

REUTER'S agency reports that the German archæologist Professor Belck was attacked, wounded and robbed by Kurdish marauders in the Sipan Dagh while separated from his escort. As the result of representations immediately made by the German embassy, the Sultan gave orders for the most rigorous pursuit and the punishment of the guilty parties. The perpetrators of the outrage have now been discovered and arrested. The property and a part of the money stolen have been recovered. In accordance with directions personally given by the Sultan, Herr Belck will receive every attention at the cost of the State. He is now at Van, still under medical treatment, but out of danger.

THE Swedish scientific expedition to the Klon-dike, under the conduct of Dr. Otto Nordensk-jöld, is now on its way home, and is expected to arrive in London about the end of the month. The expedition has been exploring since March last, and the results are expected to be of considerable interest.

AN expedition is about to leave England to investigate and make collections of the fauna of the island of Sokotra, situated eastward from Cape Guardafui. The party, consisting of Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant, of the Department of Zoology of the Natural History Museum; Dr. H. O. Forbes, the Director, and Mr. Cutmore, Taxidermist of the Liverpool Museums, will be conveyed from Aden by a steamship furnished by the British government. The Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society and the British Association have made appropriations towards the expenses of the expedition.

It is still an open question whether the fauna of the sea is confined to belts near the surface and the bottom, or whether the intermediate zones are inhabited. To investigate this problem a deep-sea expedition has been organized, as we learn from the London *Times*, through grants by the Royal Geographical Society, the Draper's Company and the Fishmonger's Company, and has been placed under the direction of Mr. George Murray, Keeper of the Botanical Department of the Natural History Museum. The trustees of the British Museum have helped by granting Mr. Murray the necessary leave of absence and lending him the services of two of

the Museum naturalists, Mr. V. H. Blackman and Dr. Gregory. Mr. J. E. S. Moore, Dr. Sambon and Mr. Highly, of whom the last is an artist, complete the staff of the expedition. The steamship *Oceana* has been chartered and is being fitted with its deep-sea gear by the kindness of the Silvertown Telegraph Cable Company. The steamer was expected to be ready by November 5th, when it would proceed directly to the west coast of Ireland. Work will begin at the edge of the 100-fathom platform, about thirty miles west of Dingle Bay. The vessel will steam slowly for 10° westward. Continuous observations will be made with a vertical chain of tow nets, the length of which will be gradually increased until, when the depth of 2,000 fathoms is reached, the series will include thirty-eight tow-nets. Soundings and observations of temperatures will be made, and, if time permit, some deep-sea trawling. Experiments with various forms of self-closing nets, including the Tanner net employed by Professor Agassiz, will be made for the sake of comparison; but the main effort of the expedition is to determine the vertical distribution of oceanic life by a series of open nets.

WE learn from the *Philadelphia Medical Journal* that the State Legislature of Vermont has passed an Act providing for the equipment and maintenance of a State laboratory which shall include in its work 'the chemical and bacteriological examination of water-supplies, milk and all food-products, and the examination of cases, and suspected cases, of diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, malaria and other infectious and contagious diseases.' The sum of \$5,000 has been appropriated for the establishment of the laboratory, and \$8,000 per year voted for running expenses. Dr. J. H. Linsley is director of the laboratory. It appears that only three States have established similar laboratories—Michigan, Massachusetts and New York.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE University of Cincinnati has again been presented with a gift of \$60,000, this time by Mr. Asa van Wormer, a retired merchant of

Cincinnati. This sum is to be devoted to the erection of a fire-proof library building. As the University is the custodian of the library of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, this gift will have an added interest.

THE sum of \$40,000 has been secured toward the erection of the new physiological laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania, but the plans and estimates for the buildings have not yet been decided upon.

THE Board of Estimate and Apportionment of New York City has allowed over \$13,000,000 for education, an increase of more than one million dollars over the expenditures of the present year. The increase is chiefly for new teachers and for increasing the salaries of those teachers who are now paid the least. It is satisfactory to note that the expenditure for education is the largest item in the budget of Greater New York and that the increase is twice as great as in any other direction. It is expected that in January bonds will be issued to defray the cost of the erection of new school buildings.

ON the 28th of October the north wing of the recently erected 'Mechanic Arts Hall' was opened with appropriate ceremonies by the University of Nebraska. Professor Morgan Brooks, who succeeds Professor Robert B. Owens as the head of the department of electrical engineering, gave his inaugural address, 'Electricity and Enlightenment.' Regent Morrill, of the Building Committee, reported the completion of the building, a substantial brick structure of modern construction, four stories in height and containing thirty rooms. Chancellor MacLean, in a brief address, dedicated it to the uses of the Industrial College, whose Dean, Dr. Charles E. Bessey, pledged the Commonwealth of Nebraska that the building should be used 'to promote that education of the people contemplated by the Act of Congress which founded the College.' Governor Holcomb unveiled a commemorative tablet, and in the course of his remarks expressed the hope that in the not-distant future there might be enough buildings on the campus to accommodate 5,000 students. A formal address in the evening by President Chaplin, of Washington

University, with brief congratulatory addresses and letters, closed the exercises.

AN international commission of architects has recently examined at Antwerp the plans submitted for reconstructing the buildings of the University of California in competition for the prizes offered by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst. One hundred and eight plans were submitted and of these eleven were selected for prizes, each of which was \$1,200. The final plan will be selected by a jury after visiting the site of the University.

THE summer school at Cornell University has been reorganized, being made a more integral part of the University and being arranged with special reference to the needs of high school teachers. Instruction will next summer be given by leading members of the faculty, including Professors De Garmo, Titchener, Atkinson, Bailey, Comstock, Roberts, Caldwell, Tarr and Fish.

THE faculty of the University of Chicago seems to contain an unusually large number of former college presidents and prospective college presidents. The presidency of Oberlin College has just been offered to Professor J. H. Barrows and the presidency of the University of Cincinnati to Professor Edmund James.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

FISH OVA FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

THROUGH the medium of SCIENCE I desire to announce that during the fall, winter and spring months the United States Fish Commission will, on request, gratuitously supply educational institutions with living fertilized eggs of the various marine and fresh-water fishes cultivated at the government hatcheries in different parts of the country. The eggs of about twenty species can be regularly furnished from as many stations, several kinds of eggs being handled at most of the hatcheries.

The eggs can be sent in lots of 500 or 1,000, and will usually arrive at their destination in good condition. Most of the eggs available during the colder months are those of salmonoid fishes which are susceptible of shipment over long distances, when placed in layers on trays with wet cloth-bottoms, packed in sphagnum and crated. Salmon and trout eggs so packed