

firmity partially disabled him in later years. He was made professor emeritus in 1905 and freed from any obligation to do university work, yet he voluntarily continued his classes for two years in spite of failing eyesight. The necessity of submitting to an operation for cataract finally compelled him to give up lecturing. Although the operation was but partially successful, several papers were prepared by him in these later years. Professor Davidson's indomitable will kept him at work when he was able to read only through a narrow slit in blackened cardboard under favorable light and with the help of the strongest glasses.

Under such circumstances he wrote and published in 1908 his paper on "Francis Drake on the Northwest Coast of America" and, in 1910, the paper on "The Origin and Meaning of the Name California." Both these papers necessitated the careful reading of old maps and manuscripts and yet every point was verified and compared in his manuscript and also in final proof with his original source of information.

To the last he stood as erect as a young soldier, and his voice rang with the courage that he never lost. To those who knew him personally his memory will be treasured because of his warm heart and manly character. The record of his life is an inspiration toward untiring conscientious scientific work.

RULIFF S. HOLWAY

MUSEUM EXTENSION WORK IN CHICAGO

THREE years ago the Chicago Academy of Sciences undertook an educational and museum extension policy which was new in that city. The work has been done in cooperation with the public and private schools of the city. Nearly one hundred museum loan collections have been prepared for distribution among the schools. During the year 1911, 279 loans were made to 44 different schools. Each collection thus loaned was used with at least fifty children and, in many cases, with several hundred children before it was returned to the academy. It is estimated that in this way the loan collections have been used dur-

ing the past year with upwards of 20,000 children.

Instructional courses were offered at the academy free of charge to the children who wished to come. These classes were so crowded that a delegate plan was devised which is probably unique in museum work. Each school room of a given grade may select a representative and that representative comes to the academy as a "little reporter." With note-book and pencil in hand, and with ready questions, these "reporters" make every effort to be well prepared to transmit to their classmates the lessons of which they have had the advantage. In this way the instructional work of the academy has been reaching thousands of children in the public schools each week. Fifty-six schools were represented by 553 delegates in the instructional courses at the academy. Through this method of representatives from the different classes, the work of the academy during the past year has been reported to many children.

Instructional courses to teachers were given. Some of these courses were in the laboratory and others in the field. The teachers were organized into groups to carry on special studies in the plant and animal life of the Chicago region. The study of birds and wild flowers were perhaps the most popular courses thus undertaken.

The transition of the academy from a natural history museum, organized chiefly for the benefit of its members, to an active educational institution conducted chiefly for the benefit of the community, has been carried on under the leadership of the president, Professor T. C. Chamberlin, head of the department of geology at the University of Chicago. The educational work was entrusted, three years ago, to Dr. Wallace W. Atwood, who has had immediate charge of the development of this phase of museum extension work and has organized the various courses of instruction and the methods of taking the museum to the people and especially to the children in the schools. Mr. La Verne W. Noyes, president of the board of trustees, has taken an active interest in the development of this

phase of the instructional work of the institution and has made many suggestions which have proved successful. The latest plan in museum extension work is the preparation of special museum loan exhibits. One of these special exhibits has just been prepared and is ready to be placed in the public schools, park houses, social settlements and branch libraries. The exhibit is entitled "Birds Wintering in the Chicago Region." The foreground is a miniature reproduction of the shore of Lake Michigan. Eleven birds are placed in the foreground and, by means of an oil painting, the scene is carried far into the distance. This is a type of habitat group which will be distributed and loaned free of charge. In this way a modern piece of museum work will be taken to many who may not have an opportunity to visit the main building. The ideas of museum extension is being taken up by various other organizations in the city. The Woman's Club has installed civic and health exhibits in the public schools. The social settlements, the School of Civics and Philanthropy, Municipal Art League, Council for Museum and Library Extension, are all at work on plans for special exhibits at educational centers. This is a period of unusual activity in this field and the recent gift of Mr. N. W. Harris of \$250,000 to the Field Museum will make possible still larger development of this movement in Chicago. The influence of this activity within the city is being felt throughout the state and many calls are received from rural districts for museum loan collections. The Illinois Audubon Society has made some provision for meeting this demand throughout the state. It has in constant use four traveling libraries, four bird-picture collections and two lantern-slide collections with accompanying lectures. These are distributed free of charge. The Chicago Child Welfare Exhibit has aroused wide-spread interest in the preparation of special exhibits for educational purposes.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE forty-third annual meeting of the trustees of the American Museum of Natural

History was held Monday evening, February 5, 1912, at the Union Club, where the trustees were the guests of Mr. Thomas DeWitt Cuyler, of Philadelphia.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Henry Fairfield Osborn.

First Vice-president—Cleveland H. Dodge.

Second Vice-president—J. P. Morgan, Jr.

Treasurer—Charles Lanier.

Secretary—Archer M. Huntington.

The president presented his annual report and announced the gift to the museum of the Catlin collection of Indian paintings, which was presented by Mr. Ogden Mills, and the Bailey collection of meteorites, which was the gift of Mr. J. P. Morgan, Jr.

According to the president's report, the total attendance for the year was 724,141, which is 100,000 greater than the attendance of last year; the number of pupils studying the circulating collection was 1,253,435, an increase of 300,000 over 1910; the membership has been increased by the enrolment of 349 new members.

Plans are being formulated for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the museum, on April 6, 1919.

A comparison of the expenditures for the year shows that while the city's contribution was \$189,757, the trustees and the friends of the museum contributed \$216,404.

The building plans for the future include the construction of an east entrance hall on Central Park West and an entrance hall opposite 79th Street on Columbus Avenue. The future exhibition halls that are under consideration are the

Geographic Hall, East Wing, First Floor,
African Hall, East Wing, Second Floor,
Oceanographic Hall, Southeast Wing, First Floor,
Whale Court, Southeast Court, First Floor,
Ichthyology Hall, Southeast Wing, Second Floor.

The president emphasizes the necessity of increasing the present endowment fund.

Election to Membership: Mr. Ogden Mills was elected an associate benefactor in recognition of his gift of the Catlin collection of Indian paintings. Mrs. Isaac M. Dyckman was elected a patron in recognition of her con-