

many species develop rapidly. *Psorophora* and *Conchylites* may reach maturity in five or six days after hatching.

The above is based upon observation made upon as many as nineteen species.

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#### THE CONVOCATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

IT seems scarcely necessary to call attention once more to the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Naturalists and the special societies which are about to open their sessions at Washington. We have published the announcement of the local committee, and there will be found above some details in regard to the meetings of the societies. We have so often laid stress on the supreme importance of our societies as a factor in the advancement and diffusion of science that it is scarcely possible to say more than has already been said. All our readers know that the national scientific societies have hitherto met in two groups—the American Association and its affiliated societies in the summer and the American Society of Naturalists, with most of the societies devoted to the biological sciences, in the winter. These two great groups of scientific societies will this year meet together during convocation week at the chief scientific center of the country. Under these circumstances the meetings will be the largest and most important ever held on this continent.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. GEORGE W. HILL, of Nyack, N. Y., and Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society. The other foreign

members elected at the recent annual meeting are: Professor W. C. Brögger, Professor Gaston Darboux, Professor Ewald Hering, Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen, Graf H. zu Solms-Laubach and Professor Julius Thomsen.

M. DESLANDRES, of the astrophysical observatory at Meudon, has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late M. Faye.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER has offered his resignation as member of parliament for the University of London.

SIR OLIVER LODGE has been appointed the next Romanes lecturer at Oxford University.

THE German Emperor has conferred the Royal Order of the Crown of Prussia, third class, upon Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, founder and director of the Blue Hill Observatory, in recognition of his participation in the international work of exploring the atmosphere.

THE subject for the annual discussion before the American Society of Naturalists, which will be held on the afternoon of January 1, is 'How can Endowments be used most Effectively for Scientific Research?' The speakers are Professors T. C. Chamberlin, W. H. Welch, W. M. Wheeler, Franz Boas, J. C. Coulter and Hugo Münsterberg. The public lecture will be given on Tuesday evening by Dr. C. Hart Merriam, his subject being 'Protective and Directive Coloration of Animals, especially in Birds and Mammals.'

DR. ARTHUR W. GOODSPEED, professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected president of the Röntgen Ray Society.

DR. A. H. SMITH has been elected president of the New York Academy of Medicine and Dr. M. Allen Starr, vice-president.

DR. PEARCE BAILEY has been elected president of the New York Neurological Society.

MR. H. C. RUSSELL, F.R.S., is at present president of the Royal Society of New South Wales, having succeeded Professor A. Liveridge, F.R.S.