and had received the honorary degree of LL.D. from Queens University. He was also a member of the St. George's Society and of the Rideau Club of Ottawa. Doctor Fletcher threw his whole force into his scientific work. He was a practical man, and was constantly looking for the practical applications of both zoological and botanical science. At the same time he was a close observer and made innumerable observations of novelty and value. As a public speaker he was unexcelled, and the educational value of his addresses to farmers and others on timely and practical topics was very great. During the time of his occupancy of his official position he published a valuable series of annual reports which, in their bulk, constitute a compendium of the economic botany and entomology of Canada for the whole period. He published also many shorter articles in the scientific journals of both Canada and the United States.

Aside from the practical aspect of his work Fletcher was of the type of the old naturalists. He loved nature deeply. Asked a short time ago by a friend why he did not take a holiday and a rest from his incessant labor, he replied: "Why should I take a holiday? My whole life is a holiday because I love my work." Everything living interested Fletcher. To take an excursion with him was a delight. His quick eye saw everything. His philosophic mind sought at once for the why and wherefore. He had no patience with the careless and unobservant. In the course of a typically fascinating and eloquent lecture that he delivered years ago before the National Geographic Society in Washington, on the Canadian Northwest, he was describing the journey from Winnipeg westward on the Canadian Pacific railway. He had dilated upon the flower-massed prairies and the other natural beauties with his hearty enthusiasm and then, he said: "Suddenly the glorious mountains came in sight. I could not contain myself. I must share my delight with some one. I touched the man in the seat ahead on the shoulder. 'See, see the mountains'! I said. 'Ah! indeed'! said the man! And then," said Fletcher with a fine show of indignation, "he went back to his *trumpery* novel!"

Among his many enthusiasms possibly his interest in the biology of the diurnal Lepidoptera was the greatest, and he was the first to work out the life history of *Œneis macounii* and other rare forms. His relations with that master of American butterfly lore, Samuel H. Scudder, were of the most intimate personal kind, and his death will be a sad blow to that other beautiful and strong character whose life is now fading away in Cambridge.

Probably no other Canadian naturalist was so well known and so well loved by his colleagues in the states as was Doctor Fletcher. Surely he will be as deeply mourned here as in his own country.

L. O. HOWARD

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE annual meeting of the board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution was held at 10 o'clock on the morning of December 15 at the institution. The chancellor, Chief Justice Melville W. Fuller, presided, and the following regents were present: Vice-President Charles W. Fairbanks, Senator Shelby M. Cullom, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator Augustus O. Bacon, Representative James R. Mann, Representative William M. Howard, Dr. James B. Angell, Dr. Andrew D. White, the Honorable John B. Henderson, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the Honorable Charles F. Choate, Jr., and the secretary, Mr. Charles D. Walcott.

The appointment of the Honorable Charles F. Choate, Jr., of Massachusetts, as a citizen regent in place of the Honorable Richard Olney, resigned, was announced.

The secretary presented his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, which was accepted. Statements were received from the permanent and executive committees. The resignation of Dr. Cyrus Adler, assistant secretary of the institution, in charge of library and exchanges, was announced, and also the death of Professor Otis T. Mason, head curator of the department of anthropology of the National Museum.

A statement was presented of the affairs of the institution since the close of the fiscal

year. Referring to the institution's part in the International Congress on Tuberculosis, held in the new National Museum building, September and October last, it was stated that the institution, in conjunction with the Indian bureau, exhibited the results of an expedition by Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, of the U. S. National Museum, among the Menominee, Sioux, Quinault, Mohave and Hopa Indian tribes, for the purpose of showing the extent of tuberculosis among the Indians. The congress awarded the institution a gold medal for this exhibit. Of the appropriation of $40,000 made for the purpose, $25,000 was used and $15,000 went back to the U. S. Treasury.

The board was informed of the removal of the Greenough statue of Washington from its long-accustomed position east of the capitol to the Smithsonian Institution. The statue is now on the lawn south of the west wing of the building, whence it will be removed into the building as soon as the necessary foundation can be provided.

There was submitted a brief statement of the art objects in the collection of Mr. Charles L. Freer, of Detroit, the title to which has already passed to the institution. These comprise 2,873 objects in all branches of art. A number of valuable recent additions have been made which with the original donation represent a cost to the donor of nearly a million dollars.

The secretary read a letter from President Roosevelt, dated June 20, 1908, stating his intention of visiting Africa after the expiration of his term, and offering to give to the Smithsonian Institution for the National Museum the results of his expedition, provided the Smithsonian should send the necessary naturalists to prepare and ship the materials. The offer was accepted by the secretary, and arrangements were at once made by the secretary to provide funds for the expenses of the Smithsonian representatives, without using the Smithson fund or money derived from any government appropriation. Upon motion of the Vice-President, a resolution was adopted conveying the thanks of the board to the President for his very generous offer, and the acceptance of the offer. A further resolution was adopted thanking the donors of the funds for the expedition.

Progress on the new building for the National Museum was reported and it was thought that the building would be occupied in the summer of 1909. In keeping with the improvements projected for this locality, the board adopted a resolution expressing its sense that the further use of B Street, Northwest, just north of the new building between 9th and 12th Streets, for market purposes, be prohibited.

It was reported that Mr. C. G. Abbot, director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, had established a station on Mt. Wilson, California, through courtesies extended by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, where measurements of the sun's radiation may be conducted as free as possible from earth tremors and cloud interference. A shelter will also be erected by the institution on Mt. Whitney, California, at an elevation of over 15,000 feet above sea level for the study of the atmosphere under the peculiarly favorable conditions there prevailing.

A resolution was adopted establishing a medal to be known as the Langley medal, as a tribute to the late Samuel Pierpont Langley, third secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to be awarded for specially meritorious investigations in connection with the science of aerodromics and its application to aviation.

THE BALTIMORE MEETING

A PRELIMINARY announcement of the arrangements for the convocation week meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the affiliated societies, which begins at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on Monday, December 28, will be found in the issue of SCIENCE for November 27. In the present issue of SCIENCE will be found a list of the sections of the association and of some twenty-five national scientific societies which meet in affiliation with it. These and other issues of SCIENCE contain various notes concerning features of interest to men of science, which will form