

The Museum News of the Brooklyn Institute for February notes various advances during the year 1908 and a great gain in attendance, the number of visitors at the Central Museum having been 203,940 and at the Children's Museum 117,182, a total increase of 54,000 over 1907. There is an article on "The Games of the Cliff-Dwellers" and another on the almost lost art of "Scrimshawing." A number of "Additions to the Insect Collection at the Children's Museum" are noted and a list is given of zoological charts for loaning to schools.

SOME of the English Museums from time to time issue extremely good handbooks at astonishingly low prices. A recent publication of this kind is the *Handbook to the Weapons of War and the Chase in the Horniman Museum*, London, written by H. S. Harrison, curator of the museum, and edited by A. C. Haddon. This book of 73 pages describes a great variety of weapons and includes a list of some of the books and papers on the subject in the Museum Library and sells for twopence, or by post, threepence.

IN the *Report on the Illinois State Museum of Natural History*, Dr. A. R. Crook, the curator, makes a strong plea for the establishment of a museum worthy of the state of Illinois, showing by statistics and illustrations how much has been done by other states and how much may be done in Illinois.

THE RIABOUSCHINSKY EXPEDITION UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF THE IMPERIAL RUSSIAN
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY¹

I AM grateful to the society for the opportunity extended to me to give a brief outline of the organization and aims of the Riabouschinsky expedition. In fact, I believe that you are just as much interested in the results to be attained by this expedition as we are in Russia, because a good part of my investigations are to be made on American soil.

The patron of this expedition is Mr. Theodor Riabouschinsky, a well-known capitalist in Moscow. He is a very young man, and dur-

ing his studies in the Moscow university he paid particular attention to anthropology. He conceived the idea of undertaking a thorough investigation of the Kamchatka Peninsula. The importance of this investigation will be realized when I will tell you that Kamchatka has been under Russian control for about three hundred years and has been visited by many noted travelers, yet very little is known about the country. Up to about fifty years ago Kamchatka was the only open door Russia had to the Pacific Ocean, and at that time the government took some interest in that country; but since the Amour River has been acquired by Russia, the government has neglected that peninsula completely. For this reason the great service rendered to science by a private undertaking will be appreciated.

Mr. Riabouschinsky requested the Imperial Russian Geographical Society to organize at his expense a scientific expedition to Kamchatka. This society organized an expedition consisting of five divisions: Zoological, botanical, geological, meteorological and ethnological. The zoological division is headed by Peter Schmidt, professor at the University of St. Petersburg. He and his four assistants, representing the different branches of zoological science, are to investigate the fauna of Kamchatka. Komaroff, the chief botanist of the Imperial Botanical Garden in St. Petersburg, is the leader of the botanical division. He has four assistants and has to study the flora of Kamchatka and its distribution. The geological division consists of two independent sections—one headed by Krug, a mining engineer, is to study the general geology and topography of Kamchatka; the second section, headed by Konradi of the Russian Geological Survey, is to direct a special investigation of the volcanoes in Kamchatka. The meteorological division, consisting of five members, under the direction of Vlassoff, of the observatory of St. Petersburg, will study the climate of that country. All these four divisions are already on that peninsula, busily engaged in their respective investigations, which, it is presumed, will last about two years.

¹ Paper read at the meeting of the American Ethnological Society, November 9.

The ethnological work was entrusted to the writer of this paper. While accepting the invitation to make this ethnological investigation, I proposed that the area to be studied by my department should be extended so as to include the Aleutian and Kurilian Islands. My reasons were that the northern Kamchadal have already been studied by the Jesup expedition, and the southern Kamchadal are already Russianized to such a degree that archeological work alone, and some relics of the former material culture, can give us some direct indications as to the primitive life of the Kamchadal. Even the somatological work becomes uncertain in many localities where the intermixture with Russians was especially extensive. The position of an ethnologist in Kamchatka should not be judged by the standard of a naturalist who undertakes studies there. While nature has not changed there since the Russians came there, this is not the case with man. The old Kamchadal beliefs, manners and customs are disappearing; some traits, in fact, have already vanished, leaving hardly any traces behind. It seemed to me, therefore, that two years of field work among the Kamchadal alone would not be sufficiently remunerative from a scientific standpoint. On the other hand, the ethnology of the Kamchadal can not be investigated, to any great extent, without the study of the neighboring tribes. The Jesup expedition in its endeavors to clear up the history of the American tribes has already investigated the tribes nearest related to the Kamchadals; I refer here to the Koryak, Chukchee and Yukaghir tribes, as well as to some remotely related tribes, such as the Giliak and Ainu. The nearest neighbors of the Kamchadals in the east are the Aleut. You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that the extreme western Aleutian islands are separated from the eastern shores of Kamchatka by only about three hundred miles, in the center of which are situated the Komandorski islands. And the Aleut have as yet not been sufficiently studied. Even the Jesup expedition has not succeeded in studying this most interesting tribe.

Another object of my study is to investigate the former relations of the Kamchadal to the Ainu. This can only be achieved by a study of the Kurilian islands. In order to attain this, I propose to remain only one year in Kamchatka and to devote the other year of my work to the Aleutian and Kurilian islands. In this manner my work will extend outside of the geographical limits within which the other divisions are working. I decided to spend the first year of my studies among the Aleut. To reach the Aleutian islands I found it advisable to take the western route, by way of America, and on this account my party has had to be separated from the other divisions of the expedition.

Concerning the investigations of the Aleut, I can say the same as I said about the Kamchadal. Under the Russian rule they have been Russianized to such a degree that ethnology has lost considerably. Much, however, can be done even now. We must endeavor to reestablish the past by a study of what remains of their old habits and customs, and their former family and social relations and material culture. It will also be very difficult to define the physical type of the present Aleut, considering the extensive intermixture which has taken place between them and the Russians. But their language is still available for study, and it is important to define the relation of the Aleut language to the Esquimo dialects. It is also important to make new excavations, considering that Dall has found traces of different cultures on the Aleutian islands.

The investigations I plan to make consist essentially in a continuation of my work done for the Jesup expedition. I have in view to contribute to the solution of some problems which have already been raised by the Jesup expedition. It is significant that during the period from 1900 to 1902 I have made investigations on Russian territory on behalf of an American scientific institution, and that I am now on my way to carry on an investigation of the same nature on American territory on behalf of a Russian scientific society. May this serve as an additional proof of the

established adage that science is international in its scope. After all, the results of every scientific investigation become common property, irrespective of the nation which undertakes the work.

My route will be about as follows: At Seattle I will embark on December 8 on the steamer *Pensilvania*, reaching Seward within a week. There I shall take another steamer, the *Dora*, which goes directly to Unalaska. I do not know as yet exactly in what manner I shall travel around the Aleutian islands. At present only three islands are inhabited: Unalaska, Atka and Attu.

But for excavation purposes I must also visit some other islands which are not populated at present, but were so in the past. In the spring of 1910 I expect a Russian naval cruiser to come and take me and my party from the Aleutian islands to the Komandorsky islands, and from there to Petropavlovsk in Kamchatka. Kamchatka I intend to study not only along the coast, but also in the interior. In the north I shall try to reach the bay of Baron Korf, and in the south to go as far as Cape Lopatka. Everywhere I shall endeavor to make excavations of old Kamchadal villages. In the spring of 1911 I hope to return to Russia by way of Vladivostock, visiting on the way some of the Kurilian islands.

My party consists of myself and two assistants, one of whom is my wife, who also accompanied me on the Jesup expedition. Mrs. Jochelson will act in the capacity of both physician and somatologist.

In closing I wish to express for myself, as well as for the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, my gratitude to the governmental and scientific institutions of New York and Washington for the assistance and attention shown me while preparing for my journey. The secretary of the interior has kindly granted me, at the request of the Russian embassy, permission to make excavations on American territory. The secretary of the treasury has promised to issue the necessary orders to take me from the eastern to the western Aleutian islands by revenue cutter. The Smithsonian Institution and other scientific bodies have furnished me with many publications, and

maps and also with recommendations, all of which are very valuable to me. The American Museum of Natural History have extended to me their kind hospitality, which I appreciate, and for which I am under obligations to the president and the director of the museum.

WALDEMAR JOCHELSON

ST. PETERSBURG

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE Baltimore meeting of the American Chemical Society was more largely attended than any previous meeting the society has ever held and was unusually enthusiastic from beginning to end.

The local committee had made special arrangements for the entertainment of the visiting chemists, consisting of banquet and smoker, automobile rides, parties and dinners for the attending ladies, and excursions to Annapolis, to the Maryland Steel Company's works, to the various Baltimore breweries, to Sharp & Dohme's works and to various points of interest around the city. In this respect the city of Baltimore kept fully up to its general reputation for hospitality.

Some four hundred and twenty-five chemists were present and attended the various sectional meetings of the society besides the addresses given in general session.

These general addresses have proved a very attractive feature of recent meetings and those delivered at Baltimore before the whole society were:

"The Untilled Field of Chemistry," by A. D. Little.

"The Use and Abuse of the Ionic Theory," by Gilbert N. Lewis.

"The Work of Werner on the Constitution of Inorganic Compounds," by Chas. H. Herty.

"The Future of Agricultural Chemistry," by H. J. Wheeler.

"The Quantitative Study of Organic Reactions," by S. F. Acree.

"The Classification of Carbon Compounds," by Edward Kremers.

"The Efficiency and Deficiencies of the College-trained Chemist when Tested in the Technical Field," by Wm. H. Nichols.

"To what Extent should College Training Confer Practical Efficiency along Technical Lines?" by Louis M. Dennis.

"The Attitude of Technical Institutions to Post-graduate Study," by Wm. McMurtrie.

To these should be added the retiring addresses