scribing the statistical methods elaborated by Galton and Pearson and their application in the natural sciences.

ACCORDING to the Boston *Transcript* the University of Chicago has set aside $5,000 to defray the expenses of explorations which are about to be conducted under its auspices in Yucatan. A collection of hitherto-unknown ruins has been discovered lately some distance southeast of the city of Merida, on the north coast, and a representative of the institution paid a visit to the spot this winter. He found the remains of what seemed to be an enormous tribal dwelling, with buildings scattered around it over an area of nearly a mile. The main edifice was built massively of stone, and the façades were literally covered with the most intricate and beautiful carving. The top is covered with earth and vegetation, and from a distance looks like a square wooded hill, so there is fairly good reason for supposing that the interior rooms are in a state of good preservation, at least that they have not been opened and ransacked by prowling Indians. There are many tombs also that have every appearance of being intact, and, if so, they may contain much matter to shed light on one of the most mysterious pages of the history of humanity. The exploring expedition will start some time within the next month, and New Orleans will be the point of departure.

A *conversazione* in connection with the meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, was given on August 9th, the guests being received by the President, Sir W. H. Preece. The London *Times* states that Sir W. Martin Conway showed a series of photographs taken during his recent expedition to the Andes, and Mr. Mansergh exhibited views in the Elan valley, illustrating the progress of the works, of which he is the engineer, for giving Birmingham a new supply of water from Wales. For those who desired still lighter amusement a number of electrophones were fitted up in connection with the theatres. Of engineering models and scientific apparatus there was a very interesting display. Among the former, which were particularly numerous, were representations of the *Powerful*, *Latona* and *Fearless*, lent by Messrs. Vickers, Sons & Maxim; of the *Turbinia* and a torpedo-boat destroyer with a guaranteed speed of 35 knots, from the Hon. Charles A. Parsons; of the steel ice-breaking steamer *Ermak*, from Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co.; of the proposed new bridge at Kew, from Sir John Wolfe Barry; of the new high-level bridge at Newcastle, from Mr. Charles Harrison; of the new P. and O. steamer *Isis*, from Sir Thomas Sutherland; and of dredgers of various descriptions, from Messrs. J. C. Coode and William Matthews. The Royal Ordinance Factories had an interesting exhibit showing the component parts of a 303 Lee-Enfield magazine rifle and the stages in the manufacture of a solid-drawn 6-inch cartridge case. The Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company showed some specimens of Professor Callendar's beautiful electrical recording instruments. One was arranged as a pyrometer recording the variations in the radiation from an ordinary incandescent lamp, and it was very curious to see the constant alterations in the readings with minute fluctuations in the current when the eye could perceive no change whatever in the lamp. The same firm also showed the seismograph, designed by Professor Ewing, and Mr. W. Duddell's oscillograph for tracing alternate-current wave forms. Another model in action that attracted considerable notice was Professor Dunkerley's machine to illustrate the whirling and vibration of shafts in rapid rotation. Among the railway exhibits may be mentioned examples of Mr. James Holden's liquid fuel burner for locomotives, as successfully used on the Great Eastern Railway; an interesting series of rail sections from Mr. W. Dean, illustrating the development of the permanent way on the Great Western; and a working model of a magnetic system of train signalling from Mr. W. S. Boult.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE gift of Mr. B. N. Duke, of the American Tobacco Company, to Trinity College, which we announced last week, makes his gifts to the College during the year $183,000; $6,000 of which is to improve the scientific laboratories.

The gifts of Mr. B. N. Duke and his father, Mr. W. Duke, to Trinity College have aggregated over half a million dollars in the last six years.

THE sum of twenty-five thousand dollars has been offered by an anonymous friend to Vassar College for a biological laboratory on condition another $25,000 be collected for the purpose.

BY the death of Mrs. Jeremiah Halsey the Norwich Free Academy will receive a bequest of nearly $100,000, and Trinity College, Hartford, $20,000, according to the provisions made by Mr. Halsey in his will.

THE Rev. H. Latham, Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, has given £2,000 for the proposed Sedgwick Memorial Museum.

MISS SUSAN DYCKMANN has given $300 for a scholarship in zoology in Columbia University for the year 1899.

THE class of 1899 of the University of Pennsylvania has given the University $5,000 toward a scholarship in memory of the late Professor E. Otis Kendall, for many years professor of mathematics.

THE Thirty-seventh University Convocation of the State of New York will be held at Albany, beginning June 26th. President Harper, of the University of Chicago, will make the annual address, his subject being 'Waste in Education.'

AT the recent Commencement, on June 8th, the University of Nebraska conferred the following degrees:

Bachelor of Arts	84
Bachelor of Science	32
Bachelor of Laws	51
Master of Arts	14
Doctor of Philosophy	1

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred for work in mathematics, Dr. Engberg's thesis including a study of (1st) The Cartesian Oval, and (2d) An Extension in the Theory of the Characteristics of Evolutes. The following are the titles of the theses in science presented for the degree of Master of Arts:

'The Demagnetizing Effects of Currents in Iron when electro-magnetically compensated,' by Z. E. Crook.

'Beta-Phenyl-Meta-Nitroglutaric Acid and Derivatives,' by Mariel C. Gere.

'Studies on the Genus *Cittotænia*,' R. A. Lyman.

'A volumetric Method for the quantitative Estimation of Sulphuric Acid,' by Y. Nikaido.

'A Contribution to the Chemistry of Aromatic Glutaric Acids,' by H. C. Parmelee.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, who holds the chair of Greek and comparative philology in Cornell University, has been elected President of the University of California.

AT a recent meeting of the Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mines, Professor Fred W. McNair was unanimously elected President of the institution. Professor McNair has been for some years in charge of the department of mathematics and physics, and so closely identified with the work and growth of the College that its history, aims and methods are entirely familiar to him.

DR. F. STRONG, of Yale University, has been elected President of the University of Oregon.

MR. ULYSSES S. GRANT, of the Minnesota State Geological Survey, has been appointed professor of geology in the Northwestern University.

MR. FRANK R. LILLIE, instructor in zoology in the University of Michigan, has been appointed professor of biology at Vassar College. At the same College Miss Winnifred J. Robinson has been made instructor in biology and Miss Caroline E. Furness, Ph.D., assistant in the observatory.

AT Syracuse University, Mr. S. M. Taylor has been made associate professor of physics; Dr. Henry M. Smith, instructor in chemistry, and John G. Coulter, instructor in botany.

CARL A. BESSEY, A.B., and B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, of the University of Nebraska, has been appointed assistant professor in the department of mechanic arts in the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

FELLOWSHIPS at Bryn Mawr College have been given to Miss Elizabeth Towle in biology, and to Miss Anna L. Wilkinson in mathematics. The fellowship in physics has not yet been awarded.