

Within the past few days word has been received from Mr. L. W. De Vis-Norton, at Kilauea Volcano, of the remarkable activity of this famous crater. He states that "tremendous changes are in progress at Kilauea, and there is no indication whatsoever of any cessation of the monumental rising of the entire vast lava column. . . . Over the southwest brink, a wide stream of glistening lava is sluggishly flowing in the direction of the Ka'u Desert, not with the spectacular cascading torrents of the southeastern flows of last March, but with a steady, stealthy gliding, which gains ground slowly at its face, but which piles up into tremendous masses from its source forward. Upon this southwestern side there is no longer any indication of the Hale-mau-mau Pit."

A vivid description is given of the lava plateau which has been heaped up over the former pit; "it is in reality a vast tilted roof which has been built entirely over Hale-mau-mau; broken in four or five places by almost circular spatter-walls erected thereon, within whose circumference are lakes, fountaining heavily and flinging molten torrents outward over the walls to flow onward over the surface of the roof."

The effect is a peculiar one, for as the lava seeks the hollows and fills up irregularities, it is producing an almost perfectly smooth sweep of floor over a mile in circumference. This condition will be stable for several hours, and then, as though the superincumbent weight had become insupportable, vast sections of the plateau will sink inward, releasing from beneath gigantic torrents of crimson and orange liquid lava, which surge upward and roar away over the adjacent surfaces, causing them in their turn to collapse and provide more pyrotechnics upon a tremendous scale, and repeating the process over and over again.

"Were it not for the fact that the southwestern overflow is following a *most unusual process* of damming itself back in walls of its own building as it advances," states Mr. Norton, "we should be witnessing such a torrential discharge of lava as *has never been seen* at Kilauea within the memory of man."

It is becoming increasingly evident that the present Hale-mau-mau rise is the usual equinoctial rise upon a greatly magnified scale, due partly to the abnormal squeezing of the Hawaiian fissure system, and to the unusual smallness of the previous fall after the last solstice, when the lava column withdrew little more than a hundred feet.

Starting its upward movement from a mean level some two hundred feet *above* the normal, it is only natural that the column should have reached

the pit-rim a full month earlier than was anticipated. Since the column will, in the ordinary course of events, continue to rise until the time of the equinox in March next, the overflow may be expected to then attain an unprecedented magnitude.

A PROPOSED AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

A COMMITTEE of representative American mammalogists, including men from different parts of the country in its membership, has recently been at work on plans to organize a society for the promotion of interest in the study of mammalogy. It is intended that the society shall devote itself to the subject in a broad way, including investigations of habits, life histories, evolution and ecology. The plans call for the publication of a journal in which both popular and technical matter will be presented, for holding meetings both general and sectional, aiding research, and engaging in such other activities as may be deemed expedient. It is hoped to secure the active participation of all interested. The organization meeting will be held at the New National Museum, Washington, D. C., April 3 and 4, 1919, sessions commencing at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. No program of papers has been planned for this meeting. The organization committee includes the following: Hartley H. T. Jackson, Chairman, U. S. Biological Survey; Walter P. Taylor, Secretary, U. S. Biological Survey; Glover M. Allen, Boston Society of Natural History; J. A. Allen, American Museum of Natural History; Joseph Grinnell, University of California; N. Hollister, National Zoological Park; Arthur H. Howell, U. S. Biological Survey; Wilfred H. Osgood, Field Museum of Natural History; Edward A. Preble, U. S. Biological Survey; Witmer Stone, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Further information will be furnished by either the chairman or the secretary, to whom applications for charter membership should be transmitted.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Institute of Mining Engineers at its meeting in New York on Febru-

ary 18 elected as president Horace V. Winchell, of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other officers elected were as follows: *Vice-presidents*: Edwin Ludlow, Lansford, Pa.; A. R. Ledoux, New York, N. Y. *Directors*: J. V. W. Reynders, New York, N. Y.; George D. Barron, Rye, N. Y.; Charles F. Rand, New York, N. Y.; Louis S. Crates, Ray, Arizona; Stanley A. Easton, Kellogg, Idaho. A memorial meeting was held during the afternoon for members who fell in service. The number of those who served in the Army or Navy reached some eight hundred, and information had been received of the death of twenty-five of these.

DR. J. F. ABBOTT, professor of zoology in the University of Missouri, has been appointed commercial attaché to the American Embassy at Tokyo.

PROFESSOR E. C. FRANKLIN returned to Stanford University, California, in December, after spending the greater part of the past year in research on the synthetic process for the fixation of nitrogen.

DR. CHAS. H. HERTY, editor of the *Journal of Industrial Chemistry*, has been appointed chairman of a committee of the American Chemical Society on an Institute for Drug Research.

At their last meeting, held February 3, the trustees of The American Museum of Natural History elected Mr. Herbert L. Bridgman of New York an honorary fellow, in recognition of his valuable assistance rendered by service on a number of its most important exploration committees, and in special acknowledgment of his contribution to the advancement of science and education through his writings in the public press.

DR. LOUIS BLARINGHEM, professor of agricultural biology at the Sorbonne, has been appointed exchange professor at Harvard University for 1918-19. Professor Blaringhem's term of service will fall in the second half-year.

THE Janssen Prize of the Astronomical Society of France has been awarded to M. G. Raymond.

SIR AUBREY STRAHAN, director of the English Geological Survey, has been elected an honorary member of the British Institution of Petroleum Technologists.

DR. G. GRANDIDIER has been elected secretary of the French Geographical Society to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Baron Hulot.

MR. J. C. HOSTETTER, of the geophysical laboratory, Carnegie Institution, has returned to Washington after a year's absence in charge of optical glass manufacture at Pittsburgh.

DR. L. O. GRONDAHL, after having been commissioned a captain in the Ordnance Corps of the Army and having spent the last eighteen months in work on one of the problems of the Naval Consulting Board, has returned to his position as associate professor of physics, Carnegie Institute of Technology.

AFTER twenty-one years of service in the Detroit high school and the junior college, Mr. Louis Murbach has resigned his position as head of the department of biology. His permanent address will be Castleton, Vt. He is succeeded by Mr. Norman Stoll, M.S., who besides high school experience has lately been teaching assistant in the department of zoology in the University of Michigan.

MAJOR EDWIN A. ZIEGLER, who had charge of the courses in orientation at the Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, Virginia, has resumed his work as director of the Pennsylvania State School of Forestry at Mount Alto.

PROFESSOR J. S. ILLICK, of the Pennsylvania State School of Forestry, has been appointed chief of the Bureau of Sylviculture in the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry.

LEWIS A. ZIMM has accepted an appointment as extension forester for Georgia and is connected with the Georgia State College of Agriculture. Mr. Zimm has been instructor in forestry and plant pathology at Cornell University and spent a season in dendropathological field work under Dr. Meinicke on the Pacific coast prior to his being commissioned in the army.

DR. H. N. HOLMES, head of the department of chemistry at Oberlin College, has finished a special piece of investigation connected with

the perfecting of gas masks. He has been appointed by the National Research Council member of a committee of four, known as the sub-committee on colloids.

PROFESSOR H. BURGER, of Amsterdam, has been elected corresponding member of the laryngological section of the Royal Society of Medicine at London.

MR. W. BOYD CAMPBELL, assistant superintendent at the forest products laboratory, McGill University, Montreal, is now in charge of the chemical engineering work of the Process Engineers Limited Montreal.

THE fourth lecture of Harvey Society will be given by Dr. Frederic S. Lee on "Industrial Fatigue" at the New York Academy of Medicine on Saturday evening, March 1.

PROFESSOR ROBERT F. GRIGGS, director of the National Geographical Society Katmai Expeditions, delivered an address on "Katmai and ten Thousand Smokes" before the Washington Academy of Sciences on February 18.

DR. ALEŠ HRDLICKA, curator of the division of physical anthropology, United States National Museum, will give four lectures on "The Origin and Antiquity of the American Indian" at the Wagner Free Institute of Science. The lectures, which are in the Richard B. Westbrook foundation, will be given on March 8, 15, 22 and 29.

SIR R. H. INGLIS PALGRAVE, distinguished for his work on economics and statistics died on January 25 at the age of ninety-one years.

DR. LOUIS-ÉDOUARD BUREAU, formerly professor of botany at the Paris Museum of Natural History has died at the age of eighty-eight years.

DR. EUGENE PENARD, of Geneva, Switzerland, has nearly completed his great work on the Infusaria, on which he has been working for five years. He has material for two volumes of 850 pages each, but it will be necessary, on account of the cost of the publication, to condense it to a single volume of 650 pages. Dr. Penard is much occupied at the present time with his duties as a member of the commission to administer relief to

refugee Russians in Switzerland, under the American Red Cross.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A GROUP of alumni, headed by George P. Adamson, have completed the endowment of the Edward Hart fellowship at Lafayette College. The endowment is in the sum of \$10,000, yielding \$500 per annum, and is open to students of chemistry holding the bachelor's degree desiring to do research work in problems connected with viscous and plastic flow. The endowment was made in honor of Professor Edward Hart, who has completed forty years as professor of chemistry at Lafayette.

THE Women's College in Brown University received a gift of \$50,000 to be used for a new dormitory.

DR. BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER has presented his resignation as president of the University of California.

PROFESSOR D. W. WORKING, of the Office of Farm Management of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has accepted the positions of dean of the Arizona College of Agriculture and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

IN the absence on leave in Europe of Director H. Hayward, Professor A. E. Grantham, agronomist, has been appointed acting director of the Delaware College Agricultural Experiment Station beginning February 1. E. A. Hodson, of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of agronomy.

DR. W. E. MILNE has been appointed professor of mathematics at the University of Oregon, to succeed Dr. R. M. Winger.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A STANDARD SCIENTIFIC ALPHABET

STANDARDIZING is one of the unending labors of science. By accurate standards scientists are able to test and prove, to plan intelligently, and to indicate precisely. Scientists substituted a simple and definite metric system for a great number of irregular and unrelated