

Princeton University, and was its responsible member in charge of the infirmary.

In 1908 he insisted on retiring from active service and was made professor emeritus. He at once turned his attention to research, for which he was so well fitted, and from which his devotion to professorial duties as a teacher had for so many years excluded him. He employed his technical skill in making optical preparations, and at last became interested in the construction of a ruling engine for the construction of diffraction gratings, of the sort known as echelette gratings. He devised a new method for the mechanical grinding of the screw, by which most of the hand labor that was needed in the methods previously used was avoided, and before his death he had the satisfaction of seeing the engine which he constructed producing gratings of satisfactory quality. With very little additional labor it will be fitted to do the work for which it was designed.

Professor Brackett was gifted with a most winning personality. He made friends of his colleagues and his pupils. The gift of the Palmer Physical Laboratory by Mr. S. S. Palmer, and its endowment by Mr. D. B. Jones and Mr. T. B. Jones, are monuments of the affectionate regard which he inspired in some of those who knew him. He was a wide reader, and an ingenious speculator on physical questions, and was always ready to contribute of his knowledge to those who came to him for information and advice. He will be remembered by all who came within the range of his influence as an inspiring teacher, an affectionate friend and a good man.

W. F. MAGIE

GEOGRAPHICAL MEETING IN NEW YORK

THE second joint meeting of the American Geographical Society and the Association of American Geographers will be held in New

York, Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, 1915. With the exception of Friday evening, the sessions will be held at the society's building, Broadway at 156th Street. President Dodge of the association will preside at the sessions. The joint meeting will be called to order on Friday morning by Mr. John Greenough, vice-president and chairman of the council, American Geographical Society. The Park Avenue Hotel at the corner of 33d Street and Park Avenue, will be headquarters for association members. The American Geographical Society has very generously asked all association members to be their guests at the hotel during the meeting, from Thursday afternoon, April 8, to Saturday afternoon, April 10. The arrangements make it desirable to dine together at hours to be announced at the session on Friday. It is hoped that as many members as possible will arrive on Thursday in time for dinner and the social gathering in the secretary's room at the hotel during the evening. The American Geographical Society has invited all members of the association to luncheon on both Friday and Saturday noon at a restaurant close to the society's building. Mr. George A. Plimpton has invited the members of the association, their wives, and all workers in geography in attendance at the meeting to meet at his home on Friday evening. Mr. Plimpton will speak informally on Early American Geography, and exhibit his complete and interesting library of early American texts in geography.

The scientific program is as follows:

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION (FROM ELEVEN O'CLOCK TO TWELVE-THIRTY)

"The Coast of New Caledonia," by W. M. Davis.

"Geography of the Navajo Country," by H. E. Gregory.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION (FROM TWO O'CLOCK TO FIVE)

"Utah, the Oasis at the Foot of the Wasatch," by Mark Jefferson.

"The Geographic Factor in Agricultural Industries," by C. S. Scofield.

"Origin of Some Desert Basins," by N. H. Darton.

"The Natural History of Ancient Vinland, and its Geographic Significance," by M. L. Fernald.

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION (AT 8:30, 61 PARK AVE.)

"Early American Geography," by George A. Plimpton.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION (FROM TEN O'CLOCK TO TWELVE-THIRTY)

"Argentina and the Argentines," by Bailey Willis.

"Winter Weather as a Factor in the Great War," by R. DeC. Ward.

"The Muir Glacier in 1911 and 1913," by Lawrence Martin.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

At the Seattle meeting of the Pacific Association in May, 1914, the new constitution for a Western Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was accepted and recommended to the constituent societies for their adoption. It was determined that a two thirds vote would be necessary for adoption; that if this vote was secured before the meeting of the American Association at San Francisco in August, 1915, the work of the Pacific Association would be given over to the Western Division at the end of the August meeting, provided the Western Division was organized and ready at that time to continue the work of the Pacific Association. On March 20, 1915, the required two thirds vote was secured, and the Pacific Association is now ready as soon as the constitution is signed by the officers of the voting constituent societies to turn over the work to the new Division at the end of the August meeting of the American Association. The following societies adopted the new constitution in the following order: Biological Society of the Pacific Coast, Pacific Coast Paleontological Society, The Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America, The Seismological Society of America, Astronomical Society of

the Pacific, The Technical Society of the Pacific Coast, The Cooper Ornithological Club, California Academy of Sciences, Puget Sound Section of the American Chemical Society, The Pacific Slope Association of Economic Entomologists, San Francisco Society of the Archeological Institute of America, and the San Francisco Section of the American Mathematical Society—twelve societies in all. The following societies rejected the constitution: The Philological Society of the Pacific Coast, and the San Francisco Section of the American Chemical Society. The Geographical Society of the Pacific did not reply. The Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association will decide the question late in 1915.

Dr. Campbell, president of the American Association, has already appointed a committee to effect the organization of the division, and it will be ready in August to receive the work and the archives of the Pacific Association which will in this manner terminate a five years of active work.

J. N. BURMAN,

Secretary of the Pacific Association

SEATTLE,

March 30, 1915

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. IRA REMSEN, president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, will deliver the principal address at the formal opening of the new chemistry building of the University of Minnesota, on May 24.

At the recent commemoration day exercises at the Johns Hopkins University there was presented to the university by a committee of which Dr. William S. Halsted, professor of surgery, was chairman, a portrait in oil by Mr. Seyffert, of Philadelphia, of Dr. Franklin P. Mall, professor of anatomy in the university. Dr. Lewellys L. Barker, professor of medicine, made the presentation address.

PROFESSOR CHARLES S. WILSON, of the Cornell School of Agriculture, has been nominated by Governor Whitman as New York state commissioner of agriculture.

OFFICERS of the Royal Astronomical Society have been elected as follows: *President*, R. A.