

Arroyo Siasgo and Alvear, to study the geology of these territories and several specimens of baked earth supposed to be the product of ancient human industry. Early in July, both explorers met again in Buenos Aires, and after finishing their work in that region started for Ovejero, a locality in northwestern Argentina that has come into prominence in the last few years through its yield of human bones; they also visited Tacuman, San Juan and Mendoza. Dr. Hrdlička then proceeded to Peru while Mr. Willis returned to Buenos Aires.

The researches occupied nearly three months. Every specimen relating to ancient man that could be found was examined and every important locality was investigated. Unfortunately the general results of the inquiry are not in harmony with claims previously made by the various authors who reported the several finds. On the contrary, the conclusion was reached that to the present time the evidence is unfavorable to the hypothesis of man's great antiquity, especially as to the existence of very early predecessors of the Indian in South America; nor does it sustain the theories of the evolution of man in general, or even that of an American race alone, in the southern continent. The facts gathered attest everywhere merely the presence of the already differentiated and relatively modern American Indian. This should not be taken as a categorical denial of the existence of early man in South America, however improbable such a conclusion may now appear; but the position is maintained that the final acceptance of the evidence on this subject can not be justified until there is accumulated a mass of strictly scientific observations, requisite in kind and volume, to establish a proposition of so great importance.

The expedition secured numerous geological, paleontological and anthropological specimens, some of which throw light on the question under investigation. All these specimens have been deposited in the United States National Museum for further study and exhibition.

THE NEW ALLEGHENY OBSERVATORY

THE new Allegheny Observatory, situated in Riverview Park, Pittsburgh, was dedicated on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 28, in the presence of the members of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, and of many of the Pittsburgh friends of the institution. The principal instruments of the new observatory are a 13-inch visual refractor, a 30-inch reflector (a memorial to James Edward Keeler), and a 30-inch photographic refractor (a memorial to William Thaw and his son, William Thaw, Junior). The last of these telescopes is not quite completed, as the objective remains to be supplied. Addresses were made by Dr. John A. Brashear, chairman of the observatory committee; by Dr. Samuel Black McCormick, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, of which the observatory forms the astronomical department; by Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the Allegheny Observatory, and by Professor E. C. Pickering, director of the Harvard College Observatory. Mrs. William Reed Thompson, the daughter of William Thaw and the sister of William Thaw Junior, closed the exercises with the unveiling of the memorial tablet on the Thaw telescope.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W J MCGEE, known for his contributions to geology, anthropology and the conservation of natural resources, died at Washington on September 5, aged fifty-nine years.

DR. M. PLANCK, professor of theoretical physics in the University of Berlin, has been elected permanent secretary of the mathematical and physical section of the Berlin Academy of Sciences.

DR. JEAN MASCART, of the Paris Observatory, has been appointed director of the Lyons Observatory in succession to M. André.

It was stated in last week's issue of SCIENCE that the friends and former students of Professor Wilhelm Wundt had presented to him on his eightieth birthday a foundation for the University of Leipzig. The disposition of the foundation was left to Professor Wundt, who