

pedition shall confine itself chiefly to the Pacific side of the Antarctic, while the German expedition explores the side facing the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

NEWS has been received from the *Belgica*, of the Belgian Antarctic expedition. The extreme latitude reached was 71 degrees, 36 minutes south, longitude 92 degrees west. Maps were prepared of Hughes Bay and Palmer's Land, south of the South Shetland Islands.

THE expedition of Mr. H. O. Forbes and Mr. Ogilvie Grant to the Island of Socotra has returned, after successful explorations. The island has been mapped and its geological features and its fauna thoroughly studied.

IT is stated in *Nature* that the Russian expedition for taking meridian measurements in Spitsbergen will leave St. Petersburg on May 1st. Two steamers have been placed at the disposal of the expedition by the Russian Ministries of Marine and Ways and Communications, and the Minister of Finance has granted 50,000 roubles for two years. M. Bjalinizki, the zoologist, and Dr. Bunge, the Polar explorer, will accompany the expedition, which will be under the leadership of Staff-Captain Sergievski.

AN international congress against the abuse of alcoholic liquors was held in Paris from April 4th to 9th. The subjects considered included medical science and hygiene, political and social economy, legislation, instruction, education and propaganda.

THE Autumn Congress and Exhibition of the British Sanitary Institution will be held at Southampton on August 29th and following days.

THE extensive and valuable library of works in natural history collected by the late Professor Mariano de la Paz Graells, as also the botanical library of the late Professor Axel Blyt, is offered for sale by Felix M. Dames, of Berlin, from whom catalogues can be obtained.

THE annual dinner of the British Institution of Civil Engineers took place on March 15th. Speeches were made by the President, Mr. W. H. Preece; Lord Wolseley, Lord Claude Hamilton and Mr. W. L. Jackson.

WE called attention recently to the recommen-

dation of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Museums of the Science and Art Department that the Frank Buckland Fish Museum should be abolished. The *London Times* states that on March 15th a memorial with a large number of signatures, including those of representatives of many piscatorial societies and the chairmen of various provincial fishery boards, was presented to the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Ritchie, praying that this decision be withdrawn. The memorialists point out that the Select Committee consisted of 15 members, of whom seven only approved the report; three, including Sir John Gorst, voted against it, and five abstained. Against the opinion of Sir John Donnelly and Major-General Festing is cited that of Sir Richard Owen, who considered that the collection would be a most valuable appendage to the Salmon Fisheries Commission and Office. The memorial relates the history of the museum, and submits suggestions for extending its usefulness as suggested on different occasions by the Prince of Wales and by Professor Huxley. For this the cooperation of the Board of Trade is considered essential. It should, it is submitted, be made a part of the duties of the Inspectors of Fisheries to preserve and deposit in the Museum of Economic Fish Culture any objects of permanent interest which may come under their notice, together with photographs or models of improvements in fish-passes, fish culture apparatus and appliances, and other matters useful for reference or record; while the Inspectors' knowledge and varied experience may perhaps be further utilized for the public benefit, by lectures in connection with the museum. The Secretary and Inspectors of the Fisheries Department, together, perhaps, with representatives of the Fishmongers' Company, or other important bodies connected with the sea and river fisheries, should, it is suggested, be appointed visitors to advise on and aid in the management of the museum.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

SIR WILLIAM MACDONALD has made another munificent gift to McGill University. The gift is for the School of Mining and provides for a lecturer, a demonstrator, an assistant and a com-

plete staff of mechanics, which, with his recent endowment of the professional chair, gives that department a complete staff. It also provides for the establishment of a Summer School in Mining. Sir William's present gift is about \$400,000, and it raises the total amount that he has given to McGill University to over \$3,000,000.

MR. WILLIAM K. VANDERBILT has made a donation of \$100,000 to Vanderbilt University for the erection of a new dormitory on the campus.

It is reported that the sum of over \$250,000 has been subscribed toward an endowment for Brown University. A committee is endeavoring to collect \$2,000,000, which it is intended to devote to strengthening the departments already existing in the University.

A BILL has passed the Kansas Legislature appropriating \$55,000 for the erection of a new chemistry building at the State University.

By the will of the late Senator Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, \$1,000 is given to Vermont University, for the establishment of a scholarship.

MRS. FREDERICK C. T. PHILLIPS, of Lawrence, L. I., has given Harvard University an endowment of \$50,000, the income to be used for the purchase of books in English literature.

THE Royal Geographical Society has offered £400 a year for five years' maintenance of a school or institute of geography at Oxford on condition that the University contribute an equal sum. The common University fund will contribute £300, and it is expected that the University chest will add £100. The school will be under the direction of the present reader, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, and an assistant and two lecturers will be appointed.

In addition to its great Lick Observatory, the University of California is erecting an astronomical observatory for the use of students. It contains a central dome 25 feet in diameter, which will contain a 16-inch telescope, and four domes for smaller telescopes.

DEPARTMENTS of Mining Engineering and of Mechanical Engineering have been added to

the School of Engineering of the University of Kansas.

THE College of Agriculture of Cornell University will conduct a school of nature-study at Ithaca for six weeks, beginning July 6th. Nearly 25,000 teachers in New York State are now receiving, at their own request, the Nature-Study publications of the College of Agriculture, and it is believed that many will be glad to attend a summer school devoted to this subject.

DR. JOHN T. NICOLSON, professor of mechanical engineering in McGill University, has accepted an appointment to the chair of mechanical and electrical engineering in the great Technical College recently established at Manchester, England.

At the University of Kansas the following promotions have recently been made: William C. Stevens, associate professor of botany, to professor of botany; Edward C. Franklin, associate professor of chemistry, to professor of physical chemistry; Arthur St. C. Dunstan, assistant professor of physics, to associate professor of physics; Marshall A. Barber, assistant professor of botany, to associate professor of bacteriology and cryptogamic botany; George Wagner, assistant professor of pharmacy, to associate professor of pharmacy; Samuel J. Hunter, assistant professor of entomology, to associate professor of entomology; Walter K. Palmer, assistant in graphics, to associate professor of mechanical engineering; Edward Bartow, instructor in chemistry, to associate professor of chemistry.

AMONG foreign appointments we note the following: Dr. Curt Hassert, of Leipzig, has been appointed associate professor of geography in the University of Tübingen; Dr. Geppert, of the University of Bonn, professor of pharmacology in the University of Giessen; Professor Schilling, of the Institute of Technology at Karlsruhe, professor of mathematics in the University of Göttingen; Dr. Georg Karsten, of Kiel, associate professor of botany in the University of Bonn, and Dr. Dove, of Berlin, professor of botany in the University of Jena. Dr. Georg Bohlmann, docent in mathematics in the University of Göttingen, has been promoted to a professorship.