

that which, since 1886, has governed the existence of the Association, and expires next year. For this reason, important modifications have been introduced into the future functions of the Association.

In view of the construction and maintenance of international stations for geodetic or astronomical observations, its budget will be increased from 20,000 to 75,000 francs.

Under the new organisation, the various German States have been fused into the German Empire with one vote. The old permanent commission, which used to meet once a year, now disappears. Only the general conferences will be continued, and they will take place every three years, as formerly. In these assemblies special commissions will be formed for each branch of study of the Association.

M. Faye has been unanimously re-elected as President of the new Association, with General Ferrero, Italian Ambassador in London, as Vice-President, and Dr. Hirsch, Director of the Observatory in Neuchâtel (Switzerland), as Secretary.

MEETINGS OF AFFILIATED SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN AMERICA.

AN important series of scientific meetings was held at Philadelphia, December 26-28, under the leadership of the American Society of Naturalists, and including six other Societies. The opening address of President Edward D. Cope to the Naturalists' Society was on the formulation of the natural sciences. A discussion on the flora and fauna of the Antarctic and adjacent regions occupied most of the time of this society. Angelo Heilprin opened the discussion. He said that very little was known about the Antarctic region. It appeared to him that the coast-line of this region did not outline a continent, but only a group of islands. The supposed continent had been regarded as destitute of vegetable life till lichens were discovered there last year. It is thought from geological formations that the continent was once connected with Australia, South America, and perhaps Africa. W. B. Scott said that a study of fossils of animals shows that Australian forms are found in South America, but no South American forms in Australia; thus indicating that there was first a connection between Australia and the southern continent, and later between South America and the southern continent.

N. L. Britton gave a list of plants, and Theodore Gill of fresh-water fishes, to show the connection between the southern continent and Australia and South America.

The officers elected for the Naturalists' Society are: President, W. B. Scott; Vice-Presidents, W. G. Foster, C. O. Whitman, and Theodore Gill; Secretary, H. C. Bumpus; Treasurer, J. B. Smith.

There was a large attendance at the meeting of the Geological Society of America. President N. S. Shaler (in the chair) read a paper on the relations of geologic science to education. Among other papers read were one by C. R. Van Hise, on the movements of rocks under deformation, and a description, by Sir Robert Bell, of the land about Hudson Bay.

Officers elected were: President, Joseph Le Conte; Vice-Presidents, Charles H. Hitchcock and Edward Orton; Secretary, H. L. Fairchild; Treasurer, J. C. White; Editor, J. S. Brown.

The American Psychological Society listened to the annual address of the President, J. M. Cattell, and to a large number of papers by members. An interesting discussion on "Consciousness and Evolution," was opened by William James, and participated in by E. D. Cope, J. M. Baldwin, C. Sedgwick, G. T. Ladd, G. S. Fullerton, J. H. Hyslop, D. S. Miller, and Wesley Mills.

The Anatomical Society of America was briefly addressed by the President, Thomas Dwight. An interesting paper was read by Burt G. Wilder, on "The Cerebral Fissures of Two Philosophers." The brains referred to were those of Chauncey Wright, of Cambridge, and James Edward Oliver, of Cornell, both of which the lecturer exhibited.

Officers elected were: President, Frank Baker; Vice-Presidents, B. G. Wilder and F. J. Shepherd; Secretary and Treasurer, D. S. Lamb.

The American Morphological Society had papers by C. S. Minot, Bashford Dean, and others, and elected the following officers: President, E. L. Mack; Vice-President, H. F. Osborne; Executive Committee, E. G. Conklin and W. Patten.

A meeting of the American Physiological Society was held, at which several papers were read.

The meeting of the American Folk-lore Society was, of course, the most popular. Washington Matthews presided, and read a paper on the poetry and music of the Navajoes. He finds that the tribe has many legends, songs, and formulated prayers. They have an elaborate religion, with symbolism and allegory that might vie with the Greeks. Daniel G. Brinton read a paper on "American Cuss Words," and J. H. McCormick on "Folk-lore of the Southern Negroes." Captain John G. Bourke read "Notes on some Arabic Survivals in the Language and Folk-lore of the Rio Grande Valley," in which he traced the similarity of names which the Mexican uses for his common articles of food with those used by the Moslem; and also showed similarity of customs of the two nations.

Officers elected were: President, John G. Bourke; Vice-Presidents, Stewart Culin, Franz Boaz; Councillors, J. W. Ellsworth; Hall Chatelain, J. H. McCormick.

A general lecture was given on Thursday evening by Prof. Wm. B. Scott, on the "Lacustrine Formations of North America and their Mammalian Fossils." The vast plains east of the Rocky Mountains were, in the Pliocene age, fresh-water lakes. Large numbers of fossils, particularly mammals, have been taken from them. Prof. Scott argued the identity of the American fauna of that age with that of France and the valley of Lausanne in Switzerland at the same period.

The affiliated societies were entertained during the days of session by the University of Pennsylvania, and a banquet was given on Friday evening at the Hotel Lafayette. Prof. Cope presided, and the address of welcome was made by Dean Fullerton, of the University.

GEOLOGY IN GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.¹

YOU are doubtless aware that last year I entertained and expressed the rash expectation that I should not again meet a class as lecturer on geology. "I thought to pass away before, and yet I still am here." An explanation is therefore necessary; I must, in fact, detail the history of the subject in this University, so as to purge myself of censure in respect that the University is, in this particular, behind the time, and far behind what Glasgow, above all, has a right to expect that its University should be.

When I came to Glasgow the old custom prevailed of interlarding the lectures on zoology with those on geology. In my time in Edinburgh, Edward Forbes gave four lectures on zoology, setting aside Friday for geology. In 1867 I separated the two subjects, lecturing twice daily during that summer, and raising a brief revolt among the medical students, who thought themselves defrauded of their rights. Brief, for the clamour died quickly when they found themselves at liberty to attend the second lecture without paying a fee; their abnormal thirst for knowledge at once contented itself with what was required for the professional examinations. This was the first complete course given in Scotland, and anticipated by four years the foundation of the Murchison chair in Edinburgh. In 1872, on the establishment of a degree in science, geology was made compulsory for that, as it had previously been for the certificate of proficiency in engineering science. Thereon I began to urge the claims of a subject which had been thus quietly introduced to a prominence not previously granted to it in this city. The Mining School started in Anderson's College some years before had collapsed, those who owed wealth to their mineral property taking no interest in the effort which not even the excellence of Mr. Prior as a teacher could sustain. The hearty support given me in my crusade by Dr. (now Sir Charles) Cameron deserves to be recorded, for he was the only one who appreciated the importance of the movement, the only one who stirred a finger to help me. Wealthy coal- and iron-masters saved their money, some by the Mrs. McLarty plea that they did well enough without trained men, others by modestly saying that they could not properly intrude where their wealthier neighbours saw no need for action. I need not comment on the want of public spirit, of patriotism displayed, which astonished me more perhaps than it would now; but it seemed, and seems strange that a country which boasted Hutton, Playfair, Hall, Macculloch, C. Maclaren, Hugh Miller, Lyell, Murchison, A. C. Ramsay

¹ From Introductory Lecture to Course of Geology in Glasgow University by Prof. John Young.