

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Bell Memorial Association at Brantford, Ont., announces that the former home-
stead of Professor Alexander Graham Bell
will be acquired as a public park in addition
to the erection of a memorial monument to
cost \$25,000. This monument will be un-
veiled in 1910.

DR. GEORGE W. HILL, of Nyack, N. Y., and
Sir William Ramsay, professor of chemistry
at University College, London, have been
elected corresponding members of the Ba-
varian Academy of Sciences.

M. LOUIS-FÉLIX HENNEGUY, professor of com-
parative embryogeny in the Collège de France,
has been elected a member of the Paris Acad-
emy of Sciences.

THE Senate of London University has
awarded the Rogers prize of £100 for original
research in medical science to be divided be-
tween Dr. David Forsyth, assistant physician
to Charing Cross Hospital, and Mr. F. W.
Twort, assistant bacteriologist to the London
Hospital.

WE regret to learn that Dr. Andrew J.
McCosh, professor of surgery in Columbia
University, has met with a serious accident,
having been thrown from his carriage on
November 29.

THE Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sci-
ences has appointed Professor Tracy Peck to
act as its representative at the Cambridge
commemoration of the one-hundredth anni-
versary of Charles Darwin's birth.

PROFESSOR THEODORE WHITTELEY has re-
sumed his duties in the department of chem-
istry of Northwestern University, after a
year's leave of absence in Torreón, Mexico,
where he has been conducting investigations
for the Continental-Mexican Rubber Company
on the chemistry of Guayule rubber and of the
plant from which it is obtained.

DR. LUDWIG DIELS has been appointed first
assistant in the Berlin Botanical Museum to
succeed Dr. Robert Pilger, who has been called
to Marburg.

AT the first meeting of the Cornell Chapter
of Sigma Xi for the present year, held on No-

vember 12, President J. G. Schurman gave an
informal address on "Research in Universi-
ties."

DR. JOSEPH FIRCHER has been appointed
vice-director of the Vienna Bureau of Meteor-
ology and Geodesy.

ON November 6, Dr. W. T. Hornaday lec-
tured before the Stamford Scientific Society
on "The Home of the Mountain Goat and
Grizzly Bear."

THE eighty-third Christmas course of
juvenile lectures, founded at the Royal Insti-
tution in 1826 by Michael Faraday, will be de-
livered this year by Professor William Stir-
ling, M.D., D.Sc., his subject being "The
Wheel of Life." The course, which will be
fully illustrated, will begin on Tuesday, De-
cember 29, and will be continued on December
31, January 2, 5, 7 and 9.

MR. AND MRS. WALDEMAR JOCHELSON, who
were members of the Jesup North Pacific Ex-
pedition, were guests at the American Museum
of Natural History during October, while
making studies of some of the Alaskan ma-
terial. Mr. and Mrs. Jochelson are on their
way to the Aleutian Islands to prosecute ethno-
logical studies under the auspices of the Rus-
sian Imperial Geographical Society of St.
Petersburg.

DR. A. HRDLÍČKA is leaving, in a few days,
for a five months' trip to Egypt and Europe,
in the interests of the division of physical
anthropology of the U. S. National Museum.

THE Rev. T. A. Bendrat, M.S., of Constable-
ville, N. Y., has undertaken an expedition to
the Upper Orinoco, intending to penetrate, if
possible, as far as its headwaters in order to
explore geographically, geologically and bio-
logically an almost unknown tract of country
east of Esmeralda.

PRIVAT-DOCENT DR. WILHELM FALTA, assist-
ant in the I Medical University Klinik,
Vienna, has recently spent two months at the
Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Insti-
tution of Washington in Boston, Mass. Dr.
Falta obtained a grant from the Royal Acad-
emy of Science in Vienna for the specific pur-
pose of studying gas interchange in diabetes

mellitus. He also obtained a grant from the minister of culture and education in Vienna for the specific purpose of studying the respiration calorimeter in the new Nutrition Laboratory, with a view to the possible construction and installation of a similar apparatus in the I Medical Klinik in Vienna. Since his arrival in this country, Dr. Falta's intimate knowledge of diabetes mellitus has resulted in his being called upon for a number of addresses before the medical and scientific societies, both in Boston and in New York. Just before leaving for Vienna, he gave one of the Harvey Society lectures in New York City.

IN a letter to the *Boston Transcript* Mr. George N. Lovejoy says: "It is extremely difficult to realize the sad termination, in all probability, of the career of Professor Mark W. Harrington, formerly at the head of the astronomical department in Michigan University, and latterly chief of the United States Weather Bureau, Washington. One of the brightest intellects and most successful instructors, whose work as a teacher, not only in this country, but in China, years ago, brought him into prominence among scholars everywhere; whose career, though brief, at Washington was such as to redound to his credit and the honor of the government; a man of rare conversational gifts, an interesting personality, genial at all times, it is hard, indeed, to realize that such an one to-day—as for ten years past—has been an inmate (until recently his identity unknown) of an insane asylum, his mind a melancholy blank."

A CLEVELAND Memorial Association has been formed, its object being to erect in Princeton a suitable memorial of the late President Cleveland. By contributions throughout the state of New Jersey, a fund of \$100,000 is to be collected for this purpose. A general committee of fifty prominent citizens will be in charge of the project, with smaller local committees in each county of the state. Just what form the memorial will take has not as yet been decided.

A MARBLE bust of Hermann von Helmholtz by the sculptor Ernst Herter will be erected

in the hall of the Wilhelm's Military Academy in Berlin, where he was student.

THE death is announced of Mr. Oliver Weldon Barnes, of New York City, a civil engineer, who had been identified with railroad construction work in various parts of this country for the last sixty years.

MR. ALBERT CRAW, formerly entomologist under the California State Board of Horticulture, and since 1904 superintendent of entomology of the Hawaiian Board of Agriculture, has died at the age of fifty-eight years.

THE foot and mouth disease prevails in twelve counties of the state of Pennsylvania, and has been discovered in the stock yards of east Buffalo. Stringent methods are being used to prevent the spread of the disease. Those whose stock is destroyed will be indemnified, the state making good one third of the loss and the federal government two thirds. The British Board of Agriculture has forbidden the importation of cattle, hay and straw from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. So far as is known this is only the second time the disease has appeared in North America, the first outbreak having occurred in the New England States in 1892.

THE International Tuberculosis Exhibit was opened on December 1 in the new northwest wing of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Robert W. De Forest, president, and Mayor McClellan delivered the principal addresses. Health Commissioner Darlington, Controller Metz, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn and Dr. Alfred Meyer made addresses.

THE annual meeting and dinner of the American Alpine Club will be held in Baltimore on January 2, 1909, at the time of the winter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Members are requested to note the time and place and arrange, if possible, to be present. The Geological Society of America and the Association of American Geographers will also be meeting in Baltimore during convocation week. Interesting reports from members and addresses from distinguished guests will be made.

THE subject for the general discussion at the American Philosophical Association meeting, to be held at Baltimore, December 29-31, will be "Realism and Idealism." The speakers will be Professors Royce, Woodbridge, Bakewell, Smith and Calkins.

THE lectures to members of the American Museum of Natural History arranged for the present season are as follows:

November 12—William A. Bryan: "Kilauea in Action—A Visit to Hawaii's Famous Volcano." (Illustrated with moving pictures.)

November 19—Frank M. Chapman: "Florida Bird Life." (Illustrated with moving pictures.)

December 3—Henry E. Crampton: "Tahiti and the Society Islands."

December 10—Nathaniel L. Britton: "Some Native Trees, their Flowers and Fruits." (The members of the New York Botanical Garden will be the guests of the museum on this evening.)

December 17—Roy C. Andrews: "Whale Hunting with a Camera."

WE learn from the *American Medical Association Journal* that the National Academy of Medicine at Rio de Janeiro celebrated on October 3 the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the medical departments in the universities of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia in Brazil. The session was open to the public, with the president of the academy, Professor A. Nascimento, in the chair. Five gold medals were awarded, one to the president of the republic and one to the minister of the interior, who were both present, the others being given to the deans of the medical faculty at Rio and Bahia. A souvenir volume edited by Dr. F. Figueira was also a feature of the celebration.

THE *British Medical Journal* states that on November 14 the twenty-first expedition of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine left Bristol for Jamaica. It consists of Mr. R. Newstead, M.Sc., and Dr. W. T. Prout, C.M.G., late Principal Medical Officer of Sierra Leone. Later the expedition will be joined by Dr. A. H. Hanley, C.M.G., late Principal Medical Officer, Southern Nigeria. The objects of the expedition are twofold, as it is partly medical and partly entomological. Dr. Prout and Dr. Hanley will investigate: (1) The prevalence

of filaria in Jamaica. (2) The prevalence of malaria in especially malarious districts of the island. (3) Measures for prevention of mosquito-borne diseases where feasible. (4) Preliminary investigation into the so-called "vomiting sickness" amongst children. Mr. Newstead's scheme of work is as follows: (1) To study the bionomics of cattle ticks and advise some methods of control. (2) To undertake the investigation of those scale insects which are at the present moment threatening the citrus and cocoa and cocoa-nut cultivation in the island of Jamaica, and to devise some method of control. (3) To make a collection of the biting flies and ticks of the island for the use of students attending the course of instruction at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The work of the expedition covers a wide field, and we wish the scientific explorers all success in their enterprise. Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., chairman of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, entertained the members of the expedition at luncheon at the University Club in Liverpool on November 9.

THE names of the 377 foresters, clerks, and stenographers who are to make up the personnel of the United States Forest Service headquarters of the six districts into which the national forests have been divided have just been announced. The district foresters' offices, located in Denver, Colo., Ogden, Utah, Missoula, Mont., Albuquerque, N. Mex., San Francisco, Cal., and Portland, Oreg., opened on December 1. The new field organization of the Forest Service will greatly facilitate the use of the national forests by the people. It will mean that the national forest business which formerly was transacted in Washington will be handled by officers on or near the ground. The establishment of the district headquarters is the culmination of a plan towards which the Forest Service has been working steadily, since it took charge of the national forests. Each national forest district will be in charge of a district forester. The work at district headquarters will be distributed among four offices, operation, grazing,

silviculture and products, each equipped with men of special training for the work of their office. The office of operation will be charged with responsibility for the protection of national forests, for the building of roads, trails and other permanent improvements upon them for the organization of the force on national forests, and with the supervision of all business relating to the special use of national forest resources. The office of silviculture will have supervision of the free use and sale of timber from national forests, forest planting upon them, and will conduct forest studies on national forests as well as in cooperation with private owners in the district. The office of grazing will supervise grazing business in the district, except for the actual fixing of allowances, periods and rates, and will make studies looking to the improvement of the forage crop on national forests. The office of products will make both independently and in cooperation with private owners, studies leading to a more profitable use of timber on and off national forests within the district and to their preservative treatment. From the district foresters down, the personnel of the district offices is made up of men picked for their proved capacity, for their thorough training, and for their experience in the west. Most of them are men who not only have worked in the west after they entered in the service, but who lived in the west before they took up the government forest work. Many of them are men who formerly were employed on the national forests and have been promoted to larger responsibilities as a result of their high efficiency.

THE decline in price of ingot platinum on the New York market from \$38 per troy ounce on January 1, 1907, to \$25 per ounce on December 31 of the same year, was accompanied by a notable decrease in production of fine platinum—from 1,439 ounces, valued at \$45,189, in 1906, to 357 ounces, valued at \$10,589, in 1907. Of the total output in the later year, 300 ounces came from Butte, Del Norte, Humboldt, Placer, Plumas, Trinity and Sacramento counties, in California, and 57 ounces from Coos, Curry and Josephine counties, in

Oregon. In an advance chapter from "Mineral Resources of the United States, Calendar Year 1907," on the production of platinum in 1907, David T. Day, of the United States Geological Survey, says: "The decline in price in the United States increased the feeling of insecurity on the part of the platinum miners as to the value they would secure from their material and rendered the search for platinum less active." The total value of platinum metals imported and entered for consumption in the United States in 1907 is given as \$2,684,642—a decrease of \$1,104,117 as compared with the value of the imports in 1906. Continued interest is shown in the project for developing the platinum localities in the department of Cauca, Colombia, but development work has not yet reached the point of commercial production. Contracts for practically the entire supply of platinum in Russia have been made for a number of years ahead, and fluctuations in prices have no significance in regard to the total annual output.

Up to the present time Chinese weights and measures have been distinguished by their extraordinary diversity. In nearly every province different standards have obtained, and even in some towns carpenters, surveyors and tailors use measures differing from one another by quite an appreciable amount. A new system has now been introduced, which according to the *London Times*, is defined in terms of the metric system, and the various units are as follows. The new unit of length is the "tchi"; it is defined as exactly 32 centimeters. The capacity table has, as its unit, the "to," which is equal to 10.355 liters; while the unit of weight is the "lian," of 37.301 grams.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AN unconditional gift of \$50,000 to the endowment fund of the University of Virginia has been made by Col. Oliver H. Payne, of New York.

A GIFT of \$50,000 from Mr. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, of New York City, for the purchase of additional property for the enlarge-