

A NATIONAL BUREAU OF SEISMOLOGY

THE following resolutions were passed by the Seismological Society of America at a meeting held in San Francisco, on March 2:

WHEREAS earthquakes which are normally recurring phenomena of the earth's crust have in the past caused considerable loss of property and life, and much of the distress and destruction has been due to lack of knowledge of earthquakes and their peculiar mode of action and of proper precautions against injury and,

WHEREAS the magnitude of the destruction in the Atlantic coastal region (Charleston earthquake of 1886), the Mississippi Valley region (earthquake of 1812) and the Pacific Coastal region (California earthquakes of 1857, 1868, 1872 and 1906), makes it a matter of great import to all the people, and the fact that with increasing density of population the conditions are becoming more favorable for greater destruction in the future makes it important that action be not longer delayed,

WHEREAS the problems involved are of national and international character and local authority or private enterprise is insufficient to successfully carry on such work, and this fact has been realized already by many of the great nations including Germany, England, Japan, Austro-Hungary, Italy and Spain which have already established scientific earthquake services for the benefit of their peoples and the world at large,

Resolved that the Seismological Society of America strongly favors the establishment of a National Bureau of Seismology with power

- (a) To collect seismological data,
- (b) To establish observing stations,
- (c) To study and investigate special earthquake regions within the national domain,
- (d) To cooperate with other scientific bodies and organizations and individual scientists in forwarding the development and dissemination of seismological knowledge.

It also favors the organization of this bureau under the Smithsonian Institution with the active cooperation of other scientific departments of the government.

Resolved that copies of these resolutions be transmitted to the President, President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the members of the House Committee on Library which has this matter now under consideration.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual session of the National Academy of Sciences will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning Tuesday, April 19.

THE American Philosophical Society will hold a general meeting at Philadelphia on April 21, 22 and 23. On the evening of April 22, there will be a reception in the Hall of the College of Physicians, when Professor George E. Hale will deliver an illustrated lecture on "The Work of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory." The annual dinner will be held on the evening of April 23.

PROFESSOR GIOVANNI VIRGINIO SCHIAPARELLI, the eminent Italian astronomer, has celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday.

DR. WILHELM HITTORF, professor of physics at Münster, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary member of the Società Geografica Italiana in Rome.

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, director of the Carnegie Museum, has been elected a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Bologna, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Albert Gaudry, of Paris.

DR. A. HRDLÍČKA, of the U. S. National Museum, has been made a corresponding member of the Anthropological Society in Vienna.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY has been nominated as honorary member of the Chemical Society of France.

SIR THOMAS BARLOW, F.R.S., has been elected president of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in succession to Sir Richard D. Powell.

DR. F. W. PUTNAM, honorary curator of the Peabody Museum of American Archeology and Ethnology, Harvard University; Dr. R. B. Dixon, assistant professor of anthropology and Dr. A. M. Tozzer, instructor in Central American archeology, have been appointed delegates of Harvard University at the foundation of the Mexican National University in September, 1910. Professor Dixon has also been appointed delegate at the Inter-