

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-

tribution for the preparation and publication of a bibliography on fishes. The Duke of Bedford was elected a fellow for his generosity in presenting to the museum two fine examples of the Prjevalsky horse, a species which has hitherto been unrepresented in the collections. Mr. Anthony R. Kuser was elected a fellow in recognition of his offer to present to the museum a collection of pheasants of the world. Lieutenant George T. Emmons was made an honorary fellow in recognition of his services in furnishing information in regard to the Indians of the Northwest Coast and in promoting field work in this region. Mr. George Bird Grinnell was elected an honorary fellow in recognition of his services in the development of the museum's department of anthropology. Sir Ernest Shackleton was elected a life member in recognition of his splendid achievements in the field of exploration, as well as for his generosity in presenting to the museum a collection of minerals from the south polar region. Dr. Leonard C. Sanford was made a life member in recognition of his generosity in placing his superb collection of birds of the world at the disposal of the curators of the museum for study and reference.

CATLIN PAINTINGS

George Catlin was the first great Indian painter and writer. He was born in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, in 1796, was educated as a lawyer, but in 1823 gave up the profession for art, opening a studio in Philadelphia. A few years after he painted the famous portrait of Mrs. Madison and that of Governor De Witt Clinton, now hanging in the City Hall of New York. He early became a miniature painter, a collection of his works being in the hands of a private collector in Minnesota. Once a delegation of Indians passing through Philadelphia on the way to Washington so impressed Catlin that he planned to travel and paint the various wild tribes. Accordingly he set out and spent eight years, during which time he visited forty-eight different tribes, making portraits and sketches of scenes from daily life. Some years afterward he issued

a large illustrated work on the North American Indians which is still one of our most important publications. Mr. Catlin died in New York City in 1872, leaving in the hands of his daughter, Miss Elizabeth W. Catlin, a large collection of paintings and sketches, which has just been acquired by the museum.

This collection, comprising some 350 oil paintings, represents chiefly the tribes between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains as observed during the years 1832 to 1840. Many of them are the originals for the plates in the author's well-known books. Their historic value is very great, as they are the earliest authentic sketches representing the costume, ceremonies, habitations, etc., of the wild tribes. At the time Catlin visited these tribes they were practically uninfluenced by civilization. A well-known artist says: "This collection is by far the most interesting and complete in existence and for the Indian artist is invaluable, the subjects represented covering the entire life, costumes, ceremonies, etc., at a time when Indian life was real, that is, before the transition period in Indian history. I have known Indians for forty years and have seen many who were very little influenced by contact with the white man and I can vouch for the truthfulness of these pictures. They are, outside of Bodmer's and Captain Eastman's pictures, the only record we have of the Plains Indians and are valuable as a pictorial record. I want to speak of another view which the scientist does not appreciate. These Catlin pictures are the most decorative Indian pictures that have ever been painted. There is not a picture in the collection that I would not be proud to hang on my wall. They have a grand beauty of line composition, a great harmony of tone that makes them very valuable as works of art. They have the scenic charm of a Japanese print."

Thus, Catlin may be considered the original Indian artist, the predecessor of Curtis, Schoolcraft, McKenna and Hall and a host of lesser lights. For the museum, the collection will be especially valuable, since it gives us not only highly decorative canvasses, but illustrative series which may be installed

among the ethnological collections where the various scenes will show to the visitor Indian life as it once was.

Perhaps the most unique portion of the collection is the South American sketches. Alexander von Humboldt, whom Catlin met in Europe, was so impressed with the work that he urged Catlin to spend some time traveling in South America. Accordingly, in 1852, Mr. Catlin set sail for Venezuela, from whose coast he passed into the interior and over into the valley of the Amazon. For six years he explored South America, visiting all the tribes on the Pacific Slope, wandering through Yucatan, and portions of Old Mexico and later sailing for Buenos Ayres, from whence he ascended the Parana River to the north and again traversed the entire coast line of Patagonia through the Straits of Magellan. As a result of this work we have ninety canvasses representing characteristic scenes among the natives of tropical and other portions of South America.

BAILEY METEORITES

Through the generosity of Mr. J. P. Morgan, Jr., the museum has acquired the collections of meteorites and minerals that were left by the late Mr. S. C. H. Bailey. Mr. Bailey was an indefatigable collector and exchanger in both branches of science, and his series of meteorites was known as one of the largest in private hands in the number of falls and finds represented. About three hundred meteorites were received by the museum, many of which are new to its already large collection. The most important fall represented is that known as Tomhannock, on account of its having been found on Tomhannock Creek, near Troy, Rensselaer County, New York. Only six meteorites, four iron and two stone, have been discovered within the limits of the state, five of which have been cut up and distributed throughout the collections of the world and most of the larger pieces are in European museums. The main mass of Tomhannock, however, remained with Mr. Bailey, and the museum is fortunate in coming into possession of it. It is an aerolite, or stone meteorite, which was first discovered in 1863,

but was not described until 1887, when Mr. Bailey gave it its present name. The entire original mass weighed only about three and one half pounds, was well rounded and covered with the fusion crust so characteristic of meteorites. Only about one tenth of the original mass was cut off and divided among museums. Hence the part that has now come to the American Museum is nearly nine tenths of the original.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

LORD LISTER died at his home in London on February 11 at the age of eighty-four years.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society on January 17 the president, Dr. H. N. Dickson, presented to Professor Cleveland Abbe, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, the Symons gold medal for 1912, which had been awarded to him in consideration of his distinguished work in connection with instrumental, statistical and dynamical meteorology and forecasting.

M. MAURICE MAETERLINCK, who last year received the Nobel prize for literature, proposes to raise the sum to \$40,000, and to employ it to establish a biennial prize of \$3,200 to be awarded to the author of the most remarkable work—whether on literature, art or science—published in the French language.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY, for twenty-five years professor of chemistry at London University, has submitted his resignation, and the senate has resolved: "That the senate accept Sir William Ramsay's resignation with sincere regret, and desire to express to him their high appreciation of the services which he has rendered to the university both by his inspiring work as a teacher and by the great series of researches carried out by him at University College during his tenure of the chair of chemistry."

PROFESSOR RUBNER, director of the Berlin Hygienic Institute, has received the large gold Rinecker medal of the University of Würzburg.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Rhodesia Scientific Association's gold medal, recently