

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Philosophical Society will celebrate, at Philadelphia, from April 17 to 20, the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. The program is as follows:

Tuesday, April 17.—8 P.M.: Meeting for reception of delegates and of addresses.

Wednesday, April 18.—10 A.M. and 2 P.M.: General meeting for presentation of papers on subjects of science. 8 P.M.: Addresses—'Franklin's Researches in Electricity,' by Edward L. Nichols, Ph.D.; 'Modern Theories of Electricity and their relation to the Franklinian Theory,' by Ernest Rutherford, D.Sc., F.R.S.

Thursday, April 19.—11 A.M.: Conferring of honorary degrees by the University of Pennsylvania. 3 P.M.: Ceremonies at the grave of Franklin. 9 P.M.: General reception.

Friday, April 20.—11 A.M.: Addresses on Franklin as—'Citizen and Philanthropist,' by Horace Howard Furness, Litt.D.; 'Printer and Philosopher,' by Charles William Eliot, LL.D.; 'Statesman and Diplomatist,' by Joseph Hodges Choate, LL.D., D.C.L. 7 P.M.: Banquet.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. EWALD HERING, professor of physiology at Leipzig, has been made a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg.

It is proposed to invite Mr. John Sargent to paint a portrait of President James B. Angell, to be placed in the Michigan Union Club House, shortly to be erected. The portrait will be a gift from the faculty, alumni and students of the university.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS, superintendent of the Department of Technology of the City and Guilds of London Institute, has been elected member of parliament from London University, defeating by a small majority Sir Michael Foster, professor of physiology at Cambridge from 1883 to 1903.

BARON GUERNE has been elected president of the Paris Geographical Society.

DR. W. SCHEIBNER, professor of mathematics at Leipzig, celebrated, on January 8, his eightieth birthday.

THERE was an error made in a recent number of SCIENCE in regard to the presidency of the Geological Society of America. The officers of the society for the ensuing year are as follows:

President—Israel C. Russell, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Vice-Presidents—W. M. Davis, Harvard University; E. A. Smith, University, Ala.

Secretary—H. L. Fairchild, University of Rochester.

Treasurer—I. C. White, Morgantown, W. Va.

Editor—J. Stanley-Brown, New York City.

Librarian—H. P. Cushing, Western Reserve University.

Councilors—H. M. Ami, Canadian Geological Survey; J. M. Clarke, Albany, N. Y.; J. F. Kemp, Columbia University; A. C. Lane, Lansing, Mich.; G. P. Merrill, U. S. National Museum; David White, Washington, D. C.

LEAVE of absence for next year has been granted to Professor F. P. Whitman, of the department of physics of Western Reserve University.

A LETTER has been received at Stanford University from Dr. D. H. Campbell, written just as he was leaving Rangoon, Burmah, for Mandalay. He was to sail shortly from there for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradenya, Ceylon.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK STARR, of the University of Chicago, who set out for Central Africa last September to study the Pygmies, has entered the jungles as appears from a letter mailed on December 17, at Leopoldville, which is 1,200 miles inland from the east coast.

MR. WALTER WELLMAN has signed a contract with M. Godard, of Paris, for the construction of an airship, in which he will try to reach the north pole. It will weigh 750 pounds and have three motors, respectively of 50, 25 and 5 horsepower.

THE Duke of Abruzzi (Prince Amadeo of Savoy-Aosta), a cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, has almost completed arrangements for a voyage of exploration into the heart of Africa. The duke, who will start early in the spring, has been assured that the British and French government officials in Africa will assist him in every possible manner.

THE U. S. government has commissioned President David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University, and Professor Charles H. Gilbert, head of the department of zoology, to conduct an investigation of the fish and fisheries of Japan and the Island of Sakhalin during the coming summer. Professors J. O. Snyder and Harold Heath, of Stanford University, and Professor H. H. Torrey, of the University of California, will also accompany the expedition.

PROFESSOR P. H. ROLFS left the Subtropical Laboratory at Miami, Fla., on January 31, being succeeded as pathologist in charge by Dr. Ernst A. Bessey. Professor Rolfs began on February 1 his duties as director and horticulturist of the Florida Experiment Station at Lake City.

DR. H. E. PATTEN, instructor in physical chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, has accepted a position in the Bureau of Soils, Washington.

DR. FRITZ ZERBAN has returned from the University of Berlin to take up the Carnegie research assistantship to Professor Baskerville, in the place of Dr. Leo F. Guttman, who has been appointed tutor in physical chemistry at the College of the City of New York.

PROFESSOR KOCH is said to have decided to apply the Nobel prize recently awarded to him to the publication of a complete edition of his scientific writings.

THE seventh lecture in the Harvey Society course will be delivered by Professor Frederic S. Lee, of Columbia University, at the New York Academy of Medicine, on February 3, at 8:30 P.M., his subject being 'Fatigue.'

Professor W. B. SCOTT, of Princeton University, was announced to lecture, on February 7, before the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, on 'The Geology of South Africa, Notes of a Journey from Cape Town to the Falls of the Zambesi.'

DR. FREDERICK V. COVILLE, curator of the National Herbarium and botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., gave, before the Philadelphia College of

Pharmacy, on February 2, a lecture on 'The Uses of Plants by the American Indians,' which was illustrated with a number of lantern slides.

CHARLES A. SCOTT, of the United States Forest Service, manager of the Dismal River Forest Reserve, has just completed a course of lectures on practical problems in forestry before the students in the forestry courses of the University of Nebraska.

THE death is announced of Dr. Karl von Fritsch, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Halle.

It is proposed to place a bust of the late Dr. E. Ziegler in the pathological laboratory of the University of Freiburg.

The Journal of The American Medical Association states that a large oil painting of John Morgan, founder of the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, has just been added to the collection of portraits owned by the university and will occupy a position on the walls of Houston Hall. The portrait is the gift of the Hon. David T. Watson, Pittsburgh, who is a descendant of John Morgan. The tablet fastened to the frame is inscribed as follows: "Dr. John Morgan, born 1735, died 1789. Copy of original by Angelica Kauffman, in Rome, 1763-64." Dr. Morgan was born in Philadelphia in 1735, and was graduated in 1757 with the first class of the College of Philadelphia, which later became the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently studied medicine in Philadelphia, later in Edinburgh, Paris and Padua, obtaining his professional degree from Edinburgh in 1763. He became the first teacher of medicine in the College of Philadelphia, and with William Shippen organized the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania. He was one of the early members of the American Philosophical Society, and also the first general director of the medical service of the continental army.

A MEETING of the committee of the International Association of Academies will be held at Vienna on May 30, 1906.

THE department of zoology of the University of California announces a series of twelve illustrated lectures by members of the department on the problems of marine biology, to which the public is cordially invited. The lectures will be based in part upon the work of the Marine Biological Station at San Diego.

THE Philippine wood collection of the American Museum of Natural History has been removed to the corridor on the ground floor leading from the north wing to the engine room, where it will be installed in a manner to show to the best advantage the beautiful grains and colors of the specimens. This collection is the most complete that ever has been made, and it represents all the woods of the Philippines which are valuable for manufacturing purposes.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that an exposition of inventions, appliances, and other objects connected with hygiene, personal and public, will take place under the patronage of the Archduke Leopold Salvator in Vienna in March and April, 1906. Among the members of the honorary committee are Professor von Esmarch, of Kiel; Professors von Leyden and Rubner of Berlin; Professors Freiherr von Eiselberg, Schauta, von Stoffella, Benedikt and von Wagner, of Vienna; Dr. Neumayer, deputy burgomaster, Staff-Surgeon-General Professor Kratschmer and Professor Schattenfroh, president of the Vienna Institute of Hygiene.

THE annual general meeting of the Entomological Society of London was held on January 17, at the rooms of the society, 11 Chandos-street, Cavendish-square. The report showed that, for the first time in the society's history, the number of ordinary fellows had reached 500. The officers and council were elected for the session 1906-7 as follows: *President*, Mr. F. Merrifield; *hon. treasurer*, Mr. A. H. Jones; *hon. secretaries*, Mr. H. Rowland-Brown and Commander J. J. Walker, R.N.; *librarian*, Mr. G. C. Champion, F.Z.S.; *other members of the council*, Mr. G. J. Arrow, Mr. A. J. Chitty, Mr. J. E. Colin, Dr. F. A. Dixey, Mr. H. Goss, Mr. W. J. Kaye, Mr. H. J. Lucas, Professor E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., Mr. L. B. Prout, Mr. E.

Saunders, F.R.S., Mr. R. S. Standen and Mr. C. O. Waterhouse.

WE learn from the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* that Mr. Henryk Arctowski, late of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, is engaged in developing a scheme for the international exploration of the South Pole. He proposes to begin the systematic exploration of the Antarctic regions by a preliminary circum-polar expedition, which is to be organized in Belgium, and is to leave Antwerp next autumn with the object of exploring the most unknown portions of the Antarctic in the hope of finding new lands and suitable places for the establishment of winter stations. These would be utilized by future expeditions, the intention being to establish a series of scientific stations in South Polar regions. Mr. Arctowski proposes to utilize an automobile of special construction to penetrate the interior of the Antarctic continent. If the experiment proves a success, it might be possible to set up a station far within the continent, whose scientific data would add greatly to the value of the observations made at the other stations which it is proposed to establish.

It is stated in *Nature* that at Christiania, on December 29, 1905, there gathered together under the presidency of Mr. John Sebelien a number of men interested in questions of agriculture and scientific subjects to celebrate the acquisition of national independence in the past year. A fund was opened for the purpose of fostering research in the subject of Norwegian agriculture, to which fund all Norwegians, both at home and abroad, are invited to subscribe. When the sum of \$4,000 has been subscribed, it is proposed to invite prize essays on particular questions, and to reward Norwegian scientific work in certain branches of learning; and later still it is intended financially to aid research work in agricultural science directly.

CONSUL KEENE, of Geneva, reports that the opening of the Simplon Tunnel, which was fixed for April 1, has been postponed to May, by action of the Swiss authorities. He says: "The official opening of the new international

line through the Simplon Tunnel, after having been advertised for April 1, 1906, is now reported as being postponed until May 1. After having been for a considerable time under discussion, the mode of traction between Brigue and Domo d'Ossola—i. e., on 40 kilometers (about 25 miles)—is reported to be electrical, in accordance with a decision recently made by the Federal Department of Swiss railroads. The Swiss system of traction now in use on the railroad Berthoud-Thoune, in the Canton of Berne, will be applied with up-to-date improvements on the Simplon line. The first two electrical engines, when delivered at the end of the year, will first be tried on the Italian electrical lines of the Valteline. Electrical traction on Swiss railroads is a new thing; but it seems only natural that Switzerland, so rich in 'white coal,' begins to utilize its wealth of water, and supercedes, by the power derived from it, the enormous quantity of coal imported from Germany, France, Belgium and England. This new trial of electrical power on such an important new line will be watched with keen interest. If successful, the new mode of traction will certainly be employed all over the country, and there may be openings for our manufacturers at home in that line."

The Journal of the American Medical Association states that the German national committee in charge of arrangements for the approaching International Medical Congress, to be held at Lisbon in April, will present the following two proposals at the Lisbon congress and urge their adoption: "1. The organization of an international bureau for the general medical congresses, which will act during the intervals between the congresses. The members of the bureau to be the presidents of the past and approaching congresses and the members of all the national committees. This central office should have its headquarters in Paris, and its task will be to preserve continuity and order in the arrangements of the congresses, especially in the making out of the programs, regulating the sections, appointing topics for discussion and selecting speakers to present the various themes, and the

honorary presidents, working always in co-operation with the committee of organization of the congress. Motive: The need for some international body to serve as a court of appeal in matters affecting these international congresses has long made itself felt, to prevent or smooth away differences that may arise between the committee of organization and the representatives of the special sciences. At the same time, such an international body would serve by regulating the relations between the great general congresses and the international specialist congresses, and also with the medical congresses in the different countries. 2. The general international medical congresses should be held not oftener than once in five years. Motive: It is generally acknowledged that the international congresses have lost in prestige of late years. This is due principally to the brief interval between them. In case they occurred only once in five years the preparations for them would probably be more carefully made, and more energy would be devoted to the solving of scientific problems, these forces now being drained away by their being called on so constantly for scientific gatherings of such kinds. Besides this, if the international congresses were not held so frequently, it would be easier to find suitable places at which to hold them." Waldeyer and Posner are chiefly responsible for the drafting of these resolutions. They are to be submitted to the various national committees for discussion in the hope that something tangible will result in the way of the desired reforms.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At the midyear meeting of the board of trustees of Syracuse University, Chancellor Day reported an increase in attendance at the university of 325 over last year, and the purchase of the Renwick 'castle.' Plans for a men's dormitory on College Place, to cost \$100,000, were accepted. It was also decided to expend \$100,000 for the erection of a new chemical laboratory. The board decided that the 'castle' be converted into a college of pedagogy.