THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PREHISTORIC RESEARCH

DR. GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY returned to Yale University on October 5 after three months in Europe conducting the eighth summer session of the American School of Prehistoric Research, of which he is director. The season's work was confined to England, France and Spain.

Dr. MacCurdy announces that the school is to carry on field work during the late autumn and spring. This is being done through joint cooperation with two British institutions: (1) the Percy Sladen Fund; and, (2) the British School of Archeology at Jerusalem. The autumn expedition to Iraq is already in the field, the American School's representatives being Robert A. Franks, Jr., and Francis Turville-Petre. The representatives of the Percy Sladen Fund are Miss Dorothy A. E. Garrod and Mrs. Neil Baynes, O. B. E. All four have had experience in field work. Turville-Petre was the discoverer of the Neanderthal skull from Galilee; and it was Miss Garrod who discovered the remains of a Neanderthal child at Gibraltar in 1926. The district to be covered is Sulaimanieh, lying to the northeast of Bagdad.

The second cooperative project will be with the British School of Archeology at Jerusalem, the site being the cave of Shukbah on Mt. Ephraim, some seventeen miles northwest of Jerusalem. Miss Garrod, with the help of two former students of the American School of Prehistoric Research, has already dug one season at Shukbah, which turns out to be a station exceedingly rich in remains of both the Paleolithic and the Mesolithic Period.

Dr. MacCurdy brought back with him two tools of rock crystal that were fashioned by Neanderthal artisans perhaps a hundred thousand years ago, and dug from the "Abri des Merveilles" in the Dordogne by two of the students.

THE AMHERST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

ON September 12 the American Astronomical Society, at its annual meeting at Amherst, elected to honorary membership Henri Deslandres, director of the Paris Observatory. The constitution of the society permits only one such election a year and only seven living astronomers have been thus honored. Deslandres has been a pioneer in both stellar and solar spectroscopy. He was the first to see the necessity of controlling the temperature of a stellar spectrograph, and did so by allowing water from the city mains to flow around the instrument. He discovered the binary character of Delta Orionis. He invented simultaneously with Hale, and independently, the spectroheliograph; and shares with Hale the credit for the discovery of solar flocculi. He has also invented another instrument of somewhat similar character, which he has called the "spectrograph enregisteur," by which the radial velocities at all points of the solar surface can be measured. He founded the observatory at Meudon for the investigation of solar physics and has been its only director. In 1926, when B. Baillaud retired as director of the Paris Observatory, Deslandres was chosen to succeed him, and under his direction the two observatories of Paris and Meudon are now combined.

The following officers of the society for the ensuing year were elected:

President: E. W. Brown.
Vice-president: V. M. Slipher.
Secretary: R. S. Dugan.
Treasurer: Benjamin Boss.
Councilors: F. B. Littell, F. E. Ross.
Member Division of Physical Sciences, National Research Council: W. S. Eichelberger.

PRESENTATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL TO MR. EDISON

UNDER a resolution of Congress approved May 29, 1928, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized and directed to cause to be struck and presented to Thomas A. Edison a gold medal. Several designs were submitted to the treasury for consideration. Secretary Mellon has approved the design executed by John R. Sinnock, Philadelphia, Pa., and such approval is concurred in by the Commission of Fine Arts. The medal is now being prepared in the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Formal presentation of the medal will be made in Mr. Edison's laboratory, West Orange, N. J., on Saturday evening, October 20.. Preceding the ceremonies in West Orange a short address will be broadcast by President Coolidge over a nation-wide hookup of radio stations, contributed by the General Electric Company, and the program will then be transferred to the Edison laboratory at West Orange, from which the remainder of the program will be broadcast. Presentation of the medal will be made by Secretary Mellon, and the ceremony in West Orange will also include an address by a person of national prominence. The ceremonies will probably occupy the period of one hour, beginning at 9 P. M., Eastern Standard time.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Morris Liebmann Memorial Prize of the Institute of Radio Engineers has been awarded to Professor W. G. Cady, head of the department of physics at Wesleyan University, for his investigations in the field of piezo-electric phenomena. The prize will be