has been made to establish a "dead line" to prevent further spread of the insect. A zone of timber consisting largely of white pine and other evergreens is selected and all hardwoods or broad-leaf growth removed. As the insects are unable to complete their life history on the pines, they are checked and it may be possible to prevent their spreading northward into the Adirondacks, or into the Catskills, through the maintenance of such zones of coniferous growth. In the caterpillar stage the two moths do the greatest damage and the greatest spread of the insect occurs at this time. They are often blown long distances by the wind or carried by automobiles and other vehicles and much can be done in preventing this kind of distribution by keeping the roadside districts free of the caterpillars through spraying and the removal of their favored food plants.

The outbreak of the gipsy moth in this state in the summer of 1912 was not extensive and by prompt measures, such as the removal of infested trees, spraying, etc., the colony was destroyed. It is entirely possible, however, that there may be other well established colonies in outlying districts near the Catskills or Adirondacks of which there is no official knowledge. The state in the prosecution of its forestry work should make thorough investigations, especially along the eastern border in sections where there is the greater danger of the incoming of the caterpillar and thus prevent its doing the tremendous damage which it has done in Massachusetts.

THE NEW GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BUILDING

After a campaign lasting 26 years the United States Geological Survey has received generous recognition at the hands of congress in the authorization of an expenditure of $2,596,000 for the construction of a fireproof building "of modern office-building type of architecture." With this sum it is proposed to erect a building on ground already owned by the government which shall accommodate, besides the Geological Survey, the Reclamation Service, the Indian Office and the Bureau of Mines, all bureaus of the Interior Department whose work is closely related to that of the Survey and among all of which there is more or less constant cooperation. The public buildings law, which carries the Survey item, authorizes an immediate appropriation of $596,000, the balance to be appropriated as needed in construction. Plans can thus go forward at once for the construction of the new building. For the needs of the Survey and the other bureaus mentioned an up-to-date, conveniently arranged, and well-lighted building is of especial importance. Too many of the civil employees at Washington work in part or exclusively by artificial light, in quarters that may be compared to dungeons, a condition which is suggestive of medieval times, when the first requirement of castles was walls thick enough to resist the attacks of battering rams and catapults, or of the still more ancient period when huge, ornate pillars and columns were the fashion, regardless of the arrangements with respect to light and convenience on the inside of the building. The innovation of providing a structure of the modern office type for government "workshops" in which a maximum of the best work is the first consideration, such as will occupy the new building, will be welcomed.

Mr. Alfred H. Brooks, of the Alaska Division, Mr. Sledge Tatum, of the Topographic Branch, and Mr. Herman Stabler, of the Water Resources Branch, of the Geological Survey, have been appointed an advisory committee to assist the director in regard to the plans for the new building.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

For the meeting of the British Association, which will take place in Birmingham on September 10–17 next, under the presidency of Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., the following sectional presidents have been appointed: A (mathematics and physics), Dr. H. F. Baker, F.R.S.; B (chemistry), Professor W. P. Wynne, F.R.S.; C (geology), Professor E. J. Garwood; D (zoology), Dr. H. F. Gadow, F.R.S.; E (geography), Professor H. N. Dickson; F (economics), Rev. P. H. Wicksteed; G (engineering), J. A. F. Aspinall, M.Eng.; H (an-