David Eugene Smith, Ph.D., State Normal School, Brockport, N. Y.

It is announced that the government has compiled a History of the Territory of Alaska, bringing the explorations made by army officers up to date and including an elaborate description of the physical resources of the Territory. The compilation when published will make a large octavo volume of about 500 printed pages. The material was supplied, by the War Department under the direction of Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn, to the Senate.

BOOKS RECEIVED.


**SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.**

The American Mathematical Society is actively pushing the plans for the publication of its Transactions, and it is probable that the first number will appear in January next. A committee, consisting of Messrs. T. S. Fiske, R. S. Woodward, E. H. Moore, Maxime Böcher and James Pierpont has been appointed to secure the necessary financial guarantees. Subscriptions of one hundred dollars annually for a term of five years have already been pledged by representatives and friends of each of the following institutions: Chicago University, Columbia University, Yale University and Bryn Mawr College. Other pledges are anticipated and the plan is already assured of success.

*The Journal of Geology,* Vol. 7, No. 1, for January and February, contains the following papers:

Frank Leverett: 'The Lower Rapids of the Mississippi River,' pp. 1–20. The writer discusses the abandonment by the Mississippi River of its pre-glacial channel just above Keokuk, Ia., and the production of the newer and more contracted channel, in which are the rapids. The Kewatin ice sheet and its drift are regarded as the principal cause.

H. B. Kümmel: 'The Newark Rocks of New Jersey and New York,' pp. 29–53. The writer divides the strata under consideration into the Stockton, Lockatong, Brunswick and Trap formations. Their distribution, character, folding and faulting, and the conditions prevailing during their formation, are then discussed.

Henry S. Washington: 'The Petrographical Province of Essex County, Mass.,' II., pp. 53–64. The paper continues one that was begun in the last number. It describes, with analyses, the essixites, diorites, quartz-augite-diorites, porphyritic diorites and gabbros.

J. A. Udden: 'The Sweetland Creek Beds,' pp. 65–79. The beds are chiefly shale, and lie between the Cedar Valley Limestone below and the Coal Measures above, in Muscatine county, Ia. Fossils indicate an Upper Devonian Age.

G. H. Squier: 'Studies in the Driftless Region of Wisconsin,' pp. 79–83. One glaciated boulder has been found in a valley within the driftless region.

W. N. Logan: 'A Discussion and Correlation of certain Subdivisions of the Colorado Formation,' pp. 83–92. The paper discusses and correlates the subdivisions of this formation in the Kansas, Colorado, Black Hills and Iowa-Nebraska areas.

Editorials and reviews complete the number.

The leading article in the *American Naturalist* for February, is by Dr. W. H. Dall, and discusses 'The Proposed University of the United States and its possible Relations to Scientific Bureaus of the Government.' Dr. Arthur Hollick continues the consideration of 'The Relation between Forestry and Geology in New Jersey,' this paper giving 'The Historical Development of the Flora,' concluding that the gradual extinction of the gymnosperm type is indicated. Professors J. H. Comstock and J. G. Needham also continue the subject of 'The Wings of Insects,' the chapter being devoted to the specialization of wings by addition as illustrated by the venation of the wings of Ephemeroidea. Under the title of 'The Peneplain: a Review' Dr. R. A. Daly considers at length Professor Tarr's objections to the exist-