

it is not clear where the limit of congestion will be found.

Between the lines of the article referred to, the imagination is tempted to read a hint of a desire for that rank and dominance in the Association which the members of Sigma Xi attained in university circles, and it is not unnatural to anticipate that the fraternity might unconsciously play a part in Association politics not unlike that for which Greek-letter societies are famous throughout the university world. To those who pride themselves upon rank and band themselves together because of rank it is not unnatural that official expressions of rank should be sought through the unconscious influence of fraternization.

It is not altogether foreign to the subject of this discussion to note the increasing encroachments of formal social functions upon the meetings of the Association and not less perhaps upon the meetings of the Geological Society of America. Without doubt a certain measure of formal contact with general society is helpful to the ends sought by the Association. At the same time it must be recognized that formal social functions are largely the province of the leisure class and that from the very nature of the case they remain so, for leisure and the means of leisure are prerequisite to their effective cultivation. Equally from the nature of the case, the devotees of science do not usually belong to the leisure class because real success in science involves strenuous endeavor and an almost unlimited devotion of time. The diversion of time to social functions during the meetings of the Association should, therefore, be zealously watched and restrained within limits which are compatible with the efficient conduct of the primary purposes of the Association. Particularly is this true of the Geological Society which has no organic relation to general society. The movement in the direction of social formality has already crowded hard upon the point where the first requisite preparation for a meeting of the Association or of the Geological Society is the packing of a dress suit, and the second is the preparation of an after-dinner speech, preparations that are none too congenial to the great mass of hard workers in science.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A BUST in bronze of M. de Lacaze-Duthiers was presented to him on July 1st by representatives of the University of Barcelona, consisting of the rector M. de Luanco and Professors Lozana, Mundi, Arazona, Lopez-Sancho and de Odan Buen. M. Gréard, vice-rector of the university of Paris, M. Frederic of Liège, M. Delage of the university of Paris and M. Leygues minister of public instruction, made addresses to which M. de Lacaze-Duthiers replied.

DR. J. HOWARD GORE, professor of mathematics and geodesy at Columbian University, Washington, has been appointed by President Loubet, juror-in-chief of the Court of Appeal of the Paris Exposition. He is already juror-in-chief of the International Congresses for the United States.

ON the occasion of the celebration of its centenary, the University of New Brunswick, at Frederickton, conferred an honorary degree on Dr. J. G. Adami, professor of pathology in McGill University.

DR. BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, of the University of California, has returned from his visit to the East, during which he was given the LL.D. degree by Harvard and Brown universities.

MR. JOHN C. MERRIAM is at present in the fossil fields of eastern Oregon, where he has charge of an expedition making paleontological collections for the University of California.

DR. HERMANN TRIEPEL has been appointed prosector at the Anatomical Institute at Greifswald.

THE death is announced of Mr. Georges Marye, curator of the museum at Algiers.

THE Rev. Thomas D. Weems, of Decatur, Ill., has given his archæological collection, numbering eleven hundred and forty specimens, to the Powell Museum of the Illinois Wesleyan University. The collection contains figures, vases, pictured stones, ceremonial stones, tablets, pipes, arrowpoints, spearpoints, celts, sinkers, knives, saws, hammers, scrapers, plummets, discoidals, mortars, pestles and copper, bone and shell implements and ornaments.

The Rev. Dr. John A. Kumler, of Springfield, Ill., has offered to provide for the cases to contain the above collection.

A SOCIETY for School Hygiene has been established in Germany and will hold its first meeting at Aix la Chapelle, in connection with the meeting of German Men of Science and Physicians beginning on September 17th.

THE position of physicist in the Geological Survey will be filled by a civil service examination on August 21st and 22d. The salary of the office is \$1800 per annum. The subject of examinations and the weights are as follows :

1. English (essay).....	8
2. German	8
3. French.....	8
4. Laboratory training.....	28
5. Mathematics.....	20
6. General physics.....	28
Total.....	100

A TELEGRAM was received on July 24th at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor W. R. Brooks at Geneva, N. Y., stating that a bright comet was discovered by him July 23d at 13^h (presumably Eastern time), in R. A. 2^h 43^m 40^s and Dec. + 12° 30'. Motion northerly. Stellar nucleus and tail. A subsequent letter from Professor Brooks states that he found the position of his new comet July 26, 13^h 25^m Eastern time (18^h 25^m Greenwich Mean Time) to be in R. A. 2^h 46^m 30^s and Dec. + 21° 1'.

THE Conference Scientia, an informal society organized at Paris for social purposes, held its sixth meeting on June 28th, the occasion being a banquet in honor of M. Darboux, the eminent mathematician. An address was made by M. Ch. Richet to which M. Darboux replied.

MORE than 300 papers have already been offered for the meeting of German Men of Science and Physicians which takes place at Aix la Chapelle beginning on September 17th. General addresses will be made by Professor Van't Hoff, Berlin, on the 'Development of Chemistry'; by Professor Oscar Hertwig, Berlin, on the 'Development of Biology'; by Professor Naunyn, Strasburg, on 'Internal Medicine including Bacteriology and Hygiene,' and by Professor Chiari, Prague, on 'Pathological Anatomy and External Medicine.'

AT a recent meeting of the Museums Association at Canterbury, Professor W. M. Flinders Petrie advocated his plan of building large but inexpensive sheds to house ethnological and archæological material. The plan is to acquire about a square mile of land within an hour's ride of London and to begin to build large galleries uniformly on what might be called a gridiron plan. The proposed galleries should be about 54 feet wide and 400 feet apart, so that after completion there would be room for additions six times as large on the intermediate ground. The plan would involve the construction of about 400 feet of gallery per year, or eight miles in the century, leaving six times the space to be covered by irregular additions as required. The financial demands of the scheme for land, building and staff might be met by a fixed charge of £10,000 per year.

THE report of Commissioner of Patents Duell for the fiscal year ended June 30th last shows a total of 25,540 patents granted, including reissues and designs. The receipts of the office were \$1,358,228, and a surplus of \$110,402 was turned into the treasury.

FOR the past two months an installation of wireless telegraphy has been in operation at the lighthouse at Borkum and the light ship 20 miles away. Communication is established with the North German Lloyd Steamship *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* in its voyage into and out of Bremenhaven and other shipping news is transmitted. This is the only wireless telegraphy installation transmitting ordinary intelligence on a commercial footing.

THE Chancellor of the German Empire has issued an ordinance to the effect that the Réaumur thermometer will not be admitted to official control after January 1, 1901. This will lead to the exclusive use of the centigrade thermometer in Germany.

LIEUTENANT PEARY'S relief steamer *Windward*, has entered the harbor at Port au Basques, at the southwest extremity of the island, with part of her machinery disabled. Pieces to replace the broken sections have arrived, but it will probably require a few days to make the necessary repairs. The delay may

seriously disarrange the ship's plans for reaching the far north.

THERE is again a new universal language to rival Volapük and Spokil, and which calls itself Bolak, in English the 'blue language' or 'the language colour of heavens.' We quote from the English circular issued from Paris. This language appears to be the joint production of Léon Bollack and Raoul de la Grasserie. The following extract is from the same circular :

"To give to all the possibility of receiving news from whole the world and of understanding them *without any translator*.

"To give to all the possibility of crossing whole the world and of making themselves understood *without any interpreter*.

"And a more generous IDEAL may be reached, owing to the coming of an INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE which, letting remain the *native idiom* of each one, would become the unique FOREIGN LANGUAGE for ALL.

"It is indeed obvious to understand that this *facility of comprehension* between persons of different nationalities will forcibly raise a Holy Communion of thoughts and of pacification among peoples dealing together."

But we of the English tongue naturally ask why not adopt English as the universal language, since it is already more universal than any language has ever been in the history of the world?

THE daily papers report that Indians hunting on the east coast of Hudson Bay, north of Fort George, in the early spring, have a story that may eventually give the history of the fate of Andrée and his companions. Mr. George Renison, returning from Moose Factory, the Hudson Bay Company's post on the west coast of James Bay, says that the last packet from York Factory brought word that the Indians had found a quantity of wreckage, the bodies of two men and a man in the last stages of death. The Indians could not understand the language he spoke, but it was not English. He died while they were there, and they returned to their post without bringing away any evidence of the strange occurrence. As the Indians had never seen a balloon, the nature of the wreckage was judged only from descriptions given by them, but Mr. Renison says they described ac-

curately a car and other fixtures that could belong to nothing else. Hudson Bay Company officers are firmly convinced that it is the Andrée party, and have sent out men, guided by the same Indians, to find and bring back evidence to establish the identity of the party.

A BRITISH Parliamentary paper has been published giving details of experiments performed on living animals in 1899. It appears from the abstract in the London *Times* that the total number of licenses in England and Scotland was 250, of whom 72 performed no experiments. Tables I. and II. give the names of all persons who held licenses during 1899. These tables afford evidence (1) that licenses and certificates have been granted and allowed only upon the recommendation of persons of high scientific standing; (2) that the licensees are persons who, by their training and education, are fitted to undertake experimental work and to profit by it; (3) that all experimental work has been conducted in suitable places. Table III. shows the number and the nature of the experiments performed by each licensee mentioned in Table I., specifying whether these experiments were done under the license alone or under any special certificate, so that the reader may judge which experiments (if any) were of a painful nature. Table III. is divided into two parts, A and B, for the purpose of separating experiments which are performed without anaesthetics from experiments in which anaesthetics are used. The only experiments performed without anaesthetics are inoculations, hypodermic injections, vaccinations, and similar proceedings, in which the pain inflicted is not greater than the prick of a needle. No experiments requiring anything of the nature of a surgical operation, or that would cause the infliction of an appreciable amount of pain, are allowed to be performed without an anaesthetic. The total number of experiments included in Table III. (A) is 1656. Of these there were performed under license alone 820, under certificate C 182, under certificate B 449, under certificate B + EE 205. In experiments performed under the license alone, or under certificate C, the animal suffers no pain, because it is kept under the influence of an anaesthetic from the beginning of the experiment

until it is killed. In experiments performed under certificate B (or EE or F linked with B) the animal is anæsthetized during the operation but is allowed to recover. The number of inoculations for the diagnosis of rabies performed in 1899 was 164, the steady decrease during recent years noticed in the report for 1898 having been maintained. Table III. (B) is devoted entirely to inoculations, hypodermic injections, and some few other proceedings performed without anæsthetics. It includes 6813 experiments. The total number of experiments (8469) is somewhat less than in 1898 (9151). The licensees were found in all cases to be desirous of acting in strict accordance with the spirit as well as the letter both of the Act and of the special conditions attached to their licenses. In Ireland nine licenses were in existence during 1899. Of these four expired, one was renewed, and two new licenses were granted. The experiments performed were 227 in number, 79 being under license alone and 148 under certificates. Two licensees performed no experiments. The animals experimented on were 171 rabbits, 43 dogs, 12 guinea-pigs, and one rat. The experiments appear to have been of a useful character, and either painless or painful only to a slight extent. The bulk of them were inoculations for the diagnosis of diseases, such as canine rabies and tuberculosis.

THE Moscow Society of Physiologists, a branch of the Imperial Society of Friends of Natural Science, has, according to the *British Medical Journal*, undertaken to issue a journal entitled *Le Physiologiste Russe*, which is intended to make the work of members of the Society in physiology, physiological chemistry, histology, embryology, general pathology, and pharmacology known to that large section of the scientific world to which Russian is an unknown tongue. Original papers will be published in French or German; and summaries of all Russian work appearing elsewhere will be given in French. The first volume, which has already been issued, contains papers from the laboratories of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Tomsk. Among the writers are Professor Morokowitz, head of the Physiological Institute of Moscow, and editor of the journal; Professors Setschenow,

Bogdanoff, Salaskine, Chalfeieff, and Kulagin. *Le Physiologiste Russe* is sent gratuitously to all institutes of physiology, pathology, and pharmacology. As giving some idea of the relative numbers of such institutes in different countries, it is interesting to note that Austria receives 31 copies, Great Britain, 23, Germany 46, France 42, other European countries 59, the United States 29, South America 4, Asia 5, Australia 3, Africa 1. *Le Physiologiste Russe* is published and distributed with the help of contributions from friends of biological science, who have subscribed a capital sum of £2000 for the purpose.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

LORD CALTHROPE and his son have given to the University of Birmingham about 25 acres of land for its scientific department. The site is very suitable, permitting the establishment of the department nearer to the center of the city than would otherwise have been possible.

MR. EWAN RICHARDS FRAZER, of Balliol College, is announced as the donor of £5000 for a pathological laboratory at Oxford.

TRINITY COLLEGE has received from Mr. J. M. Allen, of Hartford, a complete set of the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE trustees of Iowa State College in their annual session made the following additions to the faculty of the college: H. J. Burt of the University of Illinois, assistant professor of civil engineering, this being a new chair; B. S. Lamphear of Cornell University, assistant professor in electrical engineering; Lewis E. Young of Pennsylvania State College, instructor in mining engineering; I. A. Williams of Iowa State College, 1898, instructor in mining engineering.

THE vacancy at Toronto University caused by the retirement of Professor Pike from the chair of chemistry has been filled by the appointment of Mr. William R. Lang, who has for some years filled the position of lecturer in organic chemistry at Glasgow University.

PROFESSOR BRIEGER has been appointed to the newly established chair of hydrotherapy at Berlin University.