

circuit for automatically controlling block signals, a patent largely in use on the principal American railroads. He was also the author of the 'Electric Telegraph' and 'Life and Work of Joseph Henry,' and was for several years editor of the *Electrical Engineer*. In 1885 he was elected president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Stanford estate has just won its second victory in the suit of the Government to recover \$15,000,000 from its funds. A demurrer by the attorneys for the estate, alleging want of equity was sustained by United States Circuit Judge Ross, and this decision was sustained by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, Judges Gilbert, Hawley and Morrow. The case goes to the Supreme Court for final decision, but it is felt that this decision must be in favor of the estate. The interest in the matter arises from the fact that this money was intended by Senator Stanford as the ultimate endowment of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, and the establishment of the Government's claim would seriously cripple the future of the University.

THE British Treasury has decided that the annual grant of which King's College, London, was deprived under the late Government may be restored to the College next year without any stipulation as regards tests.

ABERDARE-HALL, Cardiff, founded in 1885 in connection with the South Wales University at Cardiff, for the training of women students, has now been formally dedicated.

THE registration in the freshman class of the University of Minnesota at the present time has reached a total of 628. This number is distributed as follows: College of Science, Literature and the Arts, Classical 43, Scientific 126, Literary 114, Teachers' 25—308 in all; College of Engineering, Met-

allurgy and the Mechanic Arts, all courses 64; College of Agriculture, 4; College of Law, 107; Colleges of Medicine, Medicine and Surgery 71, Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery 8, Dentistry 48, Pharmacy 18.

The Faculty of the College of Engineering, Metallurgy and the Mechanic Arts, University of Minnesota has recently been strengthened by the addition of two men; Frank H. Constant, assistant professor of structural engineering, comes from the Osborn Company, Civil Engineers, Cleveland, where he held the position of assistant engineer and obtained a wide experience in designing and constructing bridges, roofs, elevated railroad tracks and other structures. Between graduation and joining Frank C. Osborn in the above named company he was in the employ of the King Bridge Company. Mr. Constant graduated with distinction at the University of Cincinnati in 1891, after taking his mathematical and professional training under Henry T. Eddy and Ward Baldwin. H. Wade Hibbard, assistant professor of machine design, is a graduate of Brown University and Sibley College, Cornell University, where he won high distinction. After graduating from the last named institution he entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and remained with the chief mechanical engineer of that system for three years, directing construction and repair in the Juniata shops, going to England and the Continent to investigate railway practice and performing other responsible duties. At the end of that time Mr. Hibbard was secured by the Lehigh Valley Railroad as chief draughtsman, which responsible position he held until his call to Minnesota.

It is stated that Birmingham is spending £50,000 on a central technical institution; Manchester, £130,000; Salford, £55,000; West Ham, in the East of London,

£40,000; Wigan, St. Helen's and Derby, £20,000 each; whilst Liverpool is having plans prepared which contemplated an outlay of £80,000.

DR. F. DIMMER, of Vienna, has been appointed to the chair of ophthalmology at Innsbruck in succession to Dr. Czermak.

THE University of Texas has opened its twelfth annual session with about 225 students.

THE report of a committee consisting of Lord Playfair, Lord Welby and Sir M. W. Ridley, M.P., appointed to consider the desirability of a fixed age for the compulsory retirement of professors under the crown has been published as a Parliamentary paper. The principal conclusions arrived at by the committee are that there should be fixed rules as to superannuation of presidents and professors, and that they should be made by college statutes and not by an Order in Council. When a professor reaches 65 years of age the president of the college should be bound to report to the government the condition and efficiency of the teaching. If these are and continue to be satisfactory, the professor need not be superannuated till 70, but at this age his retirement should be absolute. In regard to presidents, the committee is of the opinion that the age of 70 should be the period of retirement, but, should the visitors of the college formally report that the college would suffer by the loss of the experience which the president has acquired, the Treasury, and not the Irish office, should have power to continue him as president for a certain number of years not exceeding five, so that at the age of 75 the retirement of a president should be absolute.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

A FEW MORE WORDS IN REGARD TO THE NEW BIBLIOGRAPHICAL BUREAU.

IN SCIENCE for August 23d I took the liberty of explaining, in a brief way, some of the

principal features of the new Bibliographical Bureau for Zoölogy. I was not, however, able to compare the system adopted with the numerous suggestions which had been made in this journal by correspondents interested in this important question. I shall now attempt to do so as briefly as possible.

In the first place, let me state that the work will agree closely with the propositions formulated by the Harvard Faculty. In elaborating this plan, I have been obliged to travel to almost every country of Europe, and to consult several hundred zoölogists and bibliographers from all parts of the world. It seems, therefore, a very significant fact that these two independent plans should show such striking similarity. This circumstance seems to show most conclusively that there is a real want felt for just such an organization of the service.

The features in which we differ from the plan of Professor Bowditch (not counting those where we simply go farther) are the two following: (1) The greater centralization of the work. We did not want to depend upon the coöperation of the authors. Our arrangement does not exclude the other. If the authors can be induced to aid us it would be a great saving, but we must be able to get along without their direct aid. (2) The notes appended to the titles by the Bureau are not intended to be *résumés*, but are to be concise statements of the *topics treated*. To make a *résumé* requires too special knowledge on the part of the bibliographer for it to seem practicable. This is the province of the Zoölogical Record and of the 'Jahresbericht,' and it is best not to duplicate their work.

In Professor Hale's letter I was much interested in his idea of a 'Bureau of Scientific Correspondence.' This is almost exactly what we shall offer. I differ from your correspondent merely in the minor point of not fancying a restriction in the matter of language to English and French.

The bibliographical part of Professor Todd's scheme corresponds too obviously with our own to need special comment. The same is true in regard to Dr. McGee. I should, however, like to call attention to his remarks on non-commercial