

persons hiring, who had previously been much dissatisfied; and \$296.95 for the furnace mentioned in last year's report. In addition to the work in the dressing rooms, the stage facilities have been greatly improved by taking down the ceiling, and thereby affording good opportunities for shifting and otherwise working the scenes; and new flooring has been laid on the platform; and the proscenium has been altered and improved.

The following donations have been made to the Museum by the gentlemen named, namely:—A donation of fossil plants from the Spring Hill Mines, by Mr. William Hall, Superintendent of the Mine, at the instance of Messrs. J. Magee and R. P. Starr; and a stuffed Iguana, presented by Captain Moran. Mr. Frederick T. C. Burpee has also very kindly cut and polished some of the fossil trees in the Museum, by which the appearance of the same has been much improved. In connexion with this department it may be stated that a peculiarly interesting discovery has been made during the past year, it having been ascertained that a little image which has been in the collection for an unknown period without having attracted special attention is an "Osirid" of great antiquity, and, to archeologists and other students, of considerable value. This object, which is only a few inches in length, is supposed to be at the same time an effigy primarily of a deceased Egyptian priest, and secondarily of the god Osiris, the word Osirid meaning "an image or likeness of God," in the likeness of whom the deceased was made. The inscription upon the Osirid, which is in hieroglyphs, is unfortunately in part defaced. What remains has, however, been translated by Prof. T. O. Paine, LL.D., Professor of the Semitic Languages, of Boston, and a member of the American Oriental Society. It is in effect the expression of the wish