

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

has decided to use it to equip in the psychological laboratory at Leipzig a department for psychological acoustics and phonetics.

PROFESSOR ÉMILE BOREL, of the University of Paris, and director of the *Revue du Mois* and of the *Nouvelle Collection Scientifique*, who is to be present at the opening of the Rice Institute of Houston, Texas, will be the guest of the University of Illinois part of the week beginning October 14.

DR. R. TAIT MCKENZIE, professor of physical education at the University of Pennsylvania, has executed a large bronze medallion known as "The Joy of Effort" which has been presented to the Swedish nation by the American committee on the Olympic games and is now being mounted in granite in the wall of the stadium at Stockholm.

DR. HENRY FOX, professor of biology at Ursinus College, has resigned to accept the position of assistant in entomology in the Bureau of Entomology. For the present he will be engaged at the permanent station of Lafayette, Indiana.

DR. R. KENT BEATTIE, recently professor of botany in the State College of Washington, Pullman, Wash., has accepted a position as expert in the office of forest pathology of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

MR. HAROLD BRYANT, M.S. (Calif.), has been reappointed fellow in applied zoology in the University of California on the State Fish and Game Foundation for the continuance of an investigation into the economic status of the meadow lark, begun last year under the same appointment. Mr. Frank C. Clarke, M.S. (Calif.), has been appointed to a similar fellowship for the investigation of the problem of deer conservation in the state of California. The state commission and the department of zoology at the university cooperate in the investigation with a view to determining a scientific basis for legislation.

T. A. BENDRAT, who has been engaged in teaching economic geology at the University of North Carolina, sailed from New York on

the *Saramacca* on June 12 for Venezuela, where he will enter an engagement as reconnaissance geologist for at least two years.

WHILE Professor E. J. McCaustland, Mem. Am. Soc. C. E., was prosecuting some water-power investigations on the Deschutes River in Oregon the boat in which he and two men were traveling was swamped in the rapids and his two companions were drowned. Professor McCaustland clung to the boat and was carried nearly a mile down the river and finally flung upon a rock in mid-stream. Three hours later he was rescued from this position by some men, who succeeded in getting a line out to him and who pulled him to the shore. The drowned men had both been selected to handle the boat on account of their long experience in river work. Both were excellent swimmers, but were unable to make shore on account of eddies and cross-currents.

PROFESSOR WILHELM OSTWALD, formerly of the University of Leipzig, will deliver a course of lectures at the University of Illinois during the week beginning October 13. The titles of the lectures will be announced later.

THE following provisional program of lectures before the Harvey Society, New York, for the season of 1912-13 has been arranged:

October 5—Professor Max Rubner, University of Berlin: "Modern steam sterilization."

November 9—Professor Joseph Erlanger, George Washington University: "The localization of impulse initiation and conduction in the heart."

November 23—Professor G. N. Stewart, Western Reserve University: "The rate of the blood flow and the vasomotor reflexes in disease."

December 14: Professor F. B. Mallory, Harvard University: "The infectious lesions of blood vessels."

January 18—Major J. J. Russell, U.S.A.: "The prevention of typhoid fever."

February 15—Professor Theodore C. Janeway, Columbia University: "Nephritic hypertension: clinical and experimental studies."

March 1—Professor Edward G. Conklin, Princeton University: "The size of organisms and their constituent parts in relation to longevity, senescence and rejuvenescence."

March 22—Professor John Howland, Johns Hop-

kins University: "The scientific basis for the artificial feeding of infants."

THE Society of the Liebig Museum held its second meeting in the Liebig Laboratory at Giessen. It will be remembered that this society purchased last year the laboratory for fifteen thousand dollars. Many gifts connected with the life of the great chemist have been received.

REV. G. W. TAYLOR, curator of the Canadian Marine Biological Station at Departure Bay, near Nanaimo, B. C., died at his residence near the station on August 22. Mr. Taylor has been most widely known in the fields of entomology and conchology, but his interests, particularly as a collector, extended over the whole range of systematic zoology.

M. LUCIEN LÉVY, the distinguished French mathematician, has died at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. FRANÇOIS ALPHONSE FOREL, known for his researches on the Lake of Geneva and on glaciers, died at Berne on August 8, aged seventy-one years.

MR. ALEXANDER DEAN, a British authority on horticulture, has died at the age of eighty years.

MR. A. BROTHERS, of Manchester, the author of several works and inventions concerned with photography, has died at the age of eighty-six years.

DR. ANDREW WILSON, lecturer on physiology and health under the George Combe trust and the author of numerous books and articles for the popularization of science, died on August 25.

WE are informed that a number of thefts of platinum from laboratories have occurred recently, and as a warning to those responsible we are requested to publish the following description of the thief: "A German Jew, with a German accent; age, about 40 years; height, 5 feet 8 inches; weight, about 200 pounds; peculiar shaped head; bald; clean shaven; large, short neck; heavy jaws; dark complexioned; dark hair and eyes; intelligent; when

last seen wore blue serge suit and panama hat, and representing himself to be a book and magazine agent."

WE learn from *Nature* that the collection of foreign Lepidoptera bequeathed by the late Mr. H. T. Adams, of Enfield, has been received at the Natural History Branch of the British Museum. It is contained in 68 cabinets, and is stated to comprise about 150,000 specimens. The estimated value of the collection is between £40,000 and £45,000.

THE congress before adjournment passed an amendment to the food and drug act which the president has signed, making it illegal "If its package or label shall bear or contain any statement, design, or device regarding the curative or therapeutic effect of such article, or any of the ingredients or substances contained therein, which is false and fraudulent." It will be remembered that the act of 1906 declared that a drug is misbranded "the package or label of which shall bear any statement . . . which shall be false or misleading in any particular . . ."; but the supreme court by a majority of five to three decided that this did not refer to false statements regarding the curative effect of a drug.

THE congress also passed the bill carrying out the fur seals treaty, including a closed season for five years in the Pribilof Islands.

THE fifteenth International Congress on Hygiene and Demography will, as has already been announced, be held at Washington, D. C., September 23-28, 1912, with Mr. Taft as honorary president. The president of the congress is Dr. Henry P. Walcott, of Massachusetts; the secretary, Dr. John S. Fulton, Senate Annex, Washington, D. C. Thirty-two foreign countries have accepted the invitation of this government to take part. The German Medical Society of New York will hold a reception on the evening of September 18 in honor of the German and Austrian physicians who will come to this country to attend the congress.

AT the International Otological Congress held in Boston, under the presidency of Dr. Clarence J. Blake, it was decided to hold the

tenth congress at Halle, Germany, in 1915. The officers elected were: *President*, Dr. Alfred Denker, of Halle; *Vice-president*, Dr. Alexander B. Randall, of Philadelphia; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Dr. Henry O. Reik, of Baltimore.

MR. JAMES B. BRADY, of New York, has, it is reported, given the sum of \$220,000 to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, for the establishment of a ward for the treatment of diseases of the kidney.

THE annual meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States will be held in Baltimore, from October 1 to 5, under the presidency of Surgeon Charles P. Wertebaker, U. S. Public Health Service.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE new physics building at the University of Iowa, costing \$225,000 exclusive of equipment, is now completed and will be used from the opening of the college year.

DR. SHADWORTH HOLLWAY HODGSON, the distinguished philosophical author, who died on June 3, aged eighty years, has bequeathed his philosophical laboratory to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and his general library to Rugby School. He bequeathed £500 to each institution to defray the cost of incidental expenses.

M. E. SOLVAY will give \$2,000 a year for three years to the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of the Berlin University to assist the researches on which Professor Nernst is engaged.

IRA D. CARDIFF, Ph.D., professor of botany in Washburn College, has resigned to accept the position of professor of plant physiology in the Washington State College at Pullman.

DR. SABRAZÈS, associate professor at the laboratory of the Faculté de médecine de Bordeaux, has been appointed professor of pathology and anatomy at the same school, in place of Dr. Coyne, who has retired.

PROFESSOR LUCIEN CAYEUX, formerly professor of general geology at the National School of Mines at Paris, has been elected to the chair of "The Natural History of Inorganic Bodies" at the Collège de France, left vacant by the death of Michel-Lévy.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A REMEDY WORSE THAN THE DISEASE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issue of August 9, an article by Professor J. S. Kingsley announces various changes in the rules of zoological nomenclature proposed by certain Austrian and German zoologists, and to be submitted to the next zoological congress for approval. He inferentially asks the signatures of those interested in zoology as a backing for the proposed changes. In view of the total demoralization of zoological nomenclature which would follow the adoption of these changes (and I do not see the name of a single expert in such matters among those cited in their favor by Professor Kingsley) I feel bound to offer some comments.

I may incidentally remark that it is the past modification in a similar manner of the original British Association rules by over hasty and ill-informed action, that is responsible for ninety-nine out of every hundred of the present difficulties. Moreover, my own experience in my own field of study leads me to believe it probable that Professor Kingsley's communication greatly exaggerates the difficulties for professional naturalists of the present state of affairs. The people who find themselves in trouble are not the men who really do modern work in systematic zoology, but are men of a past generation who are annoyed by unfamiliar names, teachers relying on out-of-date text-books, some amateurs without access to recent literature and the body of anatomists, morphologists and others, not systematists, who do not like to be bothered by nomenclature at all, but wish to get names for their material without working for them or asking some one who is by way of knowing.

I would be the last to deny that there are some real difficulties, and that it would be wise to remedy them, but the authors of this outcry have not indicated the right way to bring it about. On the contrary, in some respects it is calculated to increase the difficulties tenfold, to undo good work that is already accepted by the generality of students (for I take it for granted that the new laws are intended to be *ex post facto*), and to introduce