

than high water. Visher<sup>5</sup> has recently given instances of the concurrence of tropical cyclones and earthquakes. The large number of cases of this kind makes it impossible to ignore low barometric pressures in the study of earthquakes. It is the rainfall factor which should receive more consideration.

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NOTE: Since writing the above observations, the Montana earthquake of June 27 has occurred. It is noteworthy that Montana has been suffering for some time from a deficiency of precipitation.

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### ALLAN RIVERSTON McCULLOCH

THE news of the death in Honolulu of Mr. Allan Riverston McCulloch, curator of fishes in the Australian Museum and chief fishery expert of Australia, has lately reached his American friends and scientific associates. Mr. McCulloch was born in Sydney on June 20, 1855. For forty years he has been known as one of the leading naturalists in Australia, having particular charge of the fishes in the Australian Museum at Sydney. He is the author of numerous papers, the most important being "Deep Sea Explorations, of *The Woy Woy* (1907) and *The Endeavour* (1914, 1916, 1917)," and a descriptive record of the fishes of New South Wales (1914). With these were various papers descriptive of new forms in the Records of the Australian Museum. His work is throughout accurate, methodical and broad-minded, his interest extending beyond taxonomy to the general relations of fisheries. He kept for years a carefully arranged card catalogue of the fishes of the Pacific, and had planned a general descriptive work on the Australian species as well as a general list of the fishes of the Pacific.

Mr. McCulloch took part in several important exploring expeditions, having been with Sir Ernest Shackleton in some explorations, later with Frank Hurley in New Guinea, and still later on the great coral-bound Lord Howe Island. While in Lord Howe he had a severe illness and was granted by the museum a year's leave of absence for "recovering from mental breakdown." He came to Honolulu in July to attend a Fisheries Conference of the Pan-Pacific Union in September. The agenda for this conference he carefully prepared, and it has been accepted by his colleagues.

It is reported that while in Hawaii he had periods of exaltation followed by others of extreme depres-

<sup>5</sup> Visher, Stephen, "Tropical cyclones and earthquakes," Bull. Seis. Soc. Amer., Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 181-184, 1924.

sion, which seemed to indicate incipient loss of mind. Mr. Alexander Hume Ford, secretary of the Pan-Pacific Union, writes: "While a charming companion, he has been under a constant mental strain." While in this condition he shot himself, on September 6, at the age of seventy. He left behind a note saying "Something has gone wrong in my brain. I am afraid of madness. Therefore I am determined to end things." He explains the purchase of a revolver in order that no fault should be attributed to any associate.

McCulloch was a man of charming personality, with a good position, many friends and a record of worthy achievement. His further prospects were alluring. The only reason for his deed was a premonition of a wretched mental future, the beginning of which he had already felt.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE LONDON CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENARY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE *London Times* states that the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics held a meeting "on the initiative of the science section," in London on September 10 for the celebration of the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Sir Richard Gregory, who presided, said they were assembled to carry out a suggestion made to the science section of the society that while there was being celebrated in Leningrad and Moscow the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, those who were familiar with the scientific work and workers in Russia should assemble there in sympathy and congratulation on the attainment of the bicentenary. For two centuries the Academy of Sciences in Russia had kept alight the torch of learning, and although at times that torch might seem to have been flickering, it had never been extinguished. Speaking as an astronomer, so long as thirty years ago they in the astronomical world were astonished by some remarkable telescopic work carried out by the great Russian astronomer, Belopolsky. It might be news to some of those present to know that in continuation of that astronomical work there was being manufactured in this country at the present moment what would be the lens of the largest refracting telescope in the world to go to Russia. The largest at present was in the Yerkes Observatory in Chicago, which was 40 inches in diameter. The telescope now being constructed at the works of Sir Charles Parsons, in Newcastle, was