

will amount to £2,000, have been defrayed by King Oscar, Mr. Emanuel Nobel and others.

THE Brussels Geographical Society has received the first report of Lieutenant Gerlache, commander of the Belgian Antarctic expedition. According to the London *Times* the report says that the expedition left St. John's Bay on January 14, 1898, and on the 21st explored the South Shetland Islands. On January 15th, in 55° 5' south latitude and 65° 19' west longitude, soundings to the the depth of 4,040 mètres were taken. The *Belgica* left on the 23d for Hughes Bay, discovering a strait separating the lands of the east from an unknown archipelago. The land to the east was named Danco Land. Magnetic observations were made and interesting botanical, geological and photographic results were obtained. On February 13th the *Belgica* went in the direction of Alexander I. Land, exploring the belt of bank ice towards the west. On March 10th the ship became fast in the ice in latitude 71° 34', longitude 89° 10'. The sun disappeared on May 17th, and there was continual night until July 21st. M. Danco died on June 5th, and his remains were deposited in a tomb of ice. The *Belgica*, after leaving her winter quarters, again became fast in the ice in 103° west longitude. She reached open water on March 14th. The expedition made successful magnetic and meteorological observations and obtained collections of pelagic and deep-sea fauna and samples of submarine sediments. On February 26th Black Island was explored, and on the following day the *Belgica* entered the Cockburn Channel, arriving at Punta Arenas, in Patagonia, on the 28th of last month.

THE ranchmen of Seward County, Kansas, says the *Electrical World*, have connected their ranches by telephone facilities, using the bar-wire fences instead of setting poles and stringing wires. It had been demonstrated that a fence wire worked perfectly for a telephone connection. The scheme was favored by the stockmen, and a local company was formed, with headquarters at Liberal, that being the nearest telegraph point. Lines have been constructed and are in operation, extending from Liberal over the whole of Seward, Stevens and Morton Counties, Kansas, and have reached

out into Beaver County, Oklahoma, and Hansford County, Texas. Many of the ranches in in this grazing country are situated miles from railroad and telegraph facilities.

THE first stone of the oceanographic museum at Monaco was laid on April 26th by the Bishop in the presence of Prince Albert, Princess Alice and the Crown Prince. Count Münster, on behalf of the Emperor William, spoke of the museum as a pledge of peace and amity among peoples, while Admiral Brown de Colstoun, on behalf of France, congratulated the Prince on his maritime researches. The Prince expressed his thanks to the German Emperor and President Loubet for sending representatives to the ceremony. As we stated recently, the museum has been founded by the Prince of Monaco for the exhibition and study of the collections made under his auspices.

A TELEGRAM has been received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor J. E. Keeler at Lick Observatory, stating that comet Tempel was observed by Perrine, May 6, 9077 Greenwich mean time in R. A., 18^h 52^m 57^s.8 and December 4° 32' 19'', Faint. This is an observation of comet Tempel, 1873 II., and not 1866 I., which is connected with the meteoric swarm of November 13th. An ephemeris was published by Schulhof in *Astron. Nach.*, Vol. 149, p. 23, which agrees within a few seconds of the position given above.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE great State Universities of the Central and Western States are continually growing in wealth and influence. During the present year the following additional endowments are reported: An appropriation bill recently passed by the Illinois Legislature gives to the University of Illinois about \$600,000. The Wisconsin Legislature has appropriated for the University of Wisconsin \$151,000, of which \$100,000 is for an engineering building. The Colorado Legislature, besides passing a bill giving its State University an income of one-fifth of a mill on each dollar of assessed valuation, has made appropriations amounting to about \$110,000. In Nebraska the State University has been

given a one-mill tax, which will, it is estimated, yield about \$168,000 yearly.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Columbia University on May 1st President Low announced that he would reimburse the University for the interest paid on money borrowed to complete the library. This will be about \$75,000, making his total gift for the building \$1,200,000. The offer of the Chamber of Commerce to give \$15,000 a year for a course in commerce was accepted.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has recently received a gift of \$10,000, to be known as the Dyckman Fund for the Encouragement of Biological Research, the interest of which will be granted to post-graduate students. The fund is established by Mr. Isaac M. Dyckman in memory of his two uncles, Jacob and James Dyckman, of the classes of '10 and '11. The former of these, although dying when scarcely over thirty years of age, was a Fellow and Trustee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Health Commissioner of New York, and author of several works on medical and biological subjects. A second gift to the department of zoology is the continuance of the John D. Jones Scholarship, which was created by the Wawepex Society and includes a workplace in the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Station. A third gift is the collection of shells of Henry D. van Nostrand, which comes to the University through the generosity of his widow. This collection is well known among malacologists. It is particularly rich in pulmonates.

In order that the scientific museum of Princeton University may have a complete collection of the quails of this country, Mr. W. E. D. Scott, curator of the museum, has sent out 800 circulars to members of the alumni, asking for a pair of quail from each locality. From the many favorable replies received it is probable that the entire number desired will be secured by the fall, making a collection especially valuable for studying the geographical variation of the bird. Excellent progress is being made in mounting representatives of the South American birds received from the Patagonian expedition. The entire expense of this collection is borne by John W. Garrett, of the class of 1895.

THE current issue of *Nature* gives an illustration of the proposed new buildings for the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. The British government has followed the advice of men of science and has decided to place the building on the west side of Exhibition Road, originally secured for that purpose from the Exhibition Commissioners of 1851.

THE state of affairs in the Russian universities is not improving, and practically all the institutions for higher education in the Empire have been closed until the end of the present academic year. The expelled students have been scattered all over Russia, by which means it may be supposed the police are doing the most in their power to spread discontent and possible revolution.

THE following table sent us from the University of Michigan shows the ratio of the teaching force to the number of students in ten of the largest universities of the country. The first column gives the number of persons composing the faculty, including instructors of all grades; the second gives the total number of students enrolled in the institution; the third the proportion of students to teachers.

| | Faculty. Students. Ratio | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Johns Hopkins..... | 123 | 641 | 5.2 |
| Cornell..... | 328 | 2038 | 6.2 |
| Columbia..... | 303 | 2185 | 7.2 |
| California..... | 286 | 2391 | 8.3 |
| Northwestern..... | 222 | 2019 | 9.1 |
| Harvard..... | 411 | 3901 | 9.4 |
| Yale..... | 255 | 2500 | 9.7 |
| Chicago..... | 212 | 2307 | 10.9 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 258 | 2834 | 10.9 |
| Michigan..... | 222 | 3192 | 14.4 |
| Total..... | 2620 | 24008 | 9.1 |

DR. FRANZ BOAS, lecturer on physical anthropology in Columbia University, has been elected professor of anthropology in the same University. Dr. J. H. Canfield, President of the Ohio State University, has been elected librarian.

DR. MAX WIEN, of the University of Würzburg, has been appointed associate professor of physics in the Institute of Technology at Aix. Professor Schrepfer, of Cologne, has been appointed professor of mechanical and electrical engineering in the University of Würzburg.