

uralist of Catania, Sicily, Dolomieu gave in the following brief paragraphs the main results of his explorations (pp. 10, 11):

1. I found no trace of volcanoes anywhere in the Val Demona. The neighborhood of Ali does not offer any volcanic material; the waters which supply the hot baths established on the coast are the only indications I have found of subterranean fires.

2. The Liparian Islands are exceedingly curious, and they well merit the attention of naturalists. An interesting collection could be made here of lavas and other volcanic products, but I did not have time to accomplish this.

3. The mines of Val Demona are grouped in a triangle of mountains which occupy the promontory of Sicily; all the veins traverse schist. They contain silver, copper, lead, antimony, zinc and mercury. But none of these mines have been exploited and it is almost impossible to get specimens. In my whole journey through these mountains I was only able to pick up a few pieces which I took from the outcrops of the veins.

4. The granites are present in great quantity in the mountains of Messina, and I believe that a part of the columns made of this rock which one sees in Sicily were quarried in these mountains.

5. I do not know whether there are real coal mines at Messina. I have only found a bituminous earth very common throughout Sicily.

We may note that Dolomieu was enough interested in the report that there was a deposit of beryls near the village of Gratteri, to visit the place. The locality was in a ravine which traversed a hill. Here a number of geodes had been found, resembling those of Grenoble in France. They had a triple envelop of black iron-ore, brown iron-ore and gray clay, and some of them displayed within polyhedral, transparent crystals. Dolomieu could only find a few unsatisfactory specimens, and was forced to buy some at Gratteri, where he had to pay as much for them as for genuine beryls. In reality they were either hyalin quartz, or the light-blue strontium sulphate called celestine (pp. 90, 91).

Déodat Dolomieu was born at Dolomieu, near Tour-du-Pin, in Dauphiné, France, on June 23, 1750. He died at Châteauneuf, near La Clayette, department Saône-et-Loire, November 16, 1801. Regarding the disposition of his remains, the following information is given by Professor Alfred Lacroix in his biographical sketch of Dolomieu.²

Dolomieu was interred at Châteauneuf, near La Clayette (Saône-et-Loire). His body probably rests in the vault of the Drée family, but his heart was placed in an urn (39.2 cm. \times 23.6 cm.) of black porphyrite with large crystals of white feldspar, which surmounts a fine prism (1 m. 29.8 \times 21.6 cm.) of basalt from Auvergne, itself supported by a pedestal of Albanese peperino and marble (violet breccia). This little monument, which formed part of the collection of his brother-in-law (Catalogue of the eight collections composing the Mineralogical Museum of the Marquis Etienne de Drée, Paris, 1811, p. 249), finds itself to-day placed at the entrance of the mineralogical gallery of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturel in Paris.

At the request of the Marquise de Drée, her brother's heart was, at the time of her demise, transported to her own tomb at Dolomieu. In the park of the chateau of Châteauneuf, she had caused to be erected a small monument formed by a block of the red granite of the country.

GEORGE F. KUNZ

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE MACKENZIE DAVIDSON MEMORIAL

AN influential English committee has issued an appeal which in part says:

The death of Sir James Mackenzie Davidson in the prime of life has deprived radiology of one of its most distinguished exponents, whose name is specially associated with the development of radiographic technique, and particularly that of stereoscopic radiography, and with the introduction in this country of the method of the localization of foreign bodies to which so many thousands of wounded men owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Mackenzie Davidson's reputation was international. In this country he was rightly regarded as the head of his profession, and throughout his career he was unsparing in his efforts to raise the

² "Notire historique sur Déodat Dolomieu," Paris, 1918, p. 83, note 85; Institut de France, Académie des Sciences.

status of radiology among the sciences. He was especially insistent on the fundamental value of physics to radiology, particularly in regard to methods of measurement and the designing of equipment, subjects in which he was deeply interested up to the time of his death.

Many in his own branch of the profession and a number of his friends and former patients, wishing to keep his memory green, have suggested that an appeal for funds should be made to found a Mackenzie Davidson Chair of Radiology at some university.

Had Mackenzie Davidson lived he would have been among the first actively and generously to support the foundation of an institute for teaching and research in radiology, of which he was one of the earliest pioneers. If funds permit, it is hoped to found such an institute, to which possibly the chair could be attached, and of which the personnel and equipment would be beyond reproach. The benefit accruing to the British School of Radiology would be incalculable.

Till quite recently radiology has been regarded as a purely medical subject, but experimental research has shown that X-rays may be profitably employed commercially in a number of industries. A new subject, radiometallography, has, for example, come into being, which offers great possibilities for examining the internal structure of metals and other materials. In this connection radiology has already been turned to account by the steel manufacturer, the metallurgist, the engineer, the manufacturer of explosives, the aircraft constructor, the glass manufacturer, etc.

The future of radiology will therefore lie, not only in the fight against disease and suffering, but also in the increase of commercial and industrial efficiency. But these new branches of radiology need much investigatory work before they can come fully into their own, and a chair of radiology associated with an X-ray institute should play a worthy part in such development.

THE ENGLISH UNION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

Nature reports that the half-yearly council meeting of the National Union of Scientific Workers, presided over by Mr. G. S. Baker, of the National Physical Laboratory, was held at University College on March 6. The rapid growth of the union has necessitated the appointment of a full-time secretary, and Major A. G. Church has been appointed to fill that

office. The research committee in its report outlined the function of this body and that of the research council, which it is hoped will shortly be constituted. It will consider how best industry and public administration should be kept in close touch with the development of scientific knowledge, and ensure that the views and conditions of employment of scientific workers shall receive consideration from all bodies bringing forward schemes for research in science or for the administration of research. It was felt that the state should not subsidize industrial research associations unless such bodies display an anxiety to ensure that the direction of research shall be in the hands of those who have shown capacity for leadership in scientific work. A report on patent rights presented by Mr. A. A. Griffith emphasized the opinion "that the only satisfactory way of remunerating salaried inventors is to pay them adequate salaries; a salaried inventor receiving an adequate salary should have no claim whatever to any extra payment because his work proves unexpectedly remunerative." On the motion of Miss A. B. Dale, the council unanimously agreed to "protest against the differential treatment of men and women as regards the method of recruitment to the Civil Service and the salary scales offered therein as recommended by the Reorganization Sub-committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council."

THE HARVARD ENGINEERING SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

The Harvard Engineering School has adopted a new plan of instruction for the junior year of the engineering course, whereby students will hereafter be given an opportunity to combine classroom work with six months of active engineering practise and industrial training. According to the new plan, which will be inaugurated in June and will apply to the instruction in mechanical, electrical, civil, sanitary and municipal engineering, every student who wishes to take the industrial training work will spend half his time during his junior year working in industrial or engineering plants within easy reach of Cambridge.