partment of Forecasts in Buenos Aires; Mr. L. G. Schultz, chief of the magnetic section until 1915 and others. Mr. George O. Wiggin, the present director of the Argentine Meteorological Office, is also a native of the United States.

The high quality of Mr. Davis's work was fully appreciated by his meteorological colleagues everywhere. His reputation as a meteorologist and as the successful administrative head of a large and remarkably efficient organization won for him a position on the International Meteorological Committee, the highest international authority on meteorology. This was a well-deserved recognition of the importance of his contributions to meteorology, and of his sound judgment on scientific matters.

The many publications of the Argentine Meteorological Service which were issued under Mr. Davis's direction constitute an inspiring record of splendid work, well planned, thoroughly organized, and ably carried out. For comparatively few countries are there available such excellent meteorological and climatological publications, some of them in English, as the Argentine Meteorological Service has sent out.

By the death of Walter Gould Davis the world has lost one of its most eminent meteorologists, and those of his colleagues who had the privilege of knowing him have lost a warm-hearted, sympathetic and helpful friend.

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
May 31, 1919

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN JAVA

OFFICIAL advices received by the State Department report that the recent eruption of the Klot (or Kalut) volcano in Java cost 40,000 native lives, destroyed 20,000 acres of crops, principally rice, by its flow of hot mud, and did millions of dollars' damage by the falling ashes in regions outside the devastated districts. The National Geographic Society has issued from its Washington headquarters the following bulletin:

Volcano-made in the first place, and constantly being remade by them, Java has more volcanoes than any area of its size in the world. Estimates of the active and extinct craters range from 100 to 150. Everywhere in Java, in the huge crater lakes, in fissures that now are river beds, even in ancient temples, half-finished when interrupted by some fiery convulsion, are evidences of cataclysmic forces—such turbulent forces as now are in continuous hysteria in the Valley of the Ten Thousand Smokes in Alaska and break their crusted surface cage intermittently in Java.

The "treacherous Klot," as the natives call it, all but wiped out the town of Britar, but even its devastation, as reported to the State Department, was mild compared to the violent upheaval of Krakatoa in 1883. Then mother nature turned anarchist and planted a Gargantuan infernal machine on the doorstep of Java. Krakatoa is a little island in the Sunda Strait, between Sumatra and Java. Australians, as far from the explosions as New York is from El Paso, heard the terrific detonation, more than half the island was blotted out, parts of it were flung aloft four times as high as the world's highest mountain, and to touch bottom below the water's surface, where most of the island has been, henceforth required a plumb line twice as long as the height of the Washington Monument. Skyscraper waves flooded adjacent islands and rolled half way around the earth. Every human ear drum heard, though it may not have registered, the air waves as they vibrated three or four times around the earth.

Krakatoa levied a smaller toll in human life than Klot because of its isolation, and many of the 35,000 deaths from Krakatoa's eruption were at far distant points by drowning.

An eruption anywhere on the island means disaster. For Java, about equal in area to New York state, supports a population greater than the combined populations of the empire state and the four other most populous states in the Union—Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and Texas.

EXPEDITION FROM THE CALIFORNIA MUSEUM OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY TO ALASKA

THE museum of vertebrate zoology of the University of California has again undertaken field work in Alaska, and a party to work in that region left the Museum on May 14, to be gone until October 1. The route for the present season is to lie in southeastern Alaska in the vicinity of Wrangell. It will