

to the expedition is being planned by Dr. Roszkowski and Prince O. Hajdukiewicz, who are both studying at Stockholm. If thirteen volunteers come forward, it is proposed to hire a steamer to accompany the 'Virgo,' which leaves Gothenburg with Andrée on May 1. After visiting Spitzbergen and the Norsk-öar, this steamer will return to the north of Norway to observe the solar eclipse."

AN editorial article in the London *Journal of Education* calls attention to the lack of psychological laboratories in England as compared with America, and emphasizes the fact by spelling 'psychological' 'pyschological' throughout.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. THOMAS MCKEAN has offered to give \$100,000 to the University of Pennsylvania upon condition that \$1,000,000 be collected. Mr. McKean, who is a trustee and an alumnus of the University, gave \$50,000 about a year ago.

MR. CHARLES M. DALTON has given the Massachusetts Institute of Technology \$5,000 for a scholarship in chemistry for graduate students. Preference will be given to those undertaking chemical research applicable to textile fabrics.

REAL estate and securities valued at \$215,000 have been presented to the Northwestern University by William Deering, of Evanston, who had previously given the University about \$200,000.

MR. AND MISS HOUGHTON, son and daughter of the late William S. Houghton, of Boston, trustee of Wellesley College, have given \$100,000 for a chapel to be erected in memory of their father.

THE fourth summer meeting, conducted by the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching, will be held in the buildings of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, July 6-31, 1896. Botany, chemistry and psychology are especially well represented, five courses being offered in botany and four each in chemistry and in psychology. The lecturers include Dr. B. L. Robinson, Dr. John M. Mac-

farlane, Dr. J. W. Harshberger, Prof. W. P. Wilson, Prof. Byron D. Halsted, Dr. M. E. Pennington, Prof. William Freer, Prof. W. O. Atwater, Dr. F. G. Benedict and Prof. Lightner Witmer.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANOMALIES.

AT a recent meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History I remarked on the want of a satisfactory explanation of certain anomalies that it is the fashion to crudely class as reverisions. I referred to the occasional appearance in man of some peculiarity of a lower form, which is in no conceivable line of human descent. I pointed out further that these anomalies were not only very numerous, but included features of the most diverse groups. To account for them by inheritance we must assume that they existed in a common ancestor of man and of the animal in which they are normal, with the astounding consequence that this primitive form, instead of being comparatively simple, must have been a perfect museum of anatomical curios, which is directly contrary to the principle of evolution. I failed to receive any information, and indeed did not expect any, for I have talked on this question with many, and have written and spoken publicly on it before. Testut's great work on muscular anomalies is a case in point; the author seems to be perfectly satisfied that he has accounted for a variation if he has shown it to be normal in some animal, no matter which. If I remember rightly, Gegenbaur, at the time, commented on this point, hinting that Testut's explanation needed to be explained. Within a few years the difficulty has been more frankly acknowledged. Thus in the Robert Boyle lecture delivered two years ago, Prof. Macalister said: "I cannot see that when one finds in the limb of a kangaroo or of a sloth, or in the face of a horse, a certain form of muscle like one which occurs as an anomaly in man, we must therefore conclude that its human occurrence must necessarily be due to atavism. Indeed the more I survey the catalogue of such parts the more I am impressed with the failure of the method as a scientific mode of accounting for these anomalies, while at the same time I am filled with admiration at