clusion of so many prominent members of the society was a high price to pay for a meeting here.

"Any foreigners would be subjected to disagreeable formalities and conditions on coming here just now.

"It would be impossible to attract to the convention the slightest public interest in Montreal, outside a few dozen chemists. No one would come to the conversazione or the garden parties we had arranged, and while there would surely be the feeling of good fellowship among ourselves, it would be overshadowed by the tragic war we are in at present."

It is sad to look over the wreck of our hopes of a big and successful meeting.

Everything was organized and under way even to rehearsing for the smoker. The toastmaster and speakers for the banquet, the chemical and other scientific "stunts" for the conversazione were arranged, the hall for the exhibits prepared, which, by the way, would have been of exceptional interest. We feel very sad about it all to-day I assure you.

The principal, vice-principal and Sir Wm. Osler, who had promised to speak at the banquet, are in Europe, as well as many of our staff. Their return is uncertain. Everything was against the meeting and only our desire to give you the hand of good fellowship and the advanced state of the preparations made us hesitate at all about calling everything off.

I hope you appreciate our situation and that we have your sympathy.

I came up this morning feeling sure the meeting would go, but have been convinced it could not be made more than an apology for a convention, which it would be a waste of time to attend.

When things settle down again we will once more extend you an invitation, and hope you will do us the honor of accepting it.

On receipt of this letter, President Richards of course determined at once to call off the meeting. The almost unanimous opinion of the officers of the society is that it will be impossible to arrange for a successful meeting early in the fall and that business conditions throughout the country render it improbable that it would be advisable to have a meeting later in the year. The present outlook is that the next meeting of the American Chemical Society will be in New Orleans, April 1 to 3, 1915.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Roosevelt has arranged to give to members of the American Museum of Natural History in the fall the first presentation of the zoological results of his recent expedition to South America. The zoological collections which, through the generosity of Mr. Roosevelt, the museum has received from the Roosevelt expedition to South America, amount to twenty-five hundred birds and four hundred and fifty mammals.

The Bissett-Hawkins memorial medal of the Royal College of Physicians of London has been awarded to Sir Ronald Ross, for his work on malaria.

At a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on July 7, Dr. W. S. Bruce was presented with the Neill Prize, in recognition of the scientific results of his Arctic and Antarctic explorations.

Dr. Alexander von Brill, professor of mathematics at Tübingen, has been given a doctorate of engineering by the Technological School at Munich, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate.

Dr. Paul Kroeber, of Leipzig, has received a prize of 5,000 Marks from the Berlin Academy of Sciences for his work on the theory of functions.

Dr. Mairet, professor of mental and nervous diseases at Montpellier, has been elected a national associate of the Paris Academy of Medicine. He has been national correspondent in the section of pathologic medicine since 1894.

The second annual meeting of the Indian Science Congress is to be held, under the auspices of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, in Madras, on January 14–16 next, under the presidency of Surgeon-General Bannerman.

Dr. Beverly T. Galloway, lately assistant secretary of the Department of Agriculture, took up his duties as director of the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, on August first.

Dr. Lewis A. Sexton, resident physician at Willard Parker Hospital, New York, has accepted the position of superintendent of the

Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore.

DR. C. O. TOWNSEND, formerly in charge of sugar beet investigations for the U. S. Department of Agriculture but more recently in commercial sugar beet work at Garden City, Kansas, has returned to Washington and is again in charge of sugar beet investigation for the Federal Department of Agriculture.

MR. HARLAN I. SMITH, archeologist of the Geological Survey, Canada, is exploring in the shell-heaps of Merigomish, Nova Scotia. Mr. W. B. Nickerson is continuing explorations in the mounds, earthworks and village sites of southwestern Manitoba, and Mr. W. J. Wintemberg is exploring a section of country between Prescott and Peterborough, Ontario, for a site of a culture different from that of the Roebuck site which he excavated in 1912.

MR. F. M. ANDERSON, curator, and Mr. Bruce Martin, assistant curator of the department of invertebrate paleontology of the California Academy of Sciences, with two assistants, have recently left for South America where they are engaged in making oil investigations for an oil company. Their field of investigation is in the United States of Colombia at Lorica which is midway between the Magdalena and Atrato rivers. They have already made extensive collections of invertebrate fossils in the tertiary strata of that region and they expect to make still larger collections incidental to their work during the next year. These collections will come to the California Academy of Sciences.

DR. C. W. HAYES, who resigned the office of chief geologist in the United States Geological Survey in 1911 to take a position as vice-president and general manager of the Mexican Eagle Oil Company, with headquarters at Tampico, has left Mexico for England. He retains his connection with the company as first vice-president, but will no longer act as general manager. He will be occupied chiefly as geological adviser to S. Pearson & Son, Ltd., of which Lord Cowdray is the head, in connection with the operations of that firm in various parts of the world.

MR. OLE OLSEN has offered to place at the disposal of Mr. Knud Rasmussen funds sufficient for the fitting out of a north polar pedition. Mr. Rasmussen has already traveled much in Greenland and has made studies of the Eskimo. The proposed expedition would take provisions for two years and would include a scientific staff. A base camp would be set up at Cape York, Greenland, and the expedition would probably start in 1915.

THE new session of the medical faculty of the University of Manchester will be opened on October 8 by an address by Professor E. S. Reynolds on the industrial diseases of Greater Manchester.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR CARLETON TROWBRIDGE, of the State University of Iowa, gave an illustrated lecture at the University of Chicago on August 13 on "Some Mountains of the United States and Their Inhabitants," and Henry Oldys, formerly of the United States Biological Survey, lectured on August 20 and 21 on "Bird Protection and Bird Music" and "Birds at the National Capital."

A STATUE of Captain Cook, by Sir Thomas Brock, R.A., has been erected by public subscription in London, on the Mall side of the Admiralty Arch, at the end of the Processional Road, and was unveiled on July 7 by Prince Arthur of Connaught.

DR. EDOUARD REYER, professor of geology at Vienna, has died at the age of fifty-six years.

IT is reported that in future the distribution of the Nobel prize will take place on June 1 instead of in December, as hitherto. The next distribution has been fixed for June 1, 1915.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the International Ophthalmological Congress, which was to have been held at St. Petersburg in August, has been postponed, and the same course will doubtless be taken for all the international congresses which had planned to meet in Europe this year.

IT is stated in *Nature* that the whole of the new buildings of the University of Birmingham at Edgbaston have been taken over by the war office, and now form the first southern

general hospital. Certain structural alterations are being carried out with a view of making the hospital as efficient as possible.

OUTSIDE of Germany there is no known commercial supply of potash salts. If the German supplies are cut off during the European war, the agricultural world must either go without potash salts after the meager supply now on hand is exhausted or bestir itself to find another adequate source of supply. Already many inquiries regarding potash have been addressed to the United States Geological Survey, and the fertilizer journals report that small quantities of spot material are changing hands at sharp premiums. The situation is undoubtedly more acute than it was a few years ago, when national interest was first awakened to the fact that the United States is entirely dependent on Germany for this important class of fertilizer materials. Potash salts are employed in many industries other than the fertilizer industry. A large amount is used in glass and soap making and in the manufacture of a number of chemical products. These include potassium hydrate, or caustic potash, and the carbonate and bicarbonate of potash, used principally in glass and soap making; the potash alums; cyanides, including potassium cyanide, potassium ferro-cyanide, and potassium ferri-cyanide; various potash bleaching chemicals, dye stuffs, explosives containing potash nitrate, and a long list of general chemicals. The imports of potash salts, listed as such in the reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, include the carbonate, cyanide, chloride, nitrate and sulphate, caustic potash, and other potash compounds. The importation of the above salts in round numbers the last three years has averaged 635,000,000 pounds in quantity and $11,000,000 in value. These figures, however, represent only a part of the potash salts entering the United States as they do not include the imports of kainite and manure salts which are used in fertilizers. The quantity of this class of materials imported for consumption in the United States during the last three years has averaged about 700,000 tons valued at $4,300,000 annually. Thus it is apparent that the annual importations of potash salts exceed $15,000,000.

THE outbreak of the European war has caused the New York price of tin to rise to 65 cents a pound, although in the latter part of July tin was sold as low as 30.5 cents a pound. None of the European countries make a production which would greatly affect market values, and the disturbance of price is due mostly to the insecurity of ocean freights. The known American tin deposits are small, and production from them will probably not be much affected by the exceedingly high prices if these are temporary. However, the operators now working tin deposits may reap a profit if they can market their ores before the drop in prices that is sure to come. The benefit which it seems possible to get out of the present situation is in the establishment of a tin smelter in the United States in which to smelt Bolivian tin ores and such small lots of American ore as are produced. At present between 30,000 and 40,000 tons of tin concentrates carrying more than 20,000 tons of metallic tin are shipped each year from Bolivia to Europe for smelting. The United States would absorb the tin smelted from this ore easily, and it has been demonstrated that there are no difficulties in the smelting of the Bolivian ores that American metallurgists can not meet. Owing to the lack of European freighters, Bolivian ores will now be seeking a market, and, providing that ships can be found to carry the ore, this will be the opportunity for Americans to begin purchasing the ores that have heretofore gone to Europe. A few years ago a smelter was established at Bayonne, N. J., in which to smelt Malayan tin ores, but when it became known the English government placed a high export duty on Malayan tin ores not going to some part of the British empire. Such a thing could not happen in Bolivia, and to some extent, at any rate, the smelting of Bolivian and other ores in this country would relieve American consumers from the speculative profits of the London market.

ANTIMONY is ordinarily one of the cheaper metals, selling at one and a half times to twice

the price of zinc, but since the outbreak of the European war it has reached more than 20 cents a pound, a price higher than that of aluminum. During the six years from 1908 to 1913, inclusive, the price of Cookson's antimony ranged from 7.45 to 10.31 cents a pound, and the yearly averages ranged from 8.24 to 8.58 cents a pound. Much of the time during the present year the price has been still lower, and toward the end of July it was quoted as 7 to 7.10 cents. Other brands have ranged from 0.25 to 1.25 cents lower. As has been pointed out in the United States Geological Survey's reports, at these prices antimony ores can not be worked profitably under the high labor costs prevailing in the mining regions of the United States unless the deposits are very large and advantageously situated. No deposits of antimony ores have been found in the United States which entirely fulfill these conditions, and as a result practically all the antimony metal used here is imported from European smelters, mostly from England. The ores for these smelters come largely from China, Mexico, France and Austria. So long as the war exists and especially so long as sea traffic is disturbed, the production will be curtailed and prices raised, for the use of antimony in type metals and especially in bearing metals is fixed and will continue. Other uses, such as the making of coffin trimmings, which consume a surprisingly large quantity of antimony and from which there is no secondary recovery, might conceivably turn to aluminum or other metals as substitutes. In the United States deposits of stibnite (antimony sulphide) near Gilham, Ark.; Battle Mountain, Lovelocks and Austin, Nev.; Burke and Kingston, Idaho; Tonasket, Okanogan County, Wash.; Graniteville and San Emigdio Canyon, Cal.; Antimony, Utah; Red Bridge, Ore., and other places are potentially productive in times of prices as high as those now prevailing. A greater benefit than the temporary operation of the mines would probably accrue to this country from the establishment of smelters which would import and smelt Chinese, South American, Canadian and Mexican antimony ores. At present the only regular antimony smelting in this country is done by a smelter which is said to be a branch of an English smelter.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER KÖNIG, of Bonn, has presented to the University at Bonn the zoological museum and laboratory which he has erected, to be called the Alexander König Museum. The collections are valued at a million Marks.

IT may be noted that it was planned to open the new university at Frankfort-on-the-Main October 18 in the presence of the German emperor.

THE Royal School of Mines in Freiburg, Saxony, said to be the oldest school of technology, will celebrate the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation in July, 1915.

AT Syracuse University, college of medicine, a course in pathology was offered during the summer. The course opened on June 15, and continued for six weeks. It was open to both graduates and undergraduates in medicine. There were daily sessions covering the entire day.

PROFESSOR T. G. ROGERS, of the New Mexico Normal School, of Silver City, has been elected professor of mathematics and assistant dean of the Normal University of New Mexico, at East Las Vegas.

DR. O. C. GRUNER, assistant professor of pathology at McGill University, has resigned and returned to England.

DR. LUDWIG BÜRCHNER, of Munich, has been called to the chair of geography at the University of Athens.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A NOTE ON DISTINCTION OF THE SEXES IN PHRYNOSOMA

A SURPRISINGLY small amount of knowledge concerning the embryology and development of the Iguanidæ has been collected. One reason for this is the fact that, for most forms, there is no reliable method of distinguishing the sexes by external characters. This is par-