Galton research fellow in national eugenics at London University, has presented a report containing a preliminary account of inquiries which have been made into the inheritance of disease, and especially of feeble-mindedness, deaf-mutism and phthisis. Arrangements have been concluded with Mr. John Murray for the publication of a work on noteworthy families in modern science, written by Galton in conjunction with Mr. Schuster. This is to appear as Volume I. of the publications of the Eugenics Record Office, and will contain accounts of the families of some fifty fellows of the Royal Society.

A STATUE of Benjamin Franklin is to be erected at Paris at the end of the street that bears his name. Plans have been made for the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of Franklin's birth, which occurred on January 17, 1706, in Boston and New York as well as in Philadelphia.

Nature states that a portrait medallion, in marble, of Sir William Geddes, the late principal of the University of Aberdeen, has been