

*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-

national Congress of Americanists to be held at the City of Mexico at the same time.

MR. H. H. CLAYTON, late of the Blue Hill Observatory, has gone to Buenos Ayres to organize kite and balloon observations under the direction of the Argentine Meteorological Service.

DR. SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT, of the Lick Observatory, has been appointed first astronomer in the National Observatory of the Argentine Republic.

THE annual address before the Huxley Society in the Johns Hopkins University was delivered Friday evening, April 1, by Professor W. P. Montague, of Columbia University. The address was on "Life and Mind as Forms of Energy."

PROFESSOR A. E. KENNELLY, of Harvard University, gave a lecture on March 12, to graduate students of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, on "The Operation of Electric Motors from a Central Power Station."

THE Aldred lecture of the Royal Society of Arts will be delivered by Professor H. H. Turner, F.R.S., on May 4, the subject being "Halley and his Comet."

MR. T. A. RICKARD, editor of the *Mining Magazine*, London, has been appointed lecturer on mining geology at Harvard University, where he will deliver a course of lectures at some time during the present year.

COMMITTEES of members and friends of Glasgow University have, says *Nature*, procured contributions to some £1500 for the purpose of commemorating the services of Dr. John Cleland, regius professor of anatomy from 1877 to 1909, and Dr. William Jack, professor of mathematics from 1879 to 1909, who retired last year. It has been decided to present to the university a portrait of Dr. Cleland, painted by Sir George Reid, with a replica for Mrs. Cleland; and a portrait of Dr. Jack, painted by Sir James Guthrie, and also a prize, to be awarded at intervals, for the best thesis on a mathematical subject approved for the degree of doctor of science during the preceding period.

It is proposed to erect at Marburgh a monument in memory of Wilhelm Roser, who held the chair of surgery in the University of Marburg from 1850 to 1858.

MR. SAMUEL WARD LOPER, curator of the Museum of Wesleyan University, the author of contributions to geology and paleontology, has died at the age of seventy-five years.

MR. J. RAYNER EDMANDS, assistant in the Harvard College Observatory, died on March 26, at the age of sixty years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Eduard Pflüger, the eminent physiologist of Bonn, founder and editor of Pflüger's *Archiv*.

DR. OTTO HERMES, first director of the Berlin Aquarium, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

MR. CHARLES FOX-STRANGWAYS, for many years connected with the British Geological Survey, died on March 6, at the age of sixty-six years.

THE Central Branch of the American Society of Zoologists will hold its annual meeting at the University of Iowa on April 7, 8 and 9. The address of the president, Professor E. A. Birge, of the University of Wisconsin, is entitled "Some Personal Peculiarities of Lakes."

THE Association of German Scientific Men and Physicians and Medical Practitioners will hold its eighty-second meeting at Königsberg this year from September 18 to 24.

THE bequest of Miss Phebe Anna Thorne to the American Museum of Natural History has been applied as an endowment to the museum's room for the blind. Messrs. Samuel and Jonathan Thorne, the executors of the will, have increased the amount from ten thousand to twenty-five thousand dollars.

THE following course of illustrated lectures in economic entomology and genetics is to be given at the Bussey Institution of Harvard University, Forest Hills, on Sunday afternoons, during April and May, at 4 o'clock:

April 10—"Insects as Carriers of Disease. I. The House-fly and its Allies," by Professor W. M. Wheeler.

April 17—"Insects as Carriers of Disease. II.

Mosquitoes and their Allies," by Professor W. M. Wheeler.

April 24—"Mendel's Law of Heredity," by Professor W. E. Castle.

May 1—"Variation and Selection in Evolution and in Animal Breeding," by Professor W. E. Castle.

May 8—"The Gypsy and Brown-tail Moths," by Mr. C. T. Brues.

May 15—"Insects Injurious to Elm Trees," by Mr. C. T. Brues.

May 22—"Making New Plants by Selection," by Professor E. M. East.

May 29—"Making New Plants by Hybridization," by Professor E. M. East.

THE Eastern Branch of the American Society of Zoologists at its recent meeting in Boston designated the following persons as a committee to cooperate with the commission on nomenclature of the International Zoological Congress: Dr. H. B. Bigelow, Museum of Comparative Zoology, of Harvard University, *chairman*; Dr. A. Petrunkevitch, American Museum of Natural History; Professor J. S. Kingsley, Tufts College; Dr. A. G. Mayer, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Dr. J. P. Moore, Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

ONE of the field courses announced in the Harvard Summer School is a physiographic excursion to be conducted by Professor W. M. Davis in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado during three weeks in July, beginning at Denver, July 6. The object of the trip is to study various features of mountain form, with special attention to the best method of describing them. The points to be visited are: the normal and glacial features of the highlands and continental divide of the Front range at the head of Boulder creek, crossed by rail at an altitude of 11,680 feet; the foot hills in the neighborhood of Golden and the valley of Clear Creek; the foot hills in the Garden of the Gods near Colorado Springs, and the fault-line escarpment of the Front range next to the south; the highlands west of Colorado Springs, over which Pikes Peak rises like a great monadnock; South Park, as an example of a high-level intermont basin; the upper Arkansas valley, as an example of

a deeper intermont basin; the normal and glacial features of the Sawatch range west of the Arkansas valley; the Royal gorge of the Arkansas in the Front range, and the foot hills near Canyon city; the lava-capped Raton mesa near Trinidad; and the district of dike-walls on the denuded slopes of the deeply dissected ancient volcanoes, known as Spanish peaks. The conditions on which students (men only) may join the party can be learned on addressing Professor Davis, at Cambridge, Mass. The party will travel from place to place by train or wagon, making short distances on foot, and stopping in hotels over night with possibly one or two nights in camp.

LETTERS have been received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor E. B. Frost, director of the Yerkes Observatory, giving the following observations by Professor Bernard: Comet *a* 1910 was observed March 12, 1910, at  $16^{\text{h}} 56^{\text{m}}$  central standard time, in R. A.  $22^{\text{h}} 24^{\text{m}} 39^{\text{s}}$  and Dec.  $+15^{\circ} 37'.3$  (1910.0). "The comet was of the ninth magnitude, strongly condensed, possibly to a very faint nucleus. No tail noticed." A photograph of the same comet was obtained at dawn on March 14. No tail was shown on the plate with an exposure of nine minutes. Photographs made with all three lenses of the Bruce telescope, the exposure being  $1^{\text{h}} 50^{\text{m}}$ , failed to show any trace of the comet reported by Pidoux. These plates show a tail to Halley's comet nearly a degree long. A photograph of Comet *a* 1910 at dawn on the morning of March 15, the exposure being  $35^{\text{m}}$ , shows a faint tail two degrees long.

THE North Dakota Geological Survey has recently published the fifth volume of its series of reports dealing with the geology and natural resources of the state. The present report, which is a volume of 278 pages, with many illustrations and maps, contains papers on the geology, topography and coal deposits of southwestern North Dakota, including the Little Missouri badlands; the geology of the northeastern portion of the state with particular reference to the natural cement rock of that region; together with chapters on the

geology of North Dakota as a whole, on natural gas and on good roads. Previous reports of the Survey have described the extensive and valuable clays and lignites of the state, the fourth report being devoted entirely to the clays, particularly the high grade fire and pottery clays. Last summer the geology and natural resources of the area comprised in the Bismarck quadrangle was investigated by the State Geological Survey in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey. These two surveys are also cooperating in the collection of data regarding the deep wells of the state, and this work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. During the coming summer the study and mapping of the geological formations of south-central North Dakota will be continued, and work will also be undertaken on the physiography and geology of the interesting Devils Lake region.

It is stated in *Nature* that the director of the British Meteorological Office has given notice that from April 1 forecasts of the weather prospects more than twenty-four hours ahead will be issued as opportunity is afforded. Applications have been received at the Meteorological Office from time to time for forecasts of weather several days in advance, in addition to, or instead of, the usual forecasts which refer to the twenty-four hours reckoned from the noon or midnight following the issue of the forecasts. According to the experience of the Meteorological office, the weather conditions do not usually justify a forecast detailing the changes of weather for consecutive days. There are a number of occasions in the course of the year when the distribution of pressure is typical of settled weather, and also occasions when the conditions are characteristic of continued unsettled weather. On these occasions, and on a few others when the sequence of the weather is of a recognized type, a sentence giving in general terms the outlook beyond the twenty-four hours of the definite forecast might be useful to the general public, and, as it could be justified by the statement of definite reasons for the inference, it would come within the general rules laid down by the office with ref-

erence to the issue of forecasts. An indication of the general prospect extending beyond the twenty-four hours' limit is frequently given in the "General Inference" which precedes the forecasts for the several districts on the sheet issued to newspapers. It is expressed in more or less technical language, and the application to the several districts might only be followed by persons acquainted with the terminology used in weather study. It is proposed, therefore, when the meteorological conditions permit, to supplement the forecasts for districts by a remark on the further outlook.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AMONG recent endowments to the New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, the first post-graduate medical school in the United States, are one of \$250,000 by Mr. William P. Clyde, and another of \$125,000 by Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has given \$40,000 to Wells College for the building of a library to be called the Frances Cleveland Library in honor of Mrs. Grover Cleveland, who is a graduate of the college.

THE main building of the Texas Christian University has been destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$125,000.

PRESIDENT NOBLE has issued a formal announcement of the fact that, by order of the board of trustees and by act of the General Assembly of Maryland, the corporate name of the Woman's College of Baltimore has been changed to Goucher College.

IN the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, now of the University of California, will become professor of physiological chemistry; Dr. Henry T. Ricketts, of Chicago University, will occupy the chair of pathology, and Dr. Richard M. Pearce, of Albany, will be professor of experimental medicine. Dr. Allen J. Smith, while retaining his position as dean of the school, will be transferred to a chair of comparative pathology and be at the head of the courses in tropical medicine.