Clarion and Socorro and secured twelve specimens comprising nine new species.

The six days of the 1888–89 cruise of the *Albatross,* allocated to the work in these islands, was sufficient to permit calls at Clarion, Socorro and San Benedicto. From each of the islands interesting collections of birds, reptiles, plants, mollusks, fishes and insects were secured by Dr. Charles H. Gilbert, the naturalist on the *Albatross.*

In 1897 Mr. A. W. Anthony greatly increased our knowledge of the bird life of the group. During the three weeks he devoted to the work, large collections of birds were made, and some invertebrates and plants taken.

The Webster-Harris expedition, of which Lord Rothschild was the moving spirit, made a brief call at Clarion in 1897 and obtained small series of birds, reptiles and insects.

The first expedition sent by the California Academy of Sciences to the Revillagigedos spent seven weeks in 1903 in making a survey of the islands. Collections of birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, mollusks and plants were made, but they were destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906 before the mass of the material had been studied. Members of this party were apparently the first to reach the summit of Socorro. Evidence pointed to volcanic activity in the not too distant past, as many hot springs were discovered near the peak.

The expedition sent to the Galapagos Islands by the California Academy of Sciences in 1905 called at San Benedicto, Socorro and Oneal Rock, securing a few specimens from each.

In 1916 the tuna investigations conducted by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries took the *Albatross* into those waters. The small collections of sea birds and invertebrates obtained were turned over to the California Academy of Sciences.

It is now hoped that, with the facilities at its command, the *Ortolan* expedition will obtain the material needed to fill the gaps in the existing collections and so make possible a thorough understanding of the natural history and faunal relations of the Revillagigedo Islands.

MARY E. MCLELLAN
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE Russian Academy of Sciences at Leningrad, founded at the end of the reign of Peter the Great, has completed its program for the celebration of its two hundredth jubilee anniversary in September. Prominent scientific men from a score of countries will attend. The program, extending from September 5 to 14, includes sessions at both Leningrad and Moscow, gala performances of the opera in Leningrad and of the Moscow Art Theater in Moscow, banquets tendered to the visitors by both cities and a state breakfast in the Kremlin. Leading American universities and scientific societies have been invited to send representatives.

A statement in regard to the academy sent SCIENCE from the New York Bureau of the Russian Telegraph Agency reads:

The academy was originally founded by Peter the Great in 1725. It was the Russian expression of the general scientific development of the eighteenth century, particularly in physics and mathematics. The German philosopher and mathematician Leibnitz drew up its constitution. Other German scientists organized various departments of research. In its early days its greatest contribution was in geography. It explored and charted immenses stretches of territory in Russia. During the nineteenth century the academy's work won the esteem of west European scientists, who invited the Russian academy to join the International Association of Academies.

Until the revolution, the Russian academy was dominated by the Czar and the nobility. It suffered from the general lack of system characteristic of Czarist Russia. Attempts to systematize its work were begun in 1912, but were interrupted by the war.

The chaos which attended the Russian civil wars wrought great hardships on the scientists. They were exposed to cold and famine. They had no means for carrying on research, publishing books and magazines or taking care of institutions. The laboratories were deserted for lack of fuel. However, the defeat of the counter-revolution and the raising of the allied blockade enabled the Soviet Government to come to the assistance of the scientists. Early in 1921 a deputation from the academy visited Lenine and laid the situation before him. Subsequently the Soviet Government appropriated money for the restoration and extension of scientific work.

The academy has since then restored libraries, collections and museums disturbed or neglected during the civil war. The academy's library, which before the war contained 3,000,000 volumes, has been increased to 4,500,000 volumes. The collections of the zoological, ethnographic, mineralogical and Asiatic museums have been increased to such an extent that the Soviet Government has had to enlarge their headquarters, making special appropriations for equipment and repairs.

With this assistance the Russian Academy of Science has been able to convert the old physics laboratory into the Physico-Mathematical Institute, with special workshops for making precise instruments. Most of the museums have been doubled or trebled in size. The seismographic station, at Pulkovo, which burned down in 1920, has been replaced by a new one. The chief Russian seismographic stations have been restored and contact established with seismographic stations throughout the world.

The great strides made by the Russian academy since the revolution and the improvement of general economic conditions is indicated in its report for 1924. During that year the academy held 64 meetings at which 112 papers were read discussing 85 important questions. Four hundred additional papers were read at meetings of different sections of the academy. In addition, the academy published 55 scientific books, copies of which were sent abroad; and 78 expeditions were sent to the Urals, Siberia, Mongolia, Central Asia, North and South Russia, etc. The physiological laboratory carried on research on the occipital lobes of the higher animals. Other departments prepared a catalogue on the life, culture, social structure and religions of India; and studied the biochemical properties of human blood. Important work was also done by the Asiatic museum which prepared for publication 340 volumes of Dao-Jsan and other Chinese works.

The academy has also stimulated an interest in applied science. Researches and experiments have been carried on in the separation of metals by nitrogen under high temperature and pressure; Crimean lakesal has been analyzed; and a new system of making seismographs has been invented.

The academy works in close cooperation with economic organizations and with the government. It has prepared maps and other material for the government and is working with the State Planning Commission on a study of Russian natural resources. Other government commissions with which the academy cooperates are conducting studies in race problems, tropical countries, the Polar regions, literature, dictionaries and bibliographies.

Important are Professor Steklov's studies in the basic problems of mathematical physics; Professor Numerov's astronomical studies; Professor Joffe's studies on the atomic structure of matter, and Professor Pavlov's studies in biology and pathology.

The academy has already reestablished many of its contacts with scientists of other countries. Charles D. Walcott, of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C.; Fridjof Nansen, of Norway; A. J. Thompson, of England, and scientists of various other countries are honorary members of the academy. Among the academy's corresponding members are Dr. Alexis Carrel, of New York, and Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago; Louis Bauer, of Washington, D. C.; Madame Curie and Albert Einstein.

THE DORMITORIES OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

MR. HAROLD S. VANDERBILT, of New York City, has given to the Harvard University Medical School for the new dormitories the sum of $575,000, in addition to the $125,000 that he gave last April for the installation of a gymnasium within the dormitories. Since the latest architects' estimate of the total cost of the land and buildings is $1,327,865, and since the building fund now has $445,000 and expects a contribution of $300,000 from the Harvard corporation, Mr. Vanderbilt's gift will permit immediate construction of this much-needed addition to the Medical School; with the entire expense provided for in advance. The plan to provide a special dormitory for the Harvard Medical School was first undertaken as long ago as September, 1923. Since that time subscriptions have been raised in the following amounts from the following sources:

1,486 doctors	$112,984
594 lay donors	207,026
Expected from Harvard University	300,000
Total	$620,010

The new dormitory will provide housing for 250 men, who are now occupying often unsuitable quarters in scattered sections of Boston and Cambridge. A dining hall will be included, which will be convertible into a medical auditorium. Here it is expected that physicians can be seen and heard by students, faculty, profession and public, and the larger medical societies may hold their future annual assemblies.

Moreover, it has been found that the regular weekly lectures given under the auspices of the school to the public at large have outgrown the present amphitheaters in the medical school, which accommodate only about 300. The large auditorium in the new dormitory will be available for the lectures hereafter.

Plans for the new building have been drawn by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott. Although these may be the final plans, the critical study and analysis of them has yet to be completed by the fund committee, by Dr. David L. Edsall, dean of the Harvard Medical School, and by other authorities.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

AS has already been reported in SCIENCE, the University of Cambridge, in connection with the meeting at Cambridge of the International Astronomical Union, conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon five leading members of the union. The ceremony took place in the Senate House on July 21, the vice-chancellor, Dr. A. C. Seward, master of Downing, presiding.

In presenting a general greeting to the astronomers, the public orator, Mr. T. R. Glover, as reported in the London *Times*, reminded them that they had come to the university of Newton, and further, he referred to the discussion between Adam and the Archangel in "Paradise Lost," turning upon the very problems to which the astronomers were giving their lives. He quoted in the version of "Gulielmus Hogaeus" (William Hog) the lines of the Archangel: "With centric and eccentric scribbled o'er." The Archangel, he said, was very properly on the side of eternity and willing