

held at Cambridge, Mass., May 28, 1910. The object in the calling of the conference was to procure such action as should lead to uniformity of definition in the various divisions of mathematics which are required for admission to college. The conference, organized by appointing Professor Osgood, of Harvard, chairman, and Dean Ferry, of Williams, secretary. After much discussion, it was voted to recommend to the colleges that they omit from their definitions of elementary algebra any topics which are not included in the College Entrance Examination Board's definition of that subject, and that they state their requirements in elementary algebra in such a manner as to show which, if any, of the topics in the College Entrance Examination Board's definitions are omitted or are not emphasized by them. It was voted further that the conference recommend to the colleges the adoption of the College Entrance Examination Board's definitions of the requirements in plane geometry, solid geometry, plane and solid geometry, trigonometry, plane trigonometry and advanced algebra, and that the members of the conference endeavor to persuade the faculties which they respectively represent to adopt these definitions. It was voted also that the conference recommend to the College Entrance Examination Board that no reduction in the time allowed to the individual subjects of mathematics in the examination schedule be made; but that mathematics a and mathematics cd continue to have three hours and that all other divisions of mathematics continue to have two hours each in the time schedule of the board's examinations. The faculties of many of the colleges concerned have already adopted the definitions of the College Entrance Examination Board in all admission subjects.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alexander Agassiz.

THE Albert medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded to Madame Curie for the discovery of radium.

DR. C. HART MERRIAM has resigned as chief of the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is succeeded by Mr. H. W. Henshaw. Dr. Merriam, who will retain an official connection with the survey as consulting biologist, will devote himself to the preparation of a work on the mammals of North America, under an endowment provided by Mrs. E. H. Harriman.

DR. WILLIAM T. COUNCILMAN, professor of pathology in the Harvard Medical School, gave the annual address at the commencement exercises of the Yale medical school.

PROFESSOR O. FUHRMANN, of the University of Neuchâtel, has left for a two-years' scientific expedition to explore the Cordilleras basin of the Andes.

MR. ROBERT NEWSTEAD, lecturer in economic entomology and parasitology at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, has gone to Malta to investigate the menace to health by the sand-fly.

DR. F. P. MALL, professor of anatomy in the Johns Hopkins University, is at present in Germany.

MISS M. A. WILLCOX has resigned the professorship of zoology at Wellesley College, receiving the title of professor emeritus. Her future address will be Malden, Mass.

THE prize of £50 from the Gordon Wigan fund, Cambridge University, for a research in chemistry has been awarded to Mr. J. Thomas, Trinity, for experimental investigations on "The isolation of the aromatic sulphinic acids" and "The resolution of externally compensated quinoline derivatives containing two asymmetric carbon atoms."

THE British birthday honors in so far as they concern men of science are summarized in *Nature* as follows: Among the new privy councillors is the name of Sir William Mather, who has done much to promote technical education. The honor of knighthood has been conferred upon Mr. H. Hall, inspector of mines for the Liverpool and North Wales district, and Dr. A. Hopkinson, vice-chancellor and principal of the Victoria University of Manchester. Colonel F. B. Longe,

surveyor-general of India, and Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, F.R.S., become Companions of the Bath (C.B.). Mr. J. H. Marshall, director-general of archeology in India, Mr. C. Michie Smith, director of the Kodaikanal and Madras Observatories, and Dr. M. Aurel Stein, superintendent of the Archeological Survey, are appointed Commanders of the Indian Empire (C.I.E.). The order of C.M.G. has been conferred on Dr. A. D. P. Hodges, principal medical officer of the Uganda Protectorate, in recognition of his services in the suppression of sleeping sickness, and on Professor T. W. Edgeworth David, F.R.S., of the University of Sydney. Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, of the British Museum (Natural History), has been appointed a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

ENGLISH journals state that a memorial to Lieutenant Boyd Alexander, who was murdered in the French Sudan in April, and his brother, Captain Claud Alexander, formerly of the Scots Guards, who also lost his life in Central Africa while engaged in scientific exploration, has just been completed at Wilsley House, Cranbrook, the residence of Colonel Alexander, their father. A sheet of water on the estate has been laid out as an exact reproduction in miniature of Lake Chad from plans by Lieutenant Boyd Alexander. On the islands and banks of the lake are reproductions of thatched native huts, and there is preserved on the adjacent lawn one of the boats in which the Alexander-Gosling Expedition made its way down the river Yo to the Nile.

MR. C. GREVILLE WILLIAMS, F.R.S., known for his contributions to organic chemistry, and formerly connected with the University of Edinburgh, has died at the age of eighty-one years.

MR. S. A. STEWART, until recently curator of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, known for his contributions to botany and geology, died on June 15, at the age of eighty-four years.

DR. EMIL ZUCKER KANDL, professor of anatomy at Vienna, died on May 28, at the age of eighty-six years.

AMONG positions to be filled by New York state civil service examinations on July 23, are those of statistician at salaries from \$1,200 to \$2,400, and of supervisor of agricultural education at a salary of \$2,500.

THE Boston University School of Medicine, a homeopathic institution, has received a gift of \$200,000 from Mrs. Robert Dawson Evans, of Boston, for an Institute of Clinical Research and Preventive Medicine in memory of her late husband.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE has given \$15,000 to the National Association of Audubon Societies, to be expended for bird protection, especially in the southern states.

FOR several reasons it has been decided to hold no summer meeting of Section E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science early in July. (1) These summer meetings have been attended so largely by educators in the eastern states that it seemed unwise to hold a summer meeting at the time of the meeting of the National Education Association, the week beginning July 4. (2) Mr. R. W. Brock, director of the Canadian Survey has decided that it will be impossible to hold a meeting in Canada this summer as was suggested at the Boston meeting. (3) Many geologists will attend the International Geological Congress in August and September. Those who might be able to attend a meeting the latter part of August or the first of September are requested to communicate with the secretary of the section, Dr. F. P. Gulliver, 30 Huntington Lane, Norwich, Conn.

THE secretary of the eastern branch of the American Society of Zoologists has received communications from Dr. Weber, general secretary for the scientific department of the International Hygiene Exhibition, to be held at Dresden in 1911, inviting members to send exhibits to the scientific section and also urging them to visit the exhibition. A limited number of blank forms of application for space and some printed information relating to the exhibition is in the hands of the secretary of the Eastern Branch of the Zoologists, Herbert W. Rand, Harvard University.

THE London *Times* states that Captain Scott's Antarctic ship *Terra Nova* left Madeira on June 26 for Simonstown, where she is due to arrive on August 1. Captain Scott, accompanied by Mrs. Scott and Mr. Drake, will sail from Southampton in the *Saxon* on July 16, arriving at Cape Town the day after the arrival in South Africa of the *Terra Nova*. The vessel will sail from Cape Town on August 9 for Melbourne, which port, after a stay of a week, she will leave on September 20 for Sydney. There she will remain for ten days, being due to reach Lyttelton on October 14. On November 15 she will set sail for the Antarctic, and it is expected that she will reach the base on King Edward VII. Land on December 15. Captain Scott will make a stay of about ten days in South Africa, having arranged to sail from Cape Town in the steamship *Athenic* on August 13. Of other members of the expedition who are still in this country Lieutenant Bruce leaves next week for Vladivostok, where he will join Mr. Meares, who has been collecting dogs and ponies. Both will reach Kobe on August 6 *en route* for New Zealand. Mr. H. G. Ponting, the photographer, will sail from London in the *India* on August 12, reaching Sydney on September 22. Mr. Day, with the motor sledges, will leave England on August 4. Mr. Borup, who was with Commander Peary, has given Captain Scott three Eskimo dogs; and Mr. G. F. Wyatt, of the expedition, will leave on July 27 for New York, where he will pick up the dogs and go to New Zealand *via* Vancouver.

THE expedition sent by the committee of the British Ornithologists' Union to explore the snow mountains in Dutch New Guinea has reached the field of its inquiries, and a correspondent of the London *Times* says that news has been received that it has made a discovery which should prove of interest to anthropologists. At an elevation of about 2,000 feet they have come across a tribe of pygmy people, the average height of whom is about 4 feet, 3 inches, and though at present no definite details have been received, there can be little doubt that they belong to that di-

vision of the human race known as the Nègritos. The present discovery will account, it is said, for the presence of various anomalous races in the remoter parts of the Lesser Sunda Islands.

AT Butte, Mont., and the Coeur d'Alenes this summer groups of students from the mining engineering class of the University of Wisconsin who will enter the senior year next fall are learning by personal experience what constitutes a day's work in the mines, and what are the habits and viewpoints of the men with whom, as mining engineers, they will have to deal in the future. The work of the summer school in mining for students of engineering covers six weeks, and is required previous to their senior studies. A new arrangement whereby separate squads go out to the mining camps in various districts of the country for field work, is providing a much more effective method of preparing students for the advanced work of the senior year than the system previously in vogue, which included much class work at the university. Professor E. C. Holden, in charge of the mining engineering work at Wisconsin, is spending the summer going from one mining camp to another supervising the work of the students, who will have four weeks of regular underground work, and two weeks of inspection, sketching and taking field work.

THE *Auk* gives some details in regard to the New York plumage bill, passed by the legislature of that state at its last session and signed by Governor Hughes. Some of the special provisions enacted are: "No part of the plumage, skin or body of any bird protected by this section [Sec. 98], or of any birds coming from without the state, whether belonging to the same or a different species from that native to the state of New York, provided such birds belong to the same family as those protected by this chapter, shall be sold or had in possession for sale. . . . Plumage includes any part of the feathers, head, wings or tail of any bird, and wherever the word occurs in this chapter reference is had equally to plumage of birds coming from without the state, but it shall not be construed to apply

to the feathers of birds of paradise, ostriches, domestic fowl or domestic pigeons. This act shall take effect July 1, 1911." By this act, therefore, aigrettes can not be legally sold in the state of New York after it becomes operative. The act protects not only egrets and other plume-bearing herons, but gulls, terns, albatrosses, eagles, vultures, and other birds slaughtered for their wings or quills, as well as all song and insectivorous birds.

THE *Auk* states that the new edition of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List of North American Birds, which has been some four years in preparation, will probably be ready for distribution about the end of the month. It will differ in several respects from the previous editions, both typographically and in the character of the matter. The arrangement and numeration, however, will be the same. The changes in nomenclature have already been announced in the various supplements that have been issued since the publication of the second edition in 1895, so that in this respect there will be few surprises. The "ranges," or the matter relating to the geographical distribution of the species and subspecies, have, however, been entirely rewritten and greatly amplified, thus fully reflecting the latest knowledge of the subject. Besides being given in greater detail and with more definiteness, they are arranged to show not only the general range of the forms, but also the breeding and winter ranges, so far as these are at present known. An abbreviated edition of the Check-List, consisting only of the English and technical names, numbered in accordance with the numeration of the previous editions of the Check-List, is in preparation and will be issued at about the same time as the regular edition. It will be of small size, with rounded corners and flexible covers, and thus handy for the pocket, and be printed on only one side of the leaf, thereby providing convenient space for annotations.

COAL-MINE fatalities in the United States in 1909 were fewer than in 1908, notwithstanding an increase of approximately 10 per cent. in the quantity of coal mined. The figures compiled by Edward W. Parker, statisti-

cian in charge, division of mineral resources, U. S. Geological Survey, show the total number of deaths from coal-mine accidents in 1909 to have been 2,412, against 2,450 in the preceding year. During the last five years the annual reports of the Geological Survey on the production of coal have contained a chapter on coal-mining accidents, their causes, and the relations to the number of men employed and the tonnage produced. These statistics are compiled almost entirely from statements furnished by state mine inspectors. It is expected that statistics of mine accidents in future years will be compiled by the new Bureau of Mines. The decrease in the number of fatal accidents during 1909 is the more gratifying from the fact that in the statistics for last year are represented four states—Georgia, Oregon, Texas and Virginia—from which no reports of accidents had previously been received. The statistics for these states were compiled from reports received by the Geological Survey from the operators. From the statistics of production in some of the more important states, as reported by the state officials, it is estimated that the total output in 1909 was approximately 450,000,000 short tons, against 416,000,000 tons in 1908. According to this estimate the production of coal in 1909 was 186,567 short tons for each life lost, against 167,545 tons in 1908. In 1907, when 3,125 men were killed, 145,471 tons were mined for each life lost. This was the year in which was made the darkest record in the history of the industry.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. F. C. SHATTUCK, Jackson professor of clinical medicine in the Harvard Medical School, has offered to endow with \$25,000 a fellowship to be known as the Henry P. Walcott fellowship in clinical medicine.

By the bequest of Dr. Byron Robinson, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in the class of '78, who died last March, the university receives a large collection of books and pamphlets on anatomy, supplementing the gift of over a thousand volumes on the history of medicine made by Dr. Robinson shortly before