

death rates from various diseases in selected areas, in cities and in rural districts. The proportion of deaths at all ages (1900) was highest in March; the deaths of children under five were at a maximum in August. For diseases of the respiratory system, the deaths are at a maximum in the colder months, as is usually the case, for obvious reasons. The same is true for diseases of the circulatory system and for diphtheria. On the other hand, for diarrheal diseases, typhoid fever and malarial fever, the maxima come in the warmer months.

R. DEC. WARD.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

#### THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting of this society held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, December 28 and 29, the following officers were elected:

*President*—Professor William H. Howell, Baltimore, Md.

*Secretary*—Professor Lafayette B. Mendel, New Haven, Conn.

*Treasurer*—Professor Walter B. Cannon, Boston, Mass.

*Additional Members of the Council*—Professor A. B. Macallum, Toronto, Canada; Dr. S. J. Meltzer, New York City.

The following new members of the society were elected: Dr. C. L. Alsberg, instructor in biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.; Dr. E. G. Martin, associate professor of physiology, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana; Dr. John Auer, fellow of the Rockefeller Institute, New York City; Dr. C. W. Edmunds, lecturer on materia medica and therapeutics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. W. B. Pillsbury, director of the psychological laboratory, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Dr. S. A. Matthews, associate in pharmacology, University of Chicago; Dr. Swale Vincent, professor of physiology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada; Dr. Shinkishi Hatai, assistant in neurology, University of Chicago; Dr. V. E. Henderson, demonstrator of physiology and pharmacology, University of Toronto; Dr. William Salant, assistant in physiological chemistry, Columbia University and fellow of the Rockefeller Institute, New York City; Dr. O. P. Terry, assistant in physiology, St.

Louis University; Dr. C. C. Guthrie, instructor in physiology, University of Chicago; Dr. R. S. Lillie, instructor in physiology, Harvard Medical School, Boston; Dr. J. H. Kastle, chief of Division of Chemistry, U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service.

The scientific proceedings of the society's meetings will be published in the February number of *The American Journal of Physiology*. It is probable that the next annual meeting of the society will be held in New York City during convocation week, 1906-7.

#### THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE following bills have been introduced in the house of representatives:

*December 13, 1905.*

Introduced by Mr. Needham, a bill (H. R. 7017) providing for the transfer of certain national parks from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. Referred to the committee on public lands.

By Mr. Lacey, a bill (H. R. 7019) for the protection of animals, birds and fish in the Forest Reserves. Referred to the committee on agriculture.

By Mr. Stevens, of Minnesota, a bill (H. R. 7108) to authorize the establishment of fish culture and biology stations in the United States. Referred to the committee on merchant marine and fisheries.

*December 18, 1905.*

A bill introduced by Senator Teller (S. 2193) for a public building for the United States Geological Survey at Washington, D. C. Referred to the committee on public buildings and grounds.

By unanimous consent upon motion of Senator Cullom, a bill passed in the senate on December 19, to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to establish a Fish Cultural Station in the State of Illinois.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science having decided to hold its next regular meeting in New York City in convocation week, beginning December 27,

1906, there will be a meeting of the fellows and members of the association residing in New York City, or within a radius of fifty miles, on Thursday, January 18, at 4:30 p.m., in room 305, Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University. Members of societies likely to meet next year in affiliation with the association are invited to be present whether or not they are members of the association.

At the New Orleans meeting of the Botanical Society of America, Dr. F. S. Earle, director of the Agricultural Station in Cuba, was elected president; Dr. William Trelease, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, secretary, and Dr. Arthur Hollick, of the New York Botanical Garden, treasurer. It is expected that the same officers will be elected by the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology and by the American Mycological Society, which have effected a union with the Botanical Society of America.

At the New York meeting of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, on December 28-30, 1905, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

*President*—E. C. Pickering.

*First Vice-President*—G. E. Hale.

*Second Vice-President*—W. W. Campbell.

*Secretary*—G. C. Comstock.

*Treasurer*—C. L. Doolittle.

*Councilors*—E. B. Frost and Harold Jacoby.

Councilors Ormond Stone and W. S. Eichelberger hold over from the preceding year. The time and place of the next meeting will be determined by the council.

DURING the Christmas holidays, in connection with the annual meeting at Baltimore of the Economic Association and the Political Science Association, a new national association, to be known as the American Sociological Society, was formed by about fifty sociologists who were gathered there for this purpose. The new organization will meet at the same time and place as the American Economic Association, and in the constitution adopted at Baltimore its objects are stated to be 'the encouragement of sociological research and discussion, and the promotion of intercourse between persons interested in the scientific study of society.' While the new society will

include in its members those 'practical sociologists,' that is to say, social reform workers, as well as theoretical and academic sociologists, the predominating viewpoint in its discussions is to be scientific, rather than popular or propagandist. The call for the conference which resulted in the formation of the society was signed by T. N. Carver, of Harvard; F. H. Giddings, of Columbia; S. M. Lindsay and S. N. Patten, of Pennsylvania; E. A. Ross, of Nebraska; A. W. Small, of Chicago; W. G. Sumner, of Yale; C. W. A. Veditz, of George Washington University; and Lester F. Ward, of the Smithsonian Institution. The officers of the new society for the current year are:

*President*—Lester F. Ward.

*Vice-Presidents*—W. G. Sumner, of Yale, and F. H. Giddings, of Columbia.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—C. W. A. Veditz, of George Washington.

*Executive Committee* (in addition to the above)—A. E. Ross, W. F. Willecox, A. W. Small, S. M. Lindsay, D. C. Wells and William Davenport.

At the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, on December 19, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon was reelected president; Dr. Edward J. Nolan, recording secretary and librarian; Dr. Charles B. Penrose, councilor for three years, and Dr. Horatio C. Wood, councilor to fill an unexpired term.

At the recent meeting of the California Teachers' Association held at the University of California, the section of mathematics adopted *School Science and Mathematics* as its official journal and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

*President*—Professor G. A. Miller, Stanford University.

*Vice-President*—Professor W. H. Baker, San Jose Normal School.

*Secretary*—Principal J. Fred Smith, Campbell High School.

At the meeting of the Entomological Society of France of December 13, three honorary members were elected to fill the vacancies in the list of twelve honorary members caused by the deaths of Packard, Saussure and Friedrich Brauer. Dr. M. Standfuss, professor in the Polytechnicum in Zurich,

especially known by his investigations in Lepidoptera, in the production of varieties by the influence of heat, cold and moisture, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Saussure's death. Professor Antonio Berlese, director of the Entomological Station of Florence, and especially known for his important studies on Coccidæ, his classical researches upon the internal phenomena of the metamorphoses of insects and his large memoir on the Acari, Myriapoda and scorpions of Italy, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Brauer's death. Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, fills the place caused by the death of Packard; the reasons given for his election being his work in entomology as applied to agriculture and medicine and his systematic work upon the Chalcididæ and other parasitic Hymenoptera, especially in their relation to the enemies of agriculture.

DR. S. T. TAMURA, B.Sc., M.A. (Iowa), Ph.D. (Columbia), a native of Japan, has been appointed mathematician in the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution, with which he has been connected as assistant for the past two years.

A TELEGRAM to the London papers states that Sir David Gill has made a public announcement that he intends to retire from the position of director of the Cape of Good Hope Observatory.

It is said that Dr. Koch has been placed at the head of an expedition to eastern Africa to investigate the sleeping sickness, for which the German government has appropriated \$30,000.

WE learn that the eminent paleontologist, Professor W. Amalitzky, of Warsaw, whose death at the hands of revolutionaries was recently reported, is still alive and safe in his own house. A grim light, however, is cast on the situation in Poland by the fact that it took more than a month for the Russian embassy in London to obtain this information.

DR. R. BURTON-OPITZ, adjunct professor of physiology at Columbia University, who has for some years been the American editor of

the *Biochemische Centralblatt*, has also become American editor of the *Bio-physikalische Centralblatt* and of the *Hygienische Centralblatt*, published by Bornträger Brothers, of Berlin. American scientific men are requested to send to Dr. Opitz, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, 437 West 49th St., New York, abstracts of their papers and reprints of publications bearing on the subjects included in the scope of these journals.

DR. MAYNARD M. METCALF, who recently accepted the chair of zoology at Oberlin College, will spend the year 1906-7 in Germany, and will enter on his work at Oberlin in September, 1907. In the meanwhile his address will continue to be The Woman's College, Baltimore, Md.

DR. OTTO NORDENSKJÖLD gave an illustrated lecture before the Geographical Society of Philadelphia on January 4. He took as his subject, 'Two Years amongst the Ice of the South Pole.'

PROFESSOR ROLAND THAXTER, of Harvard University, has a year's leave of absence, during which he will make botanical collections in South America.

DR. SVEN HEDIN, the Swedish explorer, has arrived at Teheran.

A MEMORIAL medal in honor of Andrée has been made by Londberg, the Swedish engraver. The artist represents Andrée's balloon rising from the ice. The explorer is looking anxiously toward the north. A group of young men are applauding, while an old man looks toward the horizon doubtfully. Below is the date, July 11, 1897. On the obverse appears the profile of Andrée.

DR. OTTO A. MOSES, the geologist and chemist and at one time state geologist of South Carolina, died on January 3 at the age of sixty years. Dr. Moses founded the Hebrew Technical Institute of New York City.

CHARLES JASPER JOLY, F.R.S., astronomer royal of Ireland, and professor of astronomy, at Dublin University, also known for his contributions to quaternions, has died at the age of forty-two years.

THE death is announced of Mr. Frederick William Burbidge, M.A., curator of the

Botanical Gardens of Trinity College, Dublin, at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. PHILIPP-BALLIFF, the German meteorologist, died on November 6, at the age of sixty years.

THE daily papers state that Mr. Radiguet, the French instrument-maker and man of science, has died as the result of exposure to the Röntgen rays.

THE will of the late Charles T. Yerkes, who owed his large fortune to the direct application of recent advances in science, makes provision for three important institutions, which are to bear his name. The Yerkes Observatory, to which he has already contributed liberally, receives \$100,000, the Yerkes galleries and the Yerkes hospital are to be established in New York City, on the death of his widow, or sooner should she wish. The hospital will also be established in case of the death of one of the two children. After certain bequests to Mrs. Yerkes, to his son and daughter and to others have been made, a trust fund is established, most of which will ultimately go to the support of the hospital. It is said that the value of the house on Fifth Avenue to be used for the galleries is \$1,000,000, and that the value of the collections is \$4,000,000. \$750,000 are provided as an endowment fund for the galleries, which will be under the control of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The hospital, which is to be situated in the borough of the Bronx, will receive, it is estimated by the daily papers, from \$5,000,000 to \$16,000,000.

THE letter of President Roosevelt to Chief Justice Fuller, chancellor of the Smithsonian Institution, recommending the acceptance of the art collections of Mr. Charles A. Freer, has been widely published, and has probably led to some misunderstanding. The regents of the Smithsonian Institution fully appreciate the value of Mr. Freer's collections and the desirability of having them at Washington, and his liberality in not only giving the collections, but in also consenting to provide on his death a building to house them. But he makes the condition that nothing shall be added to or taken from the collection after his death, and it would be necessary for the Smith-

sonian Institution to provide some \$10,000 for its maintenance. This can only be done by a congressional appropriation, and can not be definitely promised.

DR. ISAIAH F. EVERHART, of Scranton, Pa., has offered to present his natural history collection to the city, and to erect a \$50,000, building for its accommodation at Nayaug Park.

THE public library of New London, Conn., will ultimately receive \$40,000 by the will of Mr. Henry Cecil Haven.

As an outcome of the formation of the division for the investigation of artesian waters by the United States Geological Survey three years ago a considerable number of geologists are now devoting their entire time to the investigation of underground waters and related geology. The need of a society for the discussion of the many problems constantly arising in connection with new lines of research or investigations of more extended scope than those previously undertaken, has been felt for some time. Preliminary meetings looking to the organization of such a society were held on December 9 and 11, and on December 20 a formal meeting was held at which the society was formally organized, a constitution adopted, and officers chosen. The association, which is known as the 'Society of Geohydrologists,' is composed of active members, consisting of residents of the District of Columbia or vicinity who are principally engaged in geohydrologic work, and associate members consisting of non-residents who have contributed prominently to the science of geohydrology, making it a strictly professional society. Meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month during the winter.

PROFESSOR RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN, director of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, has announced the following lectures, composing the fortieth annual Sheffield lecture course:

January 19.—'The Panama Canal.' Professor William H. Burr.

January 26.—'Alaska.' Mr. Howard W. DuBois, M.E.

February 2.—‘The Evolution of the Sense of Hearing.’ Professor George H. Parker.

February 9.—‘Africa, from Sea to Center.’ Mr. Herbert L. Bridgman.

February 16.—‘Total Solar Eclipses and their Significance.’ Professor Charles S. Hastings.

February 23.—‘Florida Bird-Life, with special reference to the Life History of the Brown Pelican.’ Mr. Frank M. Chapman.

March 2.—‘The Wheat Country of the Northwest.’ Dr. Claude F. Walker.

March 9.—‘How the Metal Calcium was isolated; a Story of Chemical Progress.’ Professor Edgar F. Smith.

March 16.—‘The Colorado Canyon and its Lessons.’ Professor William M. Davis.

March 23.—‘Botanizing among the American Indians.’ Mr. Frederick V. Coville.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Pennsylvania College for Women in Pittsburg, has been making a resolute struggle to pay off a mortgage indebtedness of over \$60,000 resting upon its property, and to make a beginning in securing an endowment. \$40,000 were pledged to the latter purpose in case \$150,000 should be subscribed by January 1, 1906. The necessary subscriptions have been secured, and, after the mortgage has been paid, the college will possess as the nucleus of an endowment fund the sum of \$125,000. It has a fine landed property and good buildings.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has promised to contribute \$50,000 toward the endowment fund of Bates College when \$100,000 shall have been raised for the same purpose by friends of the college.

THE University of Pennsylvania received last month an anonymous gift of \$50,000.

LAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY has received \$30,000 for a dormitory and the same sum for a commons.

THE University of Wisconsin has received a bequest of \$10,000 by the will of the late Mrs. Fannie Parker Lewis, for the establishment of scholarships for young women students in need of financial aid.

MR. JOHN FEENEY bequeathed sums amounting to £89,000 towards various institutions

and objects connected with Birmingham and district. These include Birmingham Art Gallery, £50,000; University of Birmingham, £20,000, and the General Hospital, £10,000. The bequest to the university is for the purpose of maintaining a professor, with suitable equipment, lecturing on some one or more scientific subjects directly connected with some one or more of the trades and industries carried on in or near Birmingham.

SIR DONALD CURRIE’S offer of £20,000 to Queen’s College, Belfast, on condition that a similar sum was raised locally, has met with a satisfactory response. The president of the college has announced that the conditions have been more than complied with, and that with the amount secured previously the sum now stands at over £70,000.

THE senate of London University invites applications for the professorship of protozoology, established by means of funds offered by the Royal Society and the Rhodes trustees, through the colonial secretary. The salary attached to the chair will be £750 per annum.

AT the annual meeting of the trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on January 2, at the rooms of the State Board of Agriculture, Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, was elected to fill the vacancy in the presidency at Amherst caused by the death of Henry H. Goodell. He will assume his duties in July.

THE regents of the University of Wisconsin have arranged for State Forester E. M. Grifith to deliver a course of lectures on forestry before the students of the university.

DR. WALTER MULFORD, last year instructor in Yale University, has been made assistant professor of forestry in the University of Michigan.

M. BARBILLION has been appointed professor of technical physics in the University of Grenoble.

DR. KARL CHUN, professor of zoology in the University of Leipzig, has declined a call to Berlin.