nearest ice-free port from St. Petersburg, and taken on board the boat to be employed in the expedition, now lying at Christiania. Dr. Jeaffreson has been travelling during the winter in the wilds of the Petchora and the tundras of Kanin peninsula. This latter region, he found, had been given up almost entirely to a colony of pirates, who are probably the descendants of Russian criminals formerly banished to the region of Archangel. Last year they wrecked a Russian schooner, and the bodies of the crew were subsequently found by the help of dogs buried far off in the interior. Dr. Jeaffreson also explored the interior of the Yalmal Peninsula or Samoyed land, which has hitherto been almost unknown, and he intends, if possible, to organize an expedition to Novaya Zemlya."

A DESPATCH from Stockholm states that Herr J. Stadling, who accompanied Andrée's expedition to Spitzbergen in 1896, has been appointed by the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society to undertake a search through Siberia in order to make inquiries as to the fate of Andrée's balloon expedition. For this purpose Herr Stadling has received the Vega stipendium from the Society. He starts with a companion from Stockholm early in April, and the journey will last probably until January next.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Maryland House has concurred with the Senate, by a vote of 56 to 22, in appropriating $50,000 a year for two years to Johns Hopkins University.

THE proposed amalgamation of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been the subject of conferences between committees of both institutions, but the plan has now been abandoned.

THE University of Chicago has received a gift of about $150,000 from an anonymous donor.

MISS GOULD has given a further gift of $10,000 toward the endowment of the engineering school of New York University.

MR. CHESTER W. KINGSLEY, whose gift to Worcester Academy was reported last week, has now given $25,000 to Colby University.

THE governing board of the Sheffield Scientific School has established six new scholarships of $100, the equivalent of remitted tuition for the same number of students.

MR. HAROLD HEATH, now fellow of biology at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed assistant professor of zoology in Stanford University.

PROFESSOR F. W. CARD has resigned the chair of horticulture in the University of Nebraska, which he has filled for five years, and has accepted a similar position in the Rhode Island Agricultural College. His resignation takes effect in August and he assumes his new duties on September 1st.

CORNELIUS L. SHEAR, fellow in botany in the University of Nebraska, has been appointed Assistant Agrostologist in the Division of Agrostology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., his duties to begin April 1st.

THE London University Commission Bill has been read a third time before the House of Lords and passed. It is said to be likely that it will also be passed in the House of Commons unless obstruction prevents its consideration.

THE University of Paris has been authorized to borrow 1,700,000 fr. for the construction on the rue Cuvier of buildings and laboratories for instruction in the sciences preparatory to the study of medicine, and for the completion of the laboratory of physiological botany at Fontainebleau.

THE government of Württemberg has just authorized the erection of a laboratory of hygiene in connection with the medical department of the University of Stuttgart.

SIR WILLIAM FRASER, formerly Deputy-Keeper of the Records of Scotland, who died on March 13th, has, by his will, left to the University of Edinburgh £25,000 for the foundation of a chair to be called the Sir William Fraser Professorship of ancient history and palæography, £10,000 for the purposes of the library and one-half of the residue of his estate, which is expected to amount to between £9,000 and £10,000, for general requirements, bursaries, research, publications, etc.

THE principalship of University College,

Liverpool, vacant by the appointment of Dr. Rendall to the headmastership of Charterhouse, has been filled by the election of Mr. Richard Tetley Glazebrook, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow and Senior Bursar of Trinity College, Cambridge. Mr. Glazebrook, who is a son of Dr. Glazebrook, of West Derby, was educated at Dulwich College and afterwards at Liverpool College, whence he obtained a scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1876 he was fourth wrangler and in 1877 was elected a Fellow of his College. As an investigator he is best known for his researches in the higher branches of optics, and his chief papers have been on double refraction in biaxial crystals and on a dynamical theory of double refraction, both of which won high commendation from such authorities as Lord Kelvin and Sir Gabriel Stokes. He is also the recognized custodian of the British Association electrical units, now the standard for the world and is Secretary of the Electrical Standards Committee of the British Association.

Mr. H. W. M. Tims has been appointed professor of zoology in Bedford College, England.

At Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, the vacant Shuttleworth scholarships, each of the annual value of about £55, awarded for proficiency in botany and comparative anatomy, have been adjudged to Reginald Crundall Punnett for three years and to Harold William Atkinson, B.A., for two years.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Living Plants and their Properties. A Collection of Essays. By Joseph Charles Arthur, Sc. D., Professor of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology in Purdue University, and Daniel Trembly MacDougal, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Botany in charge of Plant Physiology in the University of Minnesota. New York, Baker & Taylor; Minneapolis, Morris & Wilson. 1898. Small 8vo. Pp. ix+234.

In recent years American botanists have generally been so burdened with the labor of botanical acquisition in systematic, structural or physiological fields that to a great degree their writings have been plain, matter-of-fact statements, interesting enough to other botanists, but quite unattractive to those not trained in the somewhat severe school of modern botany. This condition has invited and encouraged many mere 'writers'—pleasant word-mongers, with nothing more than the thinnest superficial knowledge of plants—to issue books to meet the demand made by reading people for information regarding the life of plants. It has often been my very unpleasant duty to point out the dreadful blunders which are certain to result from attempts at bookmaking by those whose pens run more easily and rapidly than their botanical attainments justify, and yet in nearly every case it has been found that the book with all its blunders sold well, which indicates that many people read it. There is a demand for *readable* books about plants.

When it was announced, a little while ago, that two of our most active plant physiologists were bringing out a book on living plants and their properties it was supposed that, as a matter of course, it would be a modern text book, for use in the physiological laboratories now happily increasing in numbers in our universities. What was our surprise, then, to find that the authors have given us a readable book on topics like these: 'the special senses of plants;' 'the development of irritability;' 'Mimosa, a typical sensitive plant;' 'universality of consciousness and pain;' 'how cold affects plants;' 'leaves in spring, summer and autumn;' 'the significance of color;' 'the right to live;' 'distinction between plants and animals.' In the first chapter, after a general discussion regarding the nature of the senses, Dr. Arthur takes up in order the senses which plants possess, *i. e.*, 'the sense of contact,' the 'gravity sense,' sensitiveness to light,' 'chemical sense' and 'moisture sense.' A single quotation from this interesting chapter will suffice to show the treatment (p. 14): "But what other senses have plants? I shall not attempt to show the numerous and interesting ways in which plants respond to light. Everyone knows how plants lighted from one side, as when placed before a window, bend toward the light. This is a true sensitiveness, for it results in bringing about definite movement. The stems place themselves parallel to the incident rays—that is, point toward the window; while the leaves