

PROF. C. JORDAN, author of 'Traité des Substitutions,' 'Cours d'Analyse,' etc., expects to visit America the latter part of June. He intends to spend about three months in America, visiting mines and universities.

THE twenty-second annual meeting of the American Neurological Association was held at the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, on June 3d, 4th and 5th, under the Presidency of Dr. F. X. Dercum. The next meeting will be held at Washington, D. C.

THE party from Cornell University which will embark with Lieutenant Peary on the Kite is as follows: R. S. Tarr, professor of dynamic geology and physical geography; A. C. Gill, professor of mineralogy and petrography; J. A. Bonstell, assistant in geology; T. L. Watson, fellow in geology; E. M. Kindle, scholar in paleontology, and J. O. Martin, special student in entomology. It is the purpose of the party to make as thorough a geological study as is possible in five or six weeks, of the region near the Devil's Thumb, at the south end of Melville Bay and in addition to this to make collections of flora and fauna. Another party will also sail with Lieutenant Peary, under the leadership of A. E. Burton, professor of civil engineering, in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This party will land at the great Umanak Fiord. They will make pendulum observations, natural history collections and study the glacial phenomena. Lieutenant Peary himself will proceed north as far as Cape Sabine at the entrance of Smith Sound. He will also endeavor to explore Jones sound. He will be accompanied by Mr. Albert Operti, the artist, who will take casts of the Cape York natives for the purpose of making models for the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

IN connection with the the Millennial Celebration at Buda-Pesth the University conferred the following honorary degrees on May 13th: The degree of Doctor of Medicine on Prof. J. S. Billings, of New York; Sir. Joseph Lister, London; Prof. R. Virchow, Berlin; Prof. Than, Buda-Pesth; Prof. Anders-Retzuis, Stockholm; Prof. Guido Baccelli, Rome; Prof. Eduard Roux, Paris: The degree of Doctor of Philosophy, on

Prof. P. Berthelot, Paris; Mr. Herbert Spencer, London; Lord Kelvin, Glasgow; Prof. W. Wundt, Leipzig; Prof. Max Müller, Oxford; Prof. Grimm, Berlin; Prof. Lajos Lóczy, Buda-Pesth; Prof. R. W. Bunsen, Heidelberg; Prof. J. Bryce, Oxford; Prof. W. R. v. Hartel, Vienna; Prof. Hugo Schuchardt, Graz.

IN the last part issued of Engle und Prantl's *Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien*, Prof. Britton has been honored by the dedication to him of another genus, *Brittonastrum*, Briquet, in the Family Labiatae. There are six or seven species in the group, natives of the southwestern United States and Mexico.

PROF. J. J. THOMPSON was announced to give the Reade lecture at Cambridge University on June 10th, the subject being the Röntgen rays.

AT a meeting of the Paris Academy, on May 4th, M. Guinkoff stated that he had succeeded in photographing the retina. The experiments were made on himself, and he had obtained a photograph of the retina of his left eye with an exposure of two seconds. The process is not more trying to the patient than the ordinary examination with the ophthalmoscope and leaves a permanent record.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE University of Pennsylvania has received \$100,000 from Mr. Alfred C. Harrison, and \$10,000 each from Mr. John H. Converse, Mr. William P. Henszey and an anonymous donor.

AT a recent meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan reductions were made in some of the salaries, and several instructors were dismissed. A resolution was adopted that where any department has two or more full professors, only the senior by date of appointment shall at any time receive a salary of more than \$2,500. Law and medical professors, if they practice their respective professions, are to receive \$2,000, and if they do not, \$2,500. The psychological laboratory has been discontinued for one year.

IT is expected that Rev. George L. Perin will succeed Rev. Orello Cone as President of Buchtel College. Dr. John Clarence Lee has been

elected President of St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y.

FRANK L. McVEY, Ph. D., has been appointed instructor in economics at the University of Minnesota.

MR. F. P. SHELDON, for the past six years instructor in plant taxonomy at the University of Minnesota, has tendered his resignation in order to devote his energies to the management of his private business affairs and the profession of the law. Mr. A. A. Heller, late fellow of Columbia College and well known for his exploring trips in South Carolina, Texas, Idaho and the Sandwich Islands, will succeed Mr. Sheldon and will act as curator of the growing herbarium of the University.

THE following fellows in the sciences have been appointed at Cornell University: Entomology, James G. Needham, now instructor in Knox College, Illinois; mathematics (traveling fellowship), Prof. Paul Arnold, University of California; geology, Thomas L. Watson; agriculture, Leroy Anderson; mechanical engineering, W. O. Amsler; electrical engineering, L. A. Murray.

THE incomes of most of the colleges of Cambridge and Oxford have been greatly reduced by the agricultural depression. During the last university year the sum of only £72,943 was divided among the heads and fellows of the various colleges, as compared with £111,000 in 1882. The amounts contributed by the colleges for university purposes has been again decreased.

DR. DONALD MACALISTER has compiled, at the request of Syndics of the University Press, a guide entitled: *Advanced Study and Research in the University of Cambridge*, giving a clear account of the admirable opportunities offered for advanced study and research at Cambridge. As has already been stated in this JOURNAL, students holding degrees from other universities or having an equivalent training may pursue studies at the university and after two years of residence are admissible to the regular degrees. The facilities for study and research at Cambridge and Oxford are equal to those of German universities, and should attract an equal number of American students.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### PROF. BIGELOW'S SOLAR-MAGNETIC WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Prof. W. S. Franklin, in his review of Prof. Bigelow's solar-magnetic work (this JOURNAL, Vol. III., No. 74), has performed a duty for which all meteorologists and physicists must thank him; but the question may fairly be raised as to whether the tone and temper of the performance were such as ought to characterize a report of an examination of even alleged scientific work. As one of many who have been more or less familiar with Prof. Bigelow's work during the past five or six years, I have all along been puzzled by the obscurity of his statements and the fact that I was unable to gain any intelligent idea of his methods. There was a certain satisfaction in finding that others met with no better success, although no one could deny the tremendous importance of the results which he thought he had reached. For most people life is too short for going over all the details of work which is being done by others, and usually a complicated scientific hypothesis receives its confirmation from verified prediction rather than from an analysis of methods and material. But while others have been waiting for Prof. Bigelow's work to prove itself by the practical application of which it was alleged to be capable, it is gratifying to know that some one was overhauling it and endeavoring to ascertain the foundation principles upon which it rests. It is quite proper that this should be done, and Prof. Bigelow or his friends can object only to the manner in which the reviewer has expressed himself. It will be admitted that there is a chance that Prof. Bigelow knows what he is doing, difficult as it seems to be for him to show other people, and it is to be hoped that he will not find in the unnecessarily harsh language of the review an excuse for ignoring it, but rather that he will not further delay an exposition, couched in simple and intelligible language, of the elementary and fundamental notions, definitions and principles on which his work rests. This might enable his friends to determine whether his theories 'are peculiarly wild and vagarious' or his results 'meaningless.' And he must not forget that their judgment has been in suspension for a long time. M.