

this aid! We must admire them; but how rare they are!

Of these marvelous and rare ones is David Hilbert, the master of logical analysis in mathematics. Gifted with brilliant logical power of combination, he creates from out his very self, entirely by generalization, by separation, by union, by aggregation of mathematical concepts, so that no outer stimulus, dependent upon intuition, is recognizable. Logical rigor and elegance of demonstration are for him adequate requirements, and he is convinced that logical precision—rightly grasped—must lead, never to sterilization, but constantly to fruitful further development of mathematical ideas. He applies himself by preference in his investigations to the most difficult, long-unsettled problems, whose essence he with marvelous penetration is able so to seize, that his considerations not only completely solve these problems, but often bring to a final settlement also the whole theory to which these problems pertain.

Mention is then made, among many other achievements, of the wonderful 'Grundlagen der Geometrie' which seems destined to fix what men shall henceforth take as the axioms of geometry, and to establish the criterion of what shall be and shall not be elementary demonstrative geometry.

All hail! Poincaré the supreme mathematician, Hilbert the supreme logician, philosophers, scientists both!

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THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 7.—Under a suspension of the rules, House Resolution 18,435 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to cooperate through the Bureau of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries with the Shell Fish Commissioners of the State of Maryland in making surveys of the natural oyster beds, bars and rocks in the waters within the State of Maryland passed the House of Representatives.

May 7.—Under a suspension of the rules, House Resolution 13,543 for the protection

and regulation of the fisheries of Alaska, with amendments, passed the House of Representatives.

May 10.—Mr. Perkins, of California, introduced a bill (Senate 6,119) for the protection of animals, birds and fish in forest reserves of California. Referred to the Committee on Forest Reservations and the Protection of Game.

A NEW BUILDING FOR THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

THE need of the United States Geological Survey for a new building in Washington, D. C., is most pressing, as every one who visits the survey in its present quarters must realize.

This bureau gives permanent employment to about 1,000 persons, and temporary field employment, chiefly in summer, to nearly as many more. Of this force about 600 are engaged at times, and during all of every winter, on office work in Washington. For their accommodation two buildings are at present rented, one at 1330 F Street, N. W., for general office work, and one in the adjoining alley for the exclusive use of the division of engraving and printing. The floor space occupied, including basement, amounts to 105,670 square feet, which is quite inadequate. Even the corridors have to be utilized for desk space or map cases. It is necessary to supply quarters for some employees in the National Museum and Smithsonian Institution and others are permitted for lack of proper office accommodations to work at home.

A large part of the survey office work is of such character as to demand much more space than that sufficient merely for the desks and chairs of employees. Chemists, physicists, photographers, petrographers, draftsmen, engravers, lithographers and other specialists must have room for their instruments, apparatus, maps, working specimens, drawings, lithographic stones, presses, etc. There is no doubt but that the degree of crowding to which the office force is now subjected diminishes the quantity and depreciates the quality of their work.

Even though the buildings now occupied by the survey were sufficiently commodious, they