

government of Japan, and also several stations in the southern part of the Chinese empire.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.,
January 22, 1906.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR A. A. MICHELSON, of the University of Chicago, and Professor F. Kohlrausch, of Berlin, have been elected honorary fellows of the Physical Society of London.

REAR ADMIRAL COLBY M. CHESTER, superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, was placed on the retired list on February 28. He will be retained in temporary active duty in the Bureau of Navigation. Rear Admiral Chester will be succeeded in charge of the Naval Observatory by Rear Admiral Asa Walker.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the connection of Professor Frederic Ward Putnam with Harvard University has been celebrated by the presentation of a volume, handsomely bound, containing autograph greetings from forty of his former students, who are now actively engaged in scientific work, most of them in the field of anthropology. Dr. H. C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History, has been authorized by President Jesup to offer Professor Putnam ethnological material sufficient to illustrate fully the life of the inhabitants of the Philippine Islands, leaving him to make such disposition of the collection as he may think best.

A COMMITTEE has been formed in Great Britain to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery, by Dr. W. H. Perkin, of mauve dye, the first of the coal tar products.

WE learn from *Nature* that Sir Alexander B. W. Kennedy, F.R.S., has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club under the provisions of the rule which empowers the annual election by the committee of three persons 'of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public services.'

PROFESSOR J. C. ARTHUR and Mr. F. D. Kern, of Purdue University, held research scholarships at the New York Botanical Garden for the month of January. Their atten-

tion was devoted to the collection of plant rusts in the cryptogamic herbarium.

A. J. COX, A.B., A.M. (Stanford), Ph.D. (Breslau), has resigned an instructorship in chemistry at Stanford University to accept the position of physical chemist in the government laboratories at Manila.

DR. J. W. BEEDE, of Indiana University, who has studied the upper Carboniferous and Permian formations from Nebraska to Texas, has been engaged to take charge of the detailed mapping of the Permian formations of Kansas next summer for the University Geological Survey of Kansas.

AMONG German men of science who have signified their intention of attending the Boston meeting of the American Medical Association are Professor Trendelenburg, Leipzig; Professor von Rosthorn, Heidelberg; Professor Dührssen, Berlin, and Professor von Frey, Würzburg.

DR. NICHOLAS SENN has been selected to deliver the oration on surgery at the International Medical Congress, Lisbon.

THE Middleton-Goldsmith lecture of the New York Pathological Society was delivered, on February 23, by Dr. Ludwig Hektoen, of the University of Chicago and the Memorial Institute for Infectious Diseases, the subject being 'Phagocytosis.'

M. L. FULLER, of the United States Geological Survey, will give a course of lectures in April at the University of Chicago on the hydrologic work of the government.

DR. GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY, of Yale University, gave a lecture on 'Prehistoric Scandinavia' before the Ethnological Society of America at the American Museum of Natural History on February 28.

The Journal of the American Medical Association states that Judge McEwen, of the Superior Court, has rendered a decision against the Chicago Medical Society in its efforts to maintain in Grant Park a boulder placed there in memory of Dr. Charles Guthrie and his pioneer work on chloroform.

ON June 29, 1903, a meeting was held at the Mansion-house, under the presidency of

the Lord Mayor, to inaugurate a memorial to the late Sir Henry Bessemer. At that meeting the following resolution was moved by the Duke of Norfolk, seconded by Professor H. M. Howe, of Columbia University, and unanimously adopted:

That this representative meeting heartily endorses the proposal to commemorate the great achievements of the late Sir Henry Bessemer, the inventor of the metallurgical process which bears his name; and it strongly affirms that such commemoration should have for its object some educational work as far-reaching in its beneficent influence as are the results of Bessemer's great invention.

The committee, with Sir William Preece as chairman, now announces that it is intended to let the memorial take the form of the establishment of memorial scholarships tenable in Great Britain or abroad, for the equipment of mining and metallurgical memorial laboratories in the Royal School of Mines at South Kensington as the center of the memorial, and for the erection of a statue of Bessemer in the Royal School of Mines. Towards the considerable sum required for the memorial the sum of £8,000 has been subscribed.

THE body of Dr. S. P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was interred in the Forest Hill Cemetery, Boston, on March 3. Professor John Langley, of Cleveland, a brother, accompanied the body from Washington. An address was delivered by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Among the honorary pallbearers were the Hon. Richard Olney, Dr. Bell, President Charles W. Eliot, Professor E. C. Pickering and President Henry M. Pritchett.

DR. AXEL N. LUNDSTRÖM, professor of plant physiology in the University of Upsala, died on December 30.

THE following examinations are announced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission: On March 21, for the position of surveyor in the Philippine Service, at a salary of \$1,400 a year, and for topographic draughtsman on the Isthmus of Panama, at \$1,200; on March 28, for laboratory helper in the Department of Agriculture, at \$600; on April 18, for scientific assistant in the Department of Agricul-

ture, at salaries ranging from \$800 to \$1,400 a year.

A MEETING has been held at the University of Berlin in support of the establishment of a *Chemische Reichsanstalt*.

Nature states that active steps are being taken at York to ensure the success of the meeting of the British Association to be held there next August. At a large and distinguished assembly, over which the Lord Mayor of York presided, the arrangements in connection with the forthcoming visit were advanced a further stage. A reception committee representative of the city and county was elected, and it was resolved to raise a fund of not less than £2,500 for the necessary expenses of the meeting. In an appropriate speech, the Lord Mayor moved "That this meeting agrees cordially to welcome the British Association to York this year from August 1-8, and in doing so attaches special interest to the fact that the association began its existence in York seventy-five years ago." The dean of York seconded this resolution (which was carried unanimously); and in supporting it Dr. Tempest Anderson referred to local connections with the association, the first officials of which included some of the leading members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. The local reception committee is said to be an unusually strong one: the president is the Lord Archbishop of York; chairman, the Lord Mayor (Mr. R. H. V. Wragge); vice-chairman, Dr. Tempest Anderson; treasurer, Sir J. Sykes Rymer; and secretaries, Mr. R. Percy Dale and Mr. C. E. Elmhirst. Pro-chancellor A. G. Lupton (University of Leeds) and Professor W. M. Hicks (University of Sheffield) both spoke at the meeting, and expressed the desire of their universities to assist in making the forthcoming meeting of the association a success.

THE twenty-fourth spring lecture course at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, given on Saturday afternoons at three o'clock is as follows:

March 3.—'Colors of Flowers, Fruits and Foliage,' Professor W. H. Dudley, Platteville, Wisconsin.

March 10.—'Some Aspects of Archeological Work in Central America,' Dr. Alfred M. Tozzer, Harvard University.

March 17.—'The Work of a State Geological Survey,' Professor H. Foster Bain, director, Illinois Geological Survey.

March 24.—'How People live in Congo Land,' Dr. D. W. C. Snyder, lecturer for the board of education, City of New York.

March 31.—'Love and War among Animals,' Mr. Ernest Ingersoll, New York.

April 7.—'Glaciers,' Professor N. M. Fennerman, University of Wisconsin.

April 14.—'The Seri Indians of Sonora,' Dr. W. J. McGee, director, St. Louis Public Museum.

April 21.—'How Plants breathe,' Professor C. R. Barnes, University of Chicago.

April 28.—'The Monuments of a Prehistoric Race,' Professor Frederic I. Monsen, San Francisco.

OFFICIAL notice has been received from the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna announcing the recognition of the Wistar Institute as the central institute for inter-academic brain research in the United States. Some three or four years ago, at the suggestion of Professor His (Leipzig), the International Association of Academies appointed a central commission for interacademic brain research. Among the duties of this commission was the selection of certain laboratories in various parts of the world to act as central institutes and the organization of an extensive plan for the cooperative investigation of the brain. It is in connection with this general plan that the Wistar Institute is accepted as the central institute for brain research in the United States. Recently Dr. Donaldson, Dr. Mall (Johns Hopkins Medical School) and Dr. Minot (Harvard Medical School) have been elected members of the central commission for interacademic brain research and the conduct of this work at the Wistar Institute will be under the direction of Dr. Donaldson.

In the summer of the present year a permanent station for the study of arctic science will, as we have already noted, be established on the south coast of Disco Island in Danish West Greenland. The cost of the foundation has been defrayed by a gift from Mr. A. Holck, of Copenhagen, and the Danish

government has promised an annual grant of \$3,000 towards its maintenance. We learn from a letter from Dr. Morten P. Porsild, director of the laboratory, that it is equipped with appliances and instruments, especially for biological researches, and that work-places will be furnished for visiting naturalists, foreign as well as Danish. The establishment of two such places is contemplated at present. The visitors will obtain the free use of the instruments, traveling outfit and library of the station; lodging will be free and a small fee will be charged only for board. Cheap fare to and from the station, via Copenhagen, will be provided. The first visitors can be received in 1907, and notices, inviting application, will be issued in due course. A library of arctic literature is to be founded at the station and to be made as complete as possible, but in view of the limited resources of the station, only a small proportion of it can be purchased. The director will, therefore, be pleased to receive gifts of publications relating to the arctic regions and especially to arctic biology.

WE learn from the London *Times* that at a meeting of the Linnean Society of London, held on February 1 at Burlington House, Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner gave an account of the Percy Sladen trust expedition in his Majesty's ship *Sealark* to the Indian Ocean. Mr. Gardiner was leader of the expedition, which was the first to benefit by the Percy Sladen trust. Professor Herdman, F.R.S., president of the society, reminded the audience that Mr. Percy Sladen was for many years the honored zoological secretary of that society, and his widow, whose death had recently occurred, was the first of their lady fellows whom they had lost. Mrs. Sladen was the generous donor of a fund to commemorate her husband, and it was by that fund that Mr. Gardiner had been assisted in his explorations in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Gardiner then proceeded to describe, by means of maps and charts exhibited upon a screen, the region visited by his expedition, and explained the method by which they made their soundings and dredgings, many of which pro-

duced results of great interest and importance. The flora and fauna of the various islands visited were described, together with the geological formation of the rocks and the changes which are in progress. A large collection of specimens both from the land and the sea was made during the expedition, and was exhibited by the lecturer.

Nature says: "The real existence of the n -rays, discovered by M. Blondlot, has been the subject of much discussion, there being a general consensus of opinion outside France that the effects produced are physiological. The *Comptes rendus* for January 15 contain two papers of considerable interest on this subject. The first of these, by M. Mascart, gives details of a series of measurements of the points of maximum intensity in the spectrum produced by the refraction of the n -rays through an aluminium prism, by a number of independent observers. The phosphorescent screen was mounted on the carriage of a dividing engine, and each of four observers (Messrs. Blondlot, Gutton, Vitz and Mascart) made independent measurements of the points of maximum intensity. The most concordant figures were those obtained by M. Blondlot, but the general agreement of the results left no doubt as to the position of the lines. M. Mascart gives the results without comment. The second paper, by M. Gutton, is an attempt to prove the objective existence of the n -rays. It had been noted that if these rays are allowed to fall on the primary spark of a Hertzian oscillator, the luster of the secondary spark diminishes. This effect has been secured photographically, the difference being clearly marked in the whole of the thirty-seven experiments. The apparatus is described in detail, and the precautions necessary for success pointed out. These two papers certainly provide material for consideration by those who maintain that the whole phenomenon is a physiological illusion."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE annual report of the treasurer of Princeton University states that \$1,000,000

has been raised by the committee of fifty toward the fund to endow the new preceptorial system.

CONTRACTS have been let for a new building at Swarthmore College, to be used for engineering shops. The building is to cost twenty thousand dollars, and is to be two stories high and will be made fireproof. In the basement the shops for forging will be located. The machine shops and metal works will be installed on the first floor, while the second floor will be given to wood working.

OLD NORTH COLLEGE, a dormitory of Wesleyan University erected in 1827, was destroyed by fire on March 1. The loss, which is said to be \$80,000, is covered by insurance.

Mr. Alfred Beit, of London, the South African financier, has given \$500,000 to establish a university at Hamburg, where he was born in 1853.

THE Association of American Universities will hold its seventh annual conference in San Francisco on March 14.

A CONFERENCE of college and university presidents of New York state, and representatives of the Department of Education held a meeting in Albany last week. Preliminary steps were taken for the formation of an Association of Colleges of the State of New York, and a committee consisting of First Assistant Commissioner Rogers, as chairman; Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University; President Rhees, of Rochester University, and Dean Crane, of Cornell University, was appointed to prepare a constitution to be presented at a meeting at Columbia University, on April 19 and 20.

THE New York alumni of the Johns Hopkins University held their annual dinner on March 2, the principal address being made by President Remsen. Dr. Charles Lane Poor, professor of astronomy at Columbia University, was elected president for the ensuing year.

RICHARD S. LULL, associate professor of zoology in the Massachusetts State Agricultural College, has been appointed assistant professor of paleontology at Yale University.