

explorers of Central Asia are agreed as to the fact of climatic change. Thus Dr. Stein, the anthropologist, writing from Kiria to the *Geographical Journal* (January, 1907), reports concerning the desert east of Khotan that cultivation in the fertile Hanguya tract is steadily advancing towards areas previously abandoned to the desert, so that much of this desolate Tati is likely to be recovered by man from the desert at no distant time. Dr. Stein was much struck by the considerable extension of cultivated ground during the past six years. Extended areas lying waste or drift-covered in 1900-1, have again been brought under cultivation. The great advance in prosperity which is taking place in the western oasis of Chinese Turkestan seems to have had a marked effect in Khotan on the extent of the cultivated area and the numbers of the population.

#### FRANKLIN, THE KITE AND THE LIGHTNING ROD

'Did Benjamin Franklin fly his Electrical Kite before he invented the Lightning Rod' is the title of a paper read by Professor A. L. Rotch before the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass., October 24, 1906. Professor Rotch believes: (1) that the kite experiment was probably performed later than has been supposed; (2) that even before this experiment certain buildings in Philadelphia were provided with 'points,' probably as lightning conductors; (3) that prior to Franklin's first account of the kite experiment he had drawn up precise directions for placing lightning rods upon all kinds of buildings.

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#### A MONUMENT TO LAMARCK

THE professors of the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, have undertaken to erect a monument in the Jardin des Plantes to their illustrious predecessor, the philosopher and naturalist Lamarck. To this end they have secured subscriptions in Paris and have formed a committee to enlist the support of botanists and zoologists throughout the world.

The proposed monument, designed by M.

Fagel, gives a bronze bust of Lamarck, surmounting, after the fashion of recent French sculpture, a large granite pedestal with figures in relief. These portray the philosopher aged and blind, seated at the base of his monument, and close by, reading to him, his devoted daughter—a pathetic picture of Lamarck's last days when in poverty and in disfavor, on account of his evolutionary writings, he was living as a recluse in the ancient house of Buffon, near which, probably on the very spot which he crossed in his daily walk, the monument is to stand.

It is only within recent years that the position of Lamarck among the pioneers of evolution has come to be understood. Darwin himself was distinctly unjust in his treatment of him. But from the work of the modern paleontologist on the one hand and the experimentalist on the other, tribute is coming to be paid to Lamarck's wonderful insight, imperfect though the materials of his inductions were, into the processes and factors of organic evolution. The 'American school of evolutionists,' headed by Cope, Osborn, Hyatt, Ryder, Packard, has indeed touched so closely the lines of his philosophy that it has often merited the title of 'Neo-Lamarckian.' And it is to our countryman, Packard, that we are indebted for the only work upon the life and teachings of Lamarck which has hitherto appeared.

The present project in memory of Lamarck is one, in short, which may justly enlist the cooperation and support of the botanists and zoologists throughout the United States—to give by this means tangible recognition of his services to science. The American zoologists who have been designated to receive subscriptions in behalf of the Committee in Paris are Professors Alexander Agassiz, Henry Fairfield Osborn and Bashford Dean.

#### THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL CONGRESS

THE revised program of the Seventh International Zoological Congress, to be held at Boston, August 19-23, under the presidency of Mr. Alexander Agassiz, is as follows:

*Monday, August 19.*

9 A.M. Members of the congress will assemble informally at the Harvard Medical School. Registration.

12:30 P.M. Luncheon at the invitation of the Boston local committee.

2 P.M. First general meeting at the Harvard Medical School. Opening of the congress. Election of the vice-presidents and secretaries. Presentation of delegates. Arrangement of the sections. Addresses.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, Professor R. Blanchard, Paris, president, will hold its regular meetings during the sessions of the congress.

8:30 P.M. Reception.

*Tuesday, August 20.*

10 A.M. Meeting of sections in the Harvard Medical School.

1 P.M. Luncheon at the invitation of the Boston local committee.

3 P.M. Excursion.

*Wednesday, August 21.*

10 A.M. Meeting of sections in the Harvard Medical School.

1 P.M. Luncheon at the invitation of the Boston local committee.

2:30 P.M. Second general meeting at the Harvard Medical School. Business. Addresses.

8:30 P.M. Reception by Mr. Alexander Agassiz, Hotel Somerset, Commonwealth Avenue.

*Thursday, August 22.*

10 A.M. Meeting of sections at the Harvard Medical School.

1 P.M. Luncheon at the invitation of the Boston local committee.

3 P.M. Excursion to Wellesley as guests of Wellesley College.

*Friday, August 23.*

10 A.M. Meeting of sections at the Harvard Medical School.

1 P.M. Luncheon at the invitation of the Boston local committee.

2:30 P.M. Third general meeting. Business. Addresses. Close of the congress.

8:30 P.M. Subscription dinner.

*Saturday, August 24—Harvard University Day.*

10 A.M. Excursion to Harvard University, Cambridge. During the day the museums and other buildings of the university will be open to members of the congress.

1 P.M. Luncheon by invitation of the corporation of Harvard University.

*Sunday, August 25—Woods Hole Day.*

Morning. Members of the congress will leave the South Station, Boston, for Woods Hole, via New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. At Woods Hole the Station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries and the Marine Biological Laboratory will be visited.

1 P.M. Dinner at the invitation of the general committee.

4 P.M. Members will leave for New York via Fall River Line.

*Monday, August 26—Columbia University Day.*

Morning. Arrival in New York City.

12 M. Luncheon.

Evening. Reception and concert.

*Tuesday, August 27—American Museum Day.*

12 M. Luncheon.

Afternoon. Reception.

Evening. Smoker.

*Wednesday, August 28.*

Visit to the Marine Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and to the Carnegie Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor. Return to New York by boat or train, according to weather.

*Thursday, August 29—New York Zoological Society Day.*

Morning. Reception by the Zoological Society in the New York Aquarium.

Afternoon. Reception by the Zoological Society in the Zoological Park.

Evening. Reception in Columbia University Library.

*Friday, August 30.*

Hudson River by day. Excursion by steamer up the Hudson to West Point and Garrison as guests of Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn.

*Saturday, August 31.*

Visits to Yale University and to Princeton University.

*Monday, September 2.*

Morning. Departure from New York for Philadelphia.

Noon. Luncheon at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, followed by inspection of the library and museum.

3 P.M. Carriage drive to the Zoological Gardens and Fairmount Park, terminating in a supper at the Philadelphia Country Club.

*Tuesday, September 3.*

9 A.M. Visits to the American Philosophical Society, Independence Hall, Girard College and other places of interest.

Noon. Visit to the University of Pennsylvania, where luncheon will be served.

Afternoon. Departure for Washington.

*Wednesday, September 4.*

10 A.M. General meeting in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, Washington, at which addresses of welcome will be given by the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the president of the Carnegie Institution and the president of the Washington Academy of Sciences; and the details of the program for the Washington visit will be announced. This will be followed by a visit to the National Zoological Park, to the Congressional Library, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Hygienic Laboratory and other points of zoological interest.

Evening. Reception by the Cosmos Club.

*Thursday, September 5.*

A visit by boat on the Potomac River to Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington and to the United States Navy Proving Station at Indian Head, with dinner at Marshall Hall.

Evening. Reception at the United States National Museum.

*Friday, September 6.*

Morning or afternoon. Return to New York.

On September 7, there will be an excursion to Niagara Falls and across Lake Ontario to Toronto. In case at least fifty members agree to take part in an excursion to Bermuda, one will be arranged on September 11 or 14.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MR. EDWARD B. MOORE, assistant commissioner of patents, has been appointed commissioner to succeed Mr. Frederick I. Allen, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR FRANCIS HUMPHREYS STORER, S.B. (Harvard, 1855), since 1870 professor of agricultural chemistry at Harvard University and at the same time dean of Bussey Institution, has resigned and has been appointed professor emeritus from September 1.

DR. W. L. RICHARDSON has resigned the chair of obstetrics and the deanship of the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Richardson graduated from Harvard College in 1864 and from the medical school in 1867.

PROFESSOR AIMÉ WITZ, of Lille, has been elected a corresponding member in the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of physics, in the room of the late Professor Boltzmann.

M. DARBOUX, permanent secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences and professor of

mathematics in the University of Paris, has been named a member of the national bureau of weights and measures in the room of the late M. Berthelot.

MAJOR JAMES CARROLL, U.S.A., will receive the degree of doctor of laws from the University of Maryland at its centennial celebration to be held from May 30 to June 2.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of doctor of laws on Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, professor of surgery in the institution and president of the American Medical Association.

DR. J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICH, professor of anatomy at the University of Michigan, has been elected a corresponding member of the London Zoological Society.

PROFESSOR ERNST VON LEYDEN, the eminent surgeon of Berlin, has been made a privy-councillor, with the title of excellency.

MR. F. E. BEDDARD, F.R.S., has been appointed an honorary member of the New Zealand Institute.

PROFESSOR JOHN ADAMS, who holds the chair of education in the University of London, and Dr. J. M. E. McTaggart, lecturer in moral science, Trinity College, Cambridge, will take part in the work of the summer school of the University of California, which opens on June 24.

DR. WILLIAM HALLOCK, dean of the faculty of pure science, has been elected president of the Columbia chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi.

DURING the college year 1906-7 the Sigma Xi Society of the Ohio State University has offered the following course of open scientific lectures:

November 27—'The Cellular Basis of Inheritance and Evolution,' Dr. E. G. Conklin, University of Pennsylvania.

January 10—'The Source and Utilization of Our Fuel Supply,' Professor E. E. Sommermeier, Ohio State University.

March 14—'Modern Methods in Water Purification,' Mr. John H. Gregory, Engineer in charge of Improved Water and Sewage Works, Columbus, Ohio.

April 18—'The Coal Tar Products and their