

hawk. They wear tall caps of tapir skin and adorn their necks with strings of bones and teeth. They are somewhat undersized, prognathic and brachycephalic.

Strange to say, their language was not studied, the small vocabulary given, which is Guarani, being probably a blunder. Dr. Ehrenreich, from whose article in *Globus* I borrow the notice, inclines to believe them allied to the Botocudos.

D. G. BRINTON.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE act of incorporation of the Washington Academy of Sciences states that its object is the promotion of science with power :

- a. To acquire, hold and convey real estate and other property, and to establish general and special funds.
- b. To hold meetings.
- c. To publish and distribute documents.
- d. To conduct lectures.
- e. To conduct, endow or assist investigation in any department of science.
- f. To acquire and maintain a library.
- g. And, in general, to transact any business pertinent to an academy of sciences.

The nucleus of 75 members elected by the Joint Commission held the first meeting of the Academy on February 16th, when officers were elected as follows: *President*, J. R. EASTMAN; *Secretary*, G. K. GILBERT; *Treasurer*, BERNARD R. GREEN; *Managers*, Alexander Graham Bell, Frank Baker, F. W. Clarke, C. Hart Merriam, H. S. Pritchett, George M. Sternberg, Charles D. Walcott, Lester F. Ward and Carroll D. Wright. The seven Vice-Presidents will be nominated by the seven affiliated societies—Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, National Geographic, Geological, Entomological and Philosophical. The nucleus of 75 will probably be considerably enlarged at the next meeting by the addition, as original members, of persons nominated by a committee appointed for that purpose at the last meeting.

THE New York Academy of Sciences held its annual meeting on February 28th, when the retiring President, Professor J. J. Stevenson, made an address on 'The World's Debt to Pure

Science.' The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: *President*, HENRY F. OSBORN; *1st Vice-President*, NATHANIEL L. BRITTON; *2d Vice-President*, JAMES F. KEMP; *Corresponding Secretary*, RICHARD E. DODGE; *Treasurer*, CHARLES F. COX; *Librarian*, ARTHUR HOLLICK.

THE New York Zoological Society has secured the \$100,000 needed to enable it to take possession of the site provided by the city for a Zoological Garden. The total amount subscribed is \$103,550. There have been thirteen \$5,000 subscriptions by Levi P. Morton, W. K. Vanderbilt, Oswald Ottendorfer, Percy R. Pyne, William E. Dodge, Robert Goellet, J. Pierpont Morgan, Jacob H. Schiff, William D. Sloane, William C. Whitney, C. P. Huntington, Henry A. C. Taylor and George J. Gould. According to the terms of the agreement between the Society and the city, as effected last year with the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, the Society is under obligation to raise \$250,000 for buildings and collections, of which sum \$100,000 must be in the Society's treasury on or before March 24, 1898, and it was agreed that the Society could not take possession of the site until that amount had been provided.

WE regret to learn that Professor W. A. Rogers, the physicist, is dangerously ill.

DR. RUDOLF LEUCKART, professor of zoology at Leipzig, died on February 7th at Leipzig, at the age of seventy-four years.

WE also regret to record the death of Professor Knud Styffe, Director of the School of Technology at Stockholm, and of M. P. B. L. Verlot, the botanist, at Verrières-les-Brusson.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has passed resolutions expressing regret at the death of the publisher Jean-Albert Gauthier-Villars and their appreciation of the value to science of his services in publishing works such as those of Lagrange, Fermat, Fourier, Cauchy and others.

It wished to raise by international subscription a fund for a memorial to the late Edmund Drechsel, the eminent physiological chemist, and for the education of his two sons. Subscriptions may be sent to Professor Kronecke, University of Berlin.

A MEMORIAL will be erected in the chemical laboratory of Bonn to August Kekulé, who for

nearly thirty years was professor of chemistry at Bonn. Contributions may be sent either to the Treasurer of the German Chemical Society, Dr. J. F. Holtz, Müllerstrasse, Berlin, N.

THE will of the late Dr. Harrison Allen bequeathes his valuable collection of mammals to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

DR. E. C. SEGUIN, the pathologist and neurologist, who died recently in New York, has, by his will, given his instruments and books to Columbia University and the New York Academy of Medicine.

WE learn from *Nature* that the German Emperor, as King of Prussia, has conferred upon Dr. John Murray, Director of the Scottish Marine Station, and formerly of the *Challenger* expedition, the rare distinction of knighthood in the Order *Pour le Mérite*, founded by Frederick the Great. This is generally allowed to be the highest honor which a man of science can receive, and is limited to thirty German and twenty-five foreign knights. Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister and Sir G. G. Stokes are the only other British men of science now alive who have received the Order. Dr. Murray has also been elected a Foreign Member of the Imperial Russian Academy of Sciences.

M. FRANCHET has been elected President of the Botanical Society of France.

IN connection with the completion of his 25th year of office as Woodwardian professor of geology at Cambridge, it was proposed to present Professor T. M'Kenny Hughes with an illuminated address, to be presented at a public dinner held in London on the 26th of February. Sir Archibald Geikie has consented to preside.

PROFESSOR O. MATTIROLIOT has been appointed Director of the Botanical Garden and Museum of Florence.

THE tenth Congress of Russian Men of Science and Physicians will be held at Kieff from August 21st to 30th, under the presidency of Professor J. Rachmaninow.

THE third Congress of the Italian Geographical Association will meet at Florence, beginning on April 12th. The quarter centenary of the discoverers Toscanelli and Vespucci will be

celebrated as part of the proceedings of the Congress.

THE twenty-seventh Congress of the German Surgical Society will be held in Berlin, from April 13th to 16th, under the presidency of Professor Trendelenburg, of Leipzig. In connection with the Congress there will be an exhibition of preparations, instruments, etc., and a display of Röntgen photographs.

AN International Congress on Commercial Education will be held at Antwerp on April 14th-16th, with the Belgian Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Industry as Honorary Presidents. The Congress is especially designed to give to business men, to teachers of commercial subjects, and to representatives of central and local educational authorities, an opportunity of discussing the curriculum and methods which should be adopted in commercial schools of different grades. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Congress, Monsieur Emile Roost, 120 Boulevard Léopold, Antwerp.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY has appointed and commissioned J. W. Collins, of Massachusetts, to represent the United States at the International Fisheries Exposition, to be held in Bergen, Norway, from May to September of this year.

THE 51st annual meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers was held recently in the hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster. The chair was occupied during the earlier portions of the proceedings by Mr. E. W. Richards, the retiring President, who introduced Mr. Edgar Worthington, the newly-elected Secretary, to the meeting. The report stated that at the end of last year the number of names on the roll was 2,496, as compared with 2,359 at the end of the previous year. During 1897 227 names were added, the loss by death being 30, and by resignation or removal 60. The receipts during the year were £7,656, and the expenditure £6,202. The total investments and other assets amounted to £72,329, and after deducting therefrom £25,000, due on debentures and other sums, the capital amounted to £44,229. It was proposed to hold this year's summer meeting of the Institution at Derby. The result of the ballot for the

election of the Council was announced, Mr. S. W. Johnson being elected President, and Mr. Arthur Keene and Sir William White, Vice-Presidents.

A MAGNETIC observatory with an excellent equipment has been recently fitted up in the Parc Saint-Maur, Paris. But M. Mascott was compelled to announce recently at the Paris Academy that the City Council had given permission to an electric railway to pass near the observatory, which will entirely destroy its usefulness.

*Nature* states that on December 18, 1897, a hall was opened at Bologna for the reception of the herbaria, preparations and sections of the botanist Aldrovandi. It has been erected at the cost of the city and province.

THE bacteriological laboratory established in Constantinople by Pasteur at the request of the Sultan has been reopened after a period of neglect. This action has been taken after protests by the Imperial Society of Medicine and the French Chargé d' Affaires. It is said that the work of the laboratory will now be extended under Dr. Nicole.

MME. EMILE DURAND has given \$7,500 to the Pasteur Institute for the purpose of making further researches on tuberculosis. The donation has been accepted.

THE weekly mortality for the plague at Bombay is now over 1,000, while the total number of deaths is over 2,000. The rate of the city is 120 per thousand inhabitants.

THE item in the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill under consideration at Washington provides \$520,000 for the representation of the United States at the Paris Exposition of 1900. Germany proposes to spend about \$1,250,000, and the English government has announced its intention of asking an appropriation of \$375,000. A Royal Commission to provide for the representation of Great Britain has been appointed, which includes Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister, Sir John Lubbock and other men of science.

AN amendment to the Sundry Civil Service Bill authorizes the holding of a National Exposition of American Products and Manu-

factures, especially suitable for export, in Philadelphia in 1899. The amendment carries an appropriation of \$350,000, of which \$300,000 is to be used to provide buildings for the Exposition and the remaining \$50,000 to be expended in collecting exhibits.

THE party that has been collecting specimens of natural history in the Galapagos Islands, on behalf of the Frank Blake Webster Company, of Hyde Park, Mass., have returned, having, it is said, secured valuable collections.

THE *Publisher's Weekly* gives details of the books published in the United States during 1897. The number of new books was 4,171, being 1,018 fewer than in 1896. The decrease has been especially noticeable in fiction, belles-lettres and political science. There was, however, an increase in 'physical and mathematical science,' which apparently includes the natural sciences, the number of new books being 166, as compared with 136 in 1896.

THE F. A. Stokes Company will publish in April an account of Lieutenant Peary's seven arctic expeditions.

THE *Osprey*, the first volume of which was published at Galesburg, Ill., has been removed to New York City, the offices being at 141 East 25th Street.

THE Maryland State Historical Society was organized at Baltimore on January 26th, and the following officers were elected: President, Charles G. Biggs, Sharpsburg; Vice-President, Captain R. S. Emory, Chestertown; Secretary and Treasurer, James S. Harris, Kent county. Vice-Presidents were chosen by the delegates from the twenty-three counties of the State, thus giving a complete representation. A Legislative Committee, composed of J. P. Blessing, C. L. Rogers, E. A. Pry, Henry Brown and W. A. Shipley, was authorized to petition for an appropriation of \$500 annually to aid in its work. The first business to come before the organization was the report of the Legislative Committee appointed by order of the convention. The chief recommendations of the report were as follows: "To provide for the formation of a Maryland State Horticultural Department; to protect the horticultural interests of the State of Maryland in the suppression and ex-

termination of the San José scale, peach yellows, pear blight and other injurious insect pests and plant diseases, and to create the offices of State Entomologist, State Vegetable Pathologist and State Horticulturist, and to appropriate a sum of money therefor. The professors of entomology, vegetable pathology and horticulture of the Maryland Agricultural College and the Experiment Station shall be the State officers and the department shall be under the control of the State Agricultural College, to whom the State officers shall be responsible. Notice, in writing, of infection is to be given to owners, and if not attended to after ten days the State officers shall act and the cost be added to the tax bill and collected as is other taxation. All nurseries of the State are to be inspected at least once in six months, and where found apparently free from insect pests and disease the owners shall be given certificates to such effect. Both Entomologist and Pathologist must make an annual report of inspection to the Governor of the State, this to be published as a Bulletin of the Experiment Station. The appropriation asked for carrying this into effect is \$8,000 for the first year and \$6,000 for each year after. Attention was also called to the 'clause' in the Game Law, which will permit boys to shoot robins, larks, doves and flickers at any time, and a resolution was unanimously adopted that 'members of the State Legislature be invoked to reject that section of the resolution which refers to these birds;' also, that the insectivorous birds shall be named, and their being killed or offered for sale shall be counted a misdemeanor and made punishable by fine.'

*The Electrical World* gives a summary of a report in the *Elektrische Zeitschrift* of the work in electricity of the German Reichsanstalt during the past two years. Much work was done in connection with the standard ohm, and this may now be considered concluded, the determination of the ohm for that institution being now assured. Comparisons were made to determine the constancy of the wire and mercury secondary standards; these have been repeatedly compared, and gave very good results, as before; those of wire are almost all of manganin and show that this material, besides having a very small temperature coefficient, has a very good

constancy, and is therefore well suited for exact measurements. Under standard cells it is stated that both the Clark and Weston cells were carefully examined, and the previous results were confirmed that the cells are constant and reproducible to 1 in 10,000; the dependence of the voltage of the cadmium cell on the composition of the amalgam was also investigated, also the effect of warming the cells. An absolute determination of the Clark cell was made with the Helmholtz electro-dynamometer, it being a repetition of the previous one; the results differed by less than 1 in 1,000 from the values obtained with the silver voltameter and showed that the absolute measurements of current agreed with those made by other methods. The determination of the E. M. F. of the Clark cell with the silver voltameter showed the difficulties involved, and if these are not taken into account the results are uncertain to 1 in 1,000. The magnetization of iron and steel in weak fields was investigated, and with annealed and hard cast steel and with cast iron a straight line relation was found, while for hard and soft wrought iron the relation was not so simple. The electric conductivity of solutions was also examined, and the results show that the electric current is very suitable for scientific research with solutions and in chemistry, being in some respects superior to other methods in analyses.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY Day at the University of Pennsylvania, annually celebrated on Washington's Birthday, was this year the occasion of an address by President McKinley, who reviewed the services of Washington to the nation and to education and the importance of education to national life.

COMMEMORATION Day was also celebrated at Johns Hopkins University on Washington's Birthday. In the course of an address President Gilman said that, in accordance with the wishes of many of its friends and supporters, taxpayers and citizens of Maryland, the Johns Hopkins University has decided to present a statement of its financial condition to the Legislature of Maryland to ask for State aid. Through the failure of the Baltimore and Ohio