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of Western Ornithology

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A NEW MUSEUM

There is shortly to be inaugurated at the University of California a new line of work, which will mean increased activity in the exploitation of California ornithology. Miss Annie M. Alexander, of Oakland, an alumnus of the University, has expressed her interest in the field of science, by providing means for the support for a period of years of a University department to be called the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. While this broad title has been adopted, so as to give room for future expansion, the immediate activities of those engaged in the work of the Museum will be concerned with mammals, birds and reptiles. It is proposed to have at least one party continually in the field thruout the year. The objects will be not only the accumulation of specimens from our vertebrate faunæ, but also the gathering of data on life histories, habits, and distribution, together with special ecological studies of certain localities. Miss Alexander will herself take active part in the field work, and there will be at least two others whose entire time will be devoted to the Museum's interests. The collections will be gathered with a view to providing research material of the best quality, accompanied by accurate information as to the natural conditions under which the species concerned were living. An additional feature of the new Museum will be the installation of several mounted groups of our native large mammals. It is also planned to secure material for some exhibition groups of certain birds and smaller mammals arranged to show typical associations from different

faunal areas. A building provided by the University is being planned especially for the Museum, and will be completed during the coming summer. Meanwhile preparations are in progress for active field work during the spring.—J. G.

THE REHABILITATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The income building and museum building of the Academy and most of their contents burned about noon, April 18, 1906.

All of the records of the Academy, many of the insect, plant, and reptile types, a few books, and two bird specimens (the types of the Guadalupe Petrel) were saved. A number of uninjured ethnological specimens were taken from the ruins after the fire.

The restoration began without delay. On the 29th of April, 1906, the first office was secured at 1806 Post Street. Here the work of soliciting donations from the learned societies of the world was begun. American societies and several foreign, British Museum, Zoological Society of London, etc., were written to directly by the Academy. The Smithsonian Institution kindly volunteered to take up the burden of corresponding with other foreign societies. As a result of all of this work the Academy now has thru gifts over ten thousand volumes on natural history.

The Academy moved into its present temporary quarters on Gough Street, near Sacramento, on June 1, 1906. About this time the first donation to the ornithological collection was received; viz., a Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, the gift of Mr. H. W. Henshaw of the Biological Survey, who had overlooked it when disposing of his collection some years ago. After a ten years stay in the Hawaiian Islands he returned to Washington, where he found this bird among his belongings, and presented it to the Academy, stating in his letter that he felt that it was "the beginning of a great collection".

The Galapagos Expedition put the Academy "on its feet" as far as material for a new museum is concerned. This Expedition left San Francisco on June 28, 1905, returning Thanksgiving Day, 1906, with some 5000 reptiles, 38000 shells, 1000 tertiary invertebrate fossils, about 13000 insects, about 10000 plants, 8688 birds, about 2000 eggs, many nests, and about 120 mammals.

The first paper on the results of the Galapagos Expedition, and also the first since the fire, was issued December 20, 1907, and described four new tortoises. The last paper published by the Academy before the fire was issued in March, 1906.

During the past year specimens as well as books have come in steadily. Dr. J. C. Thompson, U. S. N., has sent in large collections of Philippine reptiles and insects, making the Academy's collection of the former second to none. Mr. Anderson, Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, has secured for the Academy large numbers of Pacific Coast invertebrate fossils and shells. Mr. R. H. Beck, chief field