the rock-mass which built up the great Pelean monolith may probably now be considered removed. A period of many months' quietude into which the volcano has entered has also permitted of a closer approach to its center theater of activity than has hitherto been possible, and given access to parts the study of which can now be made directly rather than inferentially. The Pelée obelisk exists to-day only in its basal wreck, the jagged crest which still protrudes in a partially severed connection from the summit of the supporting dome, and in a wilderness of débris, composed of small and giant fragments, which covers much of the surface of the dome and fills in a considerable part of the circumvallating hollow (*rainure*) that separates the dome from the bounding wall of the ancient crater-basin. On the twenty-seventh of February of this year, following an unusually easy ascent of the volcano, I succeeded in gaining the floor of the old crater by climbing over the sharp arête of the northeast wall, and was soon among the boulder-masses of the destroyed obelisk. Fragments from two to three feet in diameter to others measuring ten, twenty or thirty feet, were everywhere, and they all showed practically the same construction. The rock is a compact, light-gray, and virtually holocrystalline hypersthene-andesite, devoid of vesicles or of any vesicular or obsidian-like structure, and having a fine-grained base. So far as an absolute reference is made possible, it seems to belong to Lacroix's type IV. (quartzitic andesites) of the ejected material from the volcano.[1] Of course, it can be that in parts of the débris that are now covered up and no longer accessible fragments might occur that are more or less vesicular or scoriaceous in character, but in the very large number of blocks that were examined by me and my associate none having this character was detected.

Climbing over the boulders, somewhat in the form of stepping-stones, we gained a considerable height on the dome itself, passing a number of fumarolic vents from which the disengagement of vapor was still fairly active. Clumps of diminutive fern are now beginning to grow about these. The partially free flows of lava which enter as ribbed-structures into the mass of the dome appear likewise as compact andesite. I may remark here that the sound of the falling masses which has been likened to that produced by the breaking of glass and porcelain, and from which a possible vesicular structure was inferred, is that given out by the compact andesite.

As regards the origin and method of formation of the extruded andesite monolith, while recognizing that the criteria for distinguishing between a newly-made rock and one of ancient date are not necessarily apparent or of a nature to yield positive evidence, I have no reason to change the view that I have elsewhere expressed[2] that it represented an ancient plug or core that had been lifted up in the manner of the giant granite mass (and domite?) of the Puy Chopine, of the Auvergne.

For the benefit of vulcanologists and seismologists who are preparing catalogues of eruptions and general volcanic disturbances it may be proper to add that, despite reports to the contrary, Pelée had *not* been in activity in the early part of this year, and it took no part, so far as outward appearances were concerned, in the events which were associated with the earthquakes in St. Lucia and Martinique on February 16. The dome in its upper parts is still quietly disengaging vapor.

Angelo Heilprin.

[1] Professor L. V. Pirsson, of the Sheffield Scientific School, has kindly looked over some of the material for me. A more detailed study of the rock will be made at a future day.

[2] In Science and in my 'Tower of Pelée.'

THE COMMISSION FOR BRAIN INVESTIGATION.

On May 27 the third meeting of the Commission for Brain Investigation was held at Vienna. This commission is one of several established by the International Association of Academies and has for its purpose the advancement of neurological research, especially by the establishment of central institutes in the various countries, as well as by

the coordination of investigations in the field of neurology.

The first session was held in the Imperial Academy of Sciences. Professor Waldeyer presided and there were present:

Donaldson (Philadelphia), Ehlers (Göttingen), Flechsig (Leipsic), Langley (Cambridge), v. Monakow (Zürich), Munk (Berlin), Obersteiner (Vienna), Retzius (Stockholm).

The members of the commission unable to attend were:

Bechteren (St. Petersburg), Edinger (Frankfurt-am-Main), van Gehuchten (Louvain), Golgi (Pavia), Mall (Baltimore), Minot (Boston), Ramon y Cajal (Madrid), Raymond (Paris), Sherrington (Liverpool).

The first session was devoted to the further organization of the commission and to the presentation of reports on the scientific and financial resources of the several institutes and laboratories there represented. Steps were taken also to facilitate intercommunication between the various institutes.

May 28 the second session was held in the Neurological Laboratory directed by Professor Obersteiner. The commission was enlarged by making the number of members from each country more nearly representative of the extent of the neurological work.

At the suggestion of Professor Langley a committee on the revision of some points in the neurological nomenclature was formed, with Professor Waldeyer as chairman.

It was decided to make English, French, German or Italian the official language of the commission—according to the place of meeting.

The commission then adjourned to meet three years hence at the call of the academy in charge.

WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK.

FESTSCHRIFT CELEBRATION.

THURSDAY, June 14, at the Hotel Westminster, Boston, a dinner was given to Professor W. T. Sedgwick, by his former students in the biological department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of which he has been the head since 1883. The occasion was the twenty-fifth anniversary of the receipt of his doctor's degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Sixty former students of Professor Sedgwick's at the institute were present, including, among others, Professor E. O. Jordan and Professor A. P. Mathews, of the University of Chicago; Professor Severance Burrage, of Purdue University; Professor G. N. Calkins, of Columbia University, and Messrs. G. W. Fuller, G. C. Whipple and Allen Hazen, of New York; M. O. Leighton, of the United States Geological Survey; Dr. E. C. Levy, city bacteriologist of Richmond, Va.; F. F. Longley, superintendent of the Washington filter plant; W. S. Johnson, of the Massachusetts State Board of Health; B. R. Rickards, city bacteriologist of Boston; Dr. Augustus Wadsworth, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Dr. F. S. Hollis, of the Yale Medical School; E. E. Lochridge, engineer of the Springfield water department; Dr. F. W. White, of Boston; Dr. J. A. Rockwell, Jr., of Cambridge; Edward G. Gardiner and Robert S. Weston, of Boston; Dr. Robert P. Bigelow; Professor Theodore Hough, of Simmons College; Professor B. E. Stone, of Amherst; S. D. Gage, of the Lawrence Experiment Station, and Professor S. C. Prescott, Professor C.-E. A. Winslow and Earle B. Phelps of the institute.

There were also present as guests, former President D. C. Gilman, of Johns Hopkins University; Professor S. F. Clarke, of Williams College; President Henry Lefavour, of Simmons College; Dr. L. P. Kinnicutt, of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Dr. Francis H. Williams, of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Calkins acted as toastmaster. President Gilman, who conferred Professor Sedgwick's doctor's degree in 1881, and Professor Clarke, who was a student with him, spoke of the early days of Johns Hopkins University, to which the biological department of the Institute, through Professor Sedgwick, owes its inspiration. Mr. G. W. Fuller, Professor E. O. Jordan, Professor A. P. Mathews, Mrs.