

deaths recorded as belonging to London during the year 1905 numbered 70,442, and were equal to a rate of 15.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population; this is the lowest death rate in London since civil registration was established. It was 1.0 per 1,000 below the corresponding rate in 1904, and no less than 2.7 per 1,000 below the corresponding average rate in the ten years 1895-1904.

THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

May 11.—Mr. Smith, of California, introduced a bill (H. R. 19,234) for the protection of animals, birds and fish in the forest reserves of California. Referred to the House Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Campbell, of Kansas, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the Bill of the House (H. R. 13,193) to prohibit the killing of wild birds and other wild animals in the District of Columbia, reported the same with amendment, accompanied by a report (No. 4,207); which were referred to the House Calendar.

THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

THE most serious loss sustained by science in many years is the destruction of the California Academy of Sciences by the recent earthquake and fire in San Francisco. Two letters recently received from officers of the institution giving interesting details regarding the destruction of the academy are worthy of record as a part of the history of scientific work on the Pacific Coast. In addition to their general interest, they will appeal particularly to those who have enjoyed the hospitality of the academy which for years has been the gathering place and headquarters of scientific men visiting the west coast.

The first is from Mr. Leverett Mills Loomis, director of the academy, to whose initiative, energy and devotion were largely due its increasing growth and activity during the last few years, and upon whom now largely devolves the important duty of reorganizing and placing it on a sound working basis. Mr. Loomis was living within the burned area not far from the academy and in addition to his

efforts for that institution was obliged to rescue from the advancing flames a helpless invalid father. He writes:

I got down to the academy about 7 A.M. and found the bridge connecting the two buildings gone and the museum stairs badly wrecked. I managed to climb up to the top floor and got all the records together, and began to get them down when Miss Hyde [the librarian] came to my aid. Together we saved all the records. Miss Hyde also saved the MS. of Mr. Hittell's history of the academy. Later Dr. Van Denburg [curator of reptiles] came and got out most of the reptile types. Then Miss Eastwood came with a friend and saved the greater part of the plant types. Miss Hyde also saved most of the insect types. Meanwhile the fires started by the earthquake were closing in on the academy. The pioneer building and the Emporium [both buildings joined the academy] were burning when I paid my visit to the Department of Ornithology. As a starter for the bird collection, I secured the type of *Oceanodroma macrodactyla*, and as the beginning of the bird library I took Des Murs' *Iconographie*. As I wanted to be the first donor to the academy's ornithological library, I put Brown's illustrations under my arm as I passed the store room where my books were kept. So you see we had made a beginning before the end had come. The work accomplished by the Galapagos expedition has exceeded our most sanguine expectations. Among the treasures are a series of Darwin's rail and tortoises from islands where they were supposed to be extinct. The Galapagos collections will form a foundation of our new museum of the greater academy. Our plan of action is fully worked out. *The library is the hardest thing to replace*; the books will come slowly, but they will come. Have found good quarters and am now pushing the reorganization.

The other letter is dated Berkeley, California, May 7, 1906, and is from Miss Alice Eastwood, curator of botany of the academy. Miss Eastwood has been in charge of the academy herbarium for the last twelve years. Her devotion to the work has been shown in many ways, even to the extent of using a large part of her salary as curator in the employment of assistants. The collection contained a considerable number of plant types and during the past year Miss Eastwood had been segregating them from the general collection

and this fortunate circumstance made it possible to save most of them. Writing of the herbarium she says:

I do not feel the loss to be mine, but it is a great loss to the scientific world and an irreparable loss to California. My own destroyed work I do not lament, for it was a joy to me while I did it, and I can still have the same joy in starting it again. The botanists of the University of California have given me the use of their library and collections and even a room which for the present I can call mine. The kindness of my friends has been great. I did not know that I had so many or that their affection for me was so warm and sincere. I feel how very fortunate I am; not at all like an unfortunate who has lost all her personal possessions and home.

To me came the chance to care for what was saved from the ruin of the academy, and with the help of my devoted friends I was able to do it. Nobody knew where the safe place was to be; for it seemed as if the whole city must go. * * *

The earthquake did not frighten me as it was felt less where I lived than in other parts of the city. * * * After getting breakfast, I went down to the academy. I could not get in. The store next door was open and they were taking things out, and I knew there was a door of communication with the front building. It was still as death. I had to climb over the demolished marble staircase at the entrance of the museum, but found the stairs going up the front building all right. When I reached the top a yawning chasm stretched between the two buildings as the bridge had been thrown down. I tried several doors but every one seemed to have deserted the place. I got out again and walked up and down Market St. * * * Everywhere buildings were in ruins. Presently Robert Porter came along, and when I told him my trouble he went back with me, but the door was still locked. We went to the back and saw that the fire was on Mission Street, and the police were driving the people from their homes. We again entered by the store next door and when we came to the front hall found Mr. Loomis, Mr. von Geldren, General Foote, Mrs. Newell and John Carlton. Miss Hyde was in the library getting out the records, etc. Porter pulled me up the ruins of the marble staircase and we entered the museum, the door of which was now open. The marble staircase leading up to the top was in ruins and we went up chiefly by holding on to the iron railing and putting our feet between the rungs. Porter helped me to tie

up the plant types, and we lowered them to the floor of the museum by ropes and strings tied together. Not a book was I able to save, nor a single thing of my own, except my favorite lens, without which I should feel helpless. We got all the things to the street and then it seemed as if we might have to leave them. The building next door was on fire, the military was in command, and nobody was allowed on the street. I rushed across to the safe deposit opposite, where I have a box, to implore them to take the things. There was a line of men there a block long and my place would be at the end, so with the permission of the officer in charge I dashed back. Porter then went and came back with word that an expressman on the corner of Stockton and Ellis would take them, but we had to carry them over as no vehicles were allowed on Market Street. I asked the man how much it would be and he said 'A high price.' I possessed \$14.00 and feared it might not be enough. When he said 'Three dollars' I almost fell off the seat. I paid him four and took all the things except a few to my place of residence, thinking it as safe as any. In the afternoon I went down to reconnoitre and see what the academy looked like. The back building stood, the staircase was still there, or rather the banisters, but everything within seemed burned up. * * * The fire was threatening from two directions and I decided to move the 'academy' to Russian Hill that evening. With the help of friends this was done, though everything had to be carried. The plants were the heaviest and largest bundles. There were some boxes of insects, some bottles of reptiles which Dr. Van Denburg had saved, the heavy record books of the academy, and several things I did not know about. It was hard work. I packed my own things when I returned to my home and laid down to rest, but not to sleep. It was bright enough to read by the red glow in the sky, and it might be necessary to leave at a minute's notice. Only what one could carry could be saved, for there was either no chance to hire any kind of a conveyance or the charges were extortionate. Nobody seemed to be complaining or sorrowful. The sound of the trunks being dragged along I can never forget. This seemed the only groan the ruined city made. I took my things up to Russian Hill the next morning, and in the afternoon was able to have 'The Academy' removed to Fort Mason, where it was put in the care of Mrs. Hahn, whose husband is a captain there. I felt easy at last, for it seemed the safest place in the city, and returned

to Russian Hill. Mr. John Galen Howard invited me to take refuge in his home [at Berkeley], and I was glad to accept.

All my pictures and books are gone and many treasures that I prized highly; but I regret nothing for I am rich in friends and things seem of small account. I have since moved the academy things back to Russian Hill, as it was saved by the great effort of the few people who live there. My only regret is that I left for Berkeley Thursday evening instead of staying to help them, but I never dreamed it was possible to save it. It is an experience I am not sorry to have had if it could have been without the terrible loss. *There is not a reference library left in San Francisco.* I am afraid that in the rush of rebuilding the city such essential, but apparently immaterial, things will be neglected.

I am beginning already to recollect and intend to go to type localities as much as possible. I expect the academy will be able to give me but little aid for the present, but have a tiny income of my own and can get along, I feel sure. The botanical department of the academy has a fund of \$5,000. of its very own. The academy is not ruined and still has resources, though most of its income is cut off.

The academy contained among other valuable collections one of the best natural history libraries in the United States, a rich herbarium, and a superb collection of western water birds. In the bird collection was the finest and largest series of the waterfowl of the Pacific Coast extant, and the quality of the material and completeness of the series were unrivaled in the museums of this continent and, no doubt, in the world. Practically all of this accumulation of years was destroyed. At first it was feared by its friends that the academy might be irreparably ruined by the destruction of its building and contents, but fortunately this proves not to be the case. Now, although the academy still has some property with which to begin anew, it faces a serious problem in the absolute lack of a reference library. Here is an opportunity for every one interested directly or indirectly in scientific work to show in a practical way their sympathy for the loss science has sustained on the Pacific Coast, and their appreciation of the admirable courage with which

those connected with the academy are facing the situation.

If scientific societies, authors and other friends of science throughout America and abroad will each contribute according to their ability such sets or parts of sets of proceedings, books, pamphlets and authors' separates as will be of use in a general scientific library, the aggregate will be a tremendous help toward placing the academy once more on a working basis. In addition to books, contributions of specimens in various branches, especially in biology, will be extremely helpful. Small packages of books or specimens can be sent direct by mail. To help in this work the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, offers to receive all contributions of books or specimens for the academy and to forward them at its own expense. Packages from Eastern America should be addressed to the Smithsonian and plainly marked 'For California Academy of Sciences.' Packages from abroad should be marked 'Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., U. S. A., care U. S. Collector of Customs, New York City. (For California Academy of Sciences.)'

The publications of the U. S. National Museum and the Smithsonian Institution need not be sent as they will be supplied direct from these institutions.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

AT the recent International Medical Congress at Lisbon, the Moscow prize was awarded to M. Laveran and the Paris prize to Professor Ehrlich.

THE International Congress of Applied Chemistry at Rome resolved that the seventh congress shall be held in London, with Sir William Ramsay as the president and Sir Henry Roscoe as honorary president.

THE sixteenth International Medical Congress will be held at Buda Pesth in 1909, under the presidency of Professor C. Müller. It is likely that the following congress will be held in New York City.

DR. FRANCIS P. KINNICUTT, of New York, has been elected president of the Association of American Physicians.