

Wiechert (Göttingen), and von Zittel (Munich).

THE monthly general meeting of the Zoological Society of London was held on May 23, Dr. Henry Woodward, vice-president, in the chair. It was stated that there had been 173 additions made to the Society's menagerie during the month of April, among which special attention was directed to two pairs of the beautiful grey teal (*Querquedula versicolor*), of the Argentine Republic, obtained by purchase. After the proceedings of the usual monthly general meeting had terminated Professor J. Cossar Ewart delivered a lecture on 'Horses and Zebras.'

MR. EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE writes to the editor of the London *Times* as follows: In the new volumes of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' is reproduced in the articles 'Egyptology' a tablet of Mena dating from the first dynasty, or about 4700 B.C., and is the oldest written sentence yet discovered. In 'A History of Egypt, by W. M. Flinders Petrie,' the author, referring to the Egyptian artists of the fourth dynasty, says: 'They did not make a work of art as such, but they rivalled nature as closely as possible.' Two figures—a bull and a deer—on the tablet of Mena afford a remarkable confirmation of the professor's statement, in regard to the knowledge and expression of motion by the sculptor of this age. A bull striving to attain his utmost speed is represented in a phase of movement, which after a lapse of 66 centuries is reproduced in a photo-engraving illustrating some consecutive phases in the stride of a horse, published in the 'Century Dictionary' under the heading of 'Gallop,' and in the 'Standard Dictionary' in its definition of 'Movement.' The phase employed by the Egyptian artist has been, until recent years, very rarely used in art; the nearest approach to it that I can at this moment recall is in a fresco painting on the walls of the Campo Santo at Pisa, supposed to have been executed at Pisano. It, like the Mena tablet, illustrates a phase of the transverse gallop—a system of motion adopted by the horse, the ox, and the greater number of animals, whether

single toed, cloven or soft-footed, when they exert their utmost power to attain their highest speed. In the lowest line of figures on the tablet is a deer, evidently jumping over an obstacle. The animal is represented with all its legs, flexed, in pairs, under its body. A precisely similar phase may be found in a series, in the library of the British Museum, demonstrating a jump which sometimes takes place in the rotary gallop of the deer, which system of motion is always used by the deer and also by the dog, when from caprice or necessity they endeavor to make rapid progress. This distinctive method of galloping was unknown, and, indeed, unsuspected by us moderns, until revealed by photographic investigation of animal locomotion; but it was apparently well known to the early artists of Egypt.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

YALE UNIVERSITY has received for the Sheffield Scientific School a new building for mineralogy, geology and physiography. The donor and the value of the building are not announced, but it is to be known as Kirtland Hall, in memory of the late Professor Jared Potter Kirtland. Professor Kirtland, who was a Yale graduate of the class of 1815, and died in 1877, was professor of the theory and practice of medicine in Ohio Medical College and in Western Reserve College. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and served on the geological survey of Ohio. Plans for the new building show a four-story structure of 95 feet front and 65 feet depth. It will be of plain red brick, with white marble and other stone trimmings. Designs were made by Kirtland Kelsey Cutter of Spokane, a great grandson of Professor Kirtland. The main floor will be devoted to mineralogy, the second floor to inorganic and physical geology, the third to physical geography and physiography, and the basement to mining.

A NEW building, chiefly for surgery, is to be erected for the Johns Hopkins Medical School at a cost of \$100,000.

BOYLSTON Hall, the chemical laboratory of Harvard University, has been much overcrowded during the last two years. There is about to be added a wing 83 x 33 ft. which will be used by the elementary classes until a new building is constructed.

MR. ROBERT S. BROOKINGS and others have presented to Washington University a building which was erected for the use of the St. Louis Club. This building will now be used for the Washington University Club, an organization including professors, male graduates and students of Washington University. The annual dues will be \$5.00. The Club will also provide board for students whose homes are not in the city of St. Louis. An effort will be made to bring representatives of all departments of the University together in this club, to afford good board at reasonable prices, and make the club a home for the graduate and undergraduate students of the University.

THE late Henry S. Morton, president of the Stevens Institute, has bequeathed his scientific instruments to the institute.

CUSHING Academy at Ashburnham, Mass., has received a legacy estimated at from \$200,000 to \$400,000 by the will of Jacob H. Fairbanks of Fitchburg. The town of Ashburnham receives \$40,000 for a memorial town hall.

IN the abstract of the accounts recently submitted to Convocation, the total benefactions at Oxford University last year are announced to be £2 13s. 4d., an increase of 8d. over the previous year.

THE U. S. Military Academy at West Point will celebrate its centennial next week. The president of the United States will be present, and the leading universities and scientific schools will be represented by their presidents.

HEREAFTER Latin will not be required as part of the matriculation examination of the University of London. Logic, drawing, advanced mathematics and geography are added to the subjects that may be elected.

SEVERAL alterations in the regulations for the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge

University have been passed, including the proposal that, in arranging the class list for the second part of the examination, the examiners may place a candidate in the first class for proficiency in one of the following branches of science: chemistry, physics, mineralogy, geology, zoology and comparative anatomy, human anatomy, physiology. This was opposed but carried by two votes, the numbers being—placet 75, non-placet 73. Under the old regulations no candidate was placed in the first class for proficiency in one subject unless he had a competent knowledge of some other subject.

THE following degrees were conferred at the University of Colorado on June 5: M.A. 6, M.S. 2, B.A. 3, B.S. 8, B.Ph. 19, B.S. in engineering 8, LL.B. 12, M.D. 13. A new department of mechanical engineering has been added to the engineering school.

DR. JOHN DEWEY, professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago, has been appointed to the office of director of the School of Education, made vacant by the death of Col. Francis W. Parker.

THE Rev. Dr. G. P. Denton, president of the Upper Iowa University, has been elected president of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. The Rev. Norman Plass, of Williamstown, Mass., has been elected president of Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas.

ARTHUR BYRON COBLE, fellow in mathematics in the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed to the chair of mathematics in the University of Missouri.

DR. JOSIAH ROYCE, professor of philosophy at Harvard University, will deliver the commencement address at Iowa College, Grinnell, at which time the new president, Dr. E. F. Bradley, will be installed.

PROFESSOR MENSCHUTKIN, who holds the chair of chemistry in the University of St. Petersburg, and Professor van Geer, who holds the chair of mathematics in the University of Leiden, have retired from the active duties of their professorships.

MR. T. B. WOOD, of Gonville and Caius College, has been appointed reader in agricultural chemistry at Cambridge University.