

(Auckland), mineralogist, and Mr. A. Hamilton (Wellington).

JAMES DRUMMOND

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Silliman lectures at Yale University will next year be given by Dr. Albrecht Penck, professor of geography at the University of Berlin.

THE following have been elected by the council of the British Association to be presidents of sections at the meeting of the Association to be held in Dublin in September next under the general presidency of Mr. Francis Darwin, F.R.S.: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Science), Dr. W. N. Shaw, F.R.S., director of the Meteorological Office; Section B (Chemistry), Professor F. S. Kipping, F.R.S., professor of chemistry in University College, Nottingham; Section C (Geology), Professor J. Joly, F.R.S., Professor of geology and mineralogy in the University of Dublin; Section D (Zoology), Dr. S. F. Harmer, superintendent of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge; Section E (Geography), Major E. H. Hills, C.M.G.; Section F (Economic Science and Statistics), Lord Brassey; Section G (Engineering), Mr. Dugald Clerk, M.Inst.C.E.; Section H (Anthropology), Professor W. Ridgeway, professor of archeology in Cambridge University; Section I (Physiology), Dr. John Scott Haldane, F.R.S., university reader in physiology at Oxford; Section K (Botany), Dr. F. F. Blackman, F.R.S., professor of botany in the University of Leeds; Section L (Educational Science), Professor L. C. Miall, formerly professor of biology in the University of Leeds. Invitations to deliver evening discourses during the meeting of the association at Dublin have been accepted by Professor H. H. Turner, F.R.S., Savilian professor of astronomy at Oxford, who will take as his subject "Halley's Comet"; and Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University, whose lecture will be entitled "The Lessons of the Colorado Cañon."

THE following Americans expect to attend the Fourth International Congress of Mathematicians, to be held in Rome, April 6-11:

Professor E. H. Moore, University of Chicago; Professor T. S. Fiske and D. E. Smith, Columbia University; Professor G. D. Olds, Amherst College; Professor Virgil Snyder, Cornell University; Professor C. A. Noble, University of California; Professor J. G. Hardy, Williams College; Dr. W. D. A. Westfall, University of Missouri; Dr. C. L. E. Moore, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

PROFESSOR THEODORE W. RICHARDS, of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary and foreign member of the Chemical Society of London.

THE gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society was awarded to Sir David Gill by the Royal Astronomical Society at its annual meeting on February 14, in recognition of his contributions to the astronomy of the southern hemisphere.

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. DARWIN and Mme. S. Curie have been elected corresponding members of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

MR. C. M. CONNER, agronomist at the North Carolina College and Station, has been appointed assistant commissioner of agriculture for the Philippine Islands.

DR. AUGUST MARTIN, professor of gynecology at the University of Greifswald, will visit this country next summer to attend the annual session of the American Medical Association.

PROFESSOR C. W. HALL, head of the geology department of the University of Minnesota, has been chosen to represent the university at the Pan-American Scientific congress to be held at Santiago, Chili, next December.

DR. W. N. SHAW, Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, has been appointed to represent the university at the meeting of Imperial and Colonial meteorologists, convened by the Royal Society of Canada, to be held at Ottawa in May, 1908.

DR. J. P. ROWE, professor of geology in the University of Montana, has been elected president of the Montana State Teachers Association.

THE Montana Academy of Science, Arts and Letters held its annual meeting at Mis-

soula, during the month of December. Dr. H. H. Swain, president of the State Normal School at Dillon, was elected president, and Dr. W. D. Harkins, professor of chemistry at the University of Montana, secretary and treasurer.

MR. J. C. PEARSON, magnetic observer of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, formerly on the magnetic survey yacht *Galilee*, has gone abroad to make magnetic observations in the regions of Asiatic Turkey and of Persia, where but few data have hitherto been obtained.

THE Belgian government proposes to send a meteorological expedition to the Arctic next summer. The expedition will be under the command of M. Georges Lecointe, director of the Royal Observatory at Uccle.

DR. GEORGE H. SHULL, of the Station for Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor, addressed the Scientific Association of Johns Hopkins University, at the meeting of February 17, on "Recent Aspects of Mendelism."

THE board of managers of the Franklin Institute gave a reception on the evening of February 14, when there was an exhibition of historical models and new inventions and a lecture by Dr. Persifer Frazer on "The Franklin Institute, its Services and Deserts."

THE Association of Technical Institutions of Great Britain was entertained at luncheon by the Drapers' Company, on February 21. The annual meeting followed, when Sir Norman Lockyer delivered his presidential address.

A RESOLUTION was passed at a committee meeting of the London section of the Society of Chemical Industry, held on February 7, recording the great loss the society has suffered through the premature death of its chairman, Mr. Richard John Friswell.

DR. RUDOLF BURCKHARDT, director of the Zoological Station, Rovigno, has died at the age of forty-two years.

DR. MAXIMILLIAN MEISSNER, curator in the Berlin Zoological Museum, died on January 27, at the age of forty-seven years.

DR. ALBERT THIERFELDER, professor of pathological anatomy at Rostock, has died at the age of sixty-five years.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination on March 25, 1908, to fill the position of soil chemist, in the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per annum. Applicants will not be assembled for any of the tests.

THE British Treasury has agreed to give an annual grant of £200 to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in Edinburgh in lieu of rent of premises. The society has had to vacate the rooms in the National Portrait Gallery, which it had leased from the government at a low rent for a considerable number of years, in favor of the recently created board of trustees of the national galleries of Scotland.

THE following recommendations were adopted at the general meeting of the Geological Society of America, held December 31, 1907, at Albuquerque, New Mexico. The action of the society was taken as a result of an overture made to it by the Association of State Geologists of the Mississippi Valley.

The Geological Society of America recommends to the various organizations concerned:

1. That a general committee on geological nomenclature be formed; one fifth of its members to be from the United States Geological Survey, one fifth from the state geological survey organizations, one fifth from the Canadian Geological Survey organizations, one fifth from Mexico and one fifth from geologists at large as selected by the Geological Society of America.
2. That this general committee have authority to appoint special committees on nomenclature from within or without its own membership for the investigation of the particular questions referred to them, the special committees to report back their conclusions to the general committee with full reasons therefor; the different sections to report in turn to their own organizations.
3. That the fact that any subject is under discussion by this general committee be made known to the scientific public at large.

The purpose of the recommendations is to provide a source from which any geologist may on application obtain advice regarding nomenclature.

The society, by vote at the same meeting, adopted the following preamble and resolution, and instructed the secretary to send copies thereof to the executive authorities of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Newfoundland and the West Indies; to the governors of Alaska, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico and the Canal Zone; to the directors of the several weather bureaus and geological surveys; to the secretaries of the Smithsonian and Carnegie Institutions, the Seismological Society of America and the Committee on Seismology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The preamble and resolution, which were drawn up and signed by a committee consisting of Professor T. A. Jaggar, Jr., Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor James F. Kemp, Columbia University, and Dr. Edmund Otis Hovey, American Museum of Natural History, are as follows:

WHEREAS: The United States, Canada and Mexico possess in the Cordilleran Belt, Alaska, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, Porto Rico and the Canal Zone a wide field for investigation of active volcanoes and earth movements; and

WHEREAS: Geological science needs permanent records, made in the field, of physical phenomena accompanying earthquakes and eruptions both before and after the event; and

WHEREAS: Such record has direct bearing on prediction, and on protection of life and property, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Geological Society of America strongly recommends to the several North American governments and to private enterprise the establishment of volcano and earthquake observatories.

TAKING into consideration the serious damage caused by fire at previous exhibitions, the executive committee of the Turin International Exhibition of 1911 has decided to open an international competition for preparations best adapted to render incombustible the wood and cloth structure of the exhibition, and will award a prize of lire 4,000 and two gold medals and two silver medals in this connection. The preparations must be such that they can be applied without visible alteration of the color and resistance of the materials.

THE President has signed a proclamation creating the Jewel Cave National Monument within the Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota. This remarkable cave, which is located thirteen miles west and south of Custer, the county-seat of Custer County, in a limestone formation, is believed by geologists to be an extinct geyser channel. The National Monument will embrace an area of 1,280 acres. This cave, which was explored as late as 1900, has been found to consist of a series of chambers connected by narrow passages with numerous galleries, the walls of which are encrusted with a magnificent layer of calcite crystal. The opening of the cave is situated in Hell Canyon, the walls of which are high and precipitous. The surface of the country in which the cave is located consists of a high rolling limestone plateau about 6,000 feet above sea level. The area is almost entirely covered by a forest of bull pine, a considerable portion of which is merchantable, while the remainder consists of a vigorous young growth. The Jewel Cave National Monument will now be given permanent protection by virtue of the Act of June 8, 1906, which provides that objects of scientific interest may be declared National Monuments if such action is deemed necessary for their preservation and protection.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of Mrs. Amy Sheldon, of Newport, a bequest of \$300,000 to Harvard University is made in the codicil. It is requested that the money be used for the rebuilding or enlargement of the university library building known as Gore Hall, but if the corporation does not desire to use the money in this way it may do otherwise. In addition to this bequest the university is to receive a portion of the residuary estate, to be known as the Frederick Sheldon fund, the income to be used for the promotion of traveling by students after graduation.

By the will of Royal L. Smith, of Plattsburg, N. Y., various public bequests are made and the residue of his estate is to form a trust fund to educate the boys of Clinton