

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE statue of Helmholtz, in the court of the University of Berlin, was unveiled on June 6th, in the presence of the German Emperor.

THE statue of Darwin by Mr. Hope Pinker, presented to Oxford University Museum by Professor Poulton, was unveiled on June 14th, with an address by Sir Joseph Hooker. The statue, which is of life-size and which somewhat dwarfs the figure of Newton, by the side of which it is placed, represents the philosopher in an attitude of meditation, his hands crossed on his breast.

DR. MILTON UPDEGRAFF, professor of astronomy in Missouri University, has been appointed, by President McKinley, professor of mathematics in the United States Naval Observatory.

THE Arago medal of the Paris Academy of Sciences was presented to Sir George Stokes on the occasion of his recent jubilee.

THE Council of the London Mathematical Society has awarded the sixth DeMorgan medal to Professor W. Burnside, F.R.S., for his researches in mathematics, particularly in the theory of groups of finite order.

MR. WILLIAM MARTINDALE was, on June 7th, elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

THE John Marshall prize for 1899 has been awarded to Jacob H. Hollander, Ph.D., associate professor of finance, for his publication entitled 'The Financial History of Baltimore.' The Marshall prize consists of a relief portrait in bronze of Chief Justice Marshall. It is awarded annually to a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University, who has published the most important work in the department of history, politics and economics.

THE death, is announced, at the age of 74, of M. Nourrisson, professor of philosophy at the Lycée Napoléon since 1858, and since 1870 a member of the Academy of Political Sciences.

DR. THOMAS O. SUMMERS, professor of anatomy at the St. Louis College of Physicians and Surgeons, known for his researches on yellow fever, died by suicide on June 19th.

THE United States Civil Service Commission

announces that it desires to establish an eligible register for the position of Scientific Aid, Department of Agriculture. Candidates are not required to appear at any place for examination, but should file statements with the Commission not later than August 1st. For the information of applicants the following statement is made, as received from the Secretary of Agriculture: (1) Applicants will be limited to graduates of colleges receiving the benefits of grants of land or money from the United States; (2) each applicant must file with the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., a properly certified statement as to the length of time spent in college, the studies pursued, the standing in these studies, the special work it is desired to take up and the special qualifications for such work, and, finally, a thesis upon such special scientific subject as the applicant may select, or in lieu of this any literature on scientific subjects published over his own signature; (3) the length of time any Scientific Aid may serve in the Department is limited to two years; (4) the salary shall not exceed forty dollars per month.

THE Maryland Geological Survey has started investigations in forestry in coöperation with the Division of Forestry at Washington, and Mr. George B. Sudworth, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been detailed to work in Maryland and has already completed a forestry survey of Alleghany county. This work will be gradually extended throughout the State as fast as the topographic maps are completed. The Maryland Survey has also started biological investigations in Maryland under the supervision of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who has detailed members of his staff to begin a study of the distribution of the faunas and floras of the western section of the State. This work will be carried on as an adjunct to the Geological Survey of the State, and reports upon the life zones and areas of the State will be published from time to time by the State Geologist.

THE members of the Maryland Geological Survey recently made an extended trip along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, upon one of

the State steamers, for the purpose of examining the stratigraphy of the Neocene and Pleistocene formations, which are to be the subject of special study during the present field season. Professor W. B. Clark, the State Geologist, was in charge of the expedition, and he had associated with him Messrs. H. F. Reid, E. B. Matthews and G. B. Shattuck as well as other members of the Survey. Dr. Arthur Hollick, of Columbia University, who is to undertake some investigations in paleobotany for the Survey, was one of the party. The expedition occupied ten days, and the trip extended into the lower Potomac basin as well as to several of the rivers of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

WE have already called attention to the excursion arranged by the Union Pacific Railway Company to visit the fossil fields of Wyoming. Invitations have been sent to about 300 geologists and paleontologists, each of whom may bring at least one assistant with him. The party meets at Laramie on June 19th, and will be under the general direction of Professor Knight, of the University of Wyoming. The railway has issued a popular illustrated account of fossils in Wyoming, which can be obtained by application to one of their offices.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, the government leader in the House of Commons, on June 27th assured a deputation representing the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, was prepared to give substantial aid to the proposed Antarctic expedition.

It is reported in the daily papers that Dr. Nansen has resolved to enter the lists as an Antarctic explorer. Letters received in London from him state that he hopes to have an expedition organized and ready to start in 1902. He is at present engaged in preparing his plans, and will endeavor to shape them so that he may supplement the work which the British and German expeditions propose to accomplish. Dr. Nansen intends to go to Berlin for the International Congress of Geographers, and Sir Clements Markham and Sir John Murray will also be there to meet Professor von Drygalski, the leader of the German expedition. An Ant-

arctic conference will be held, at which a general plan of action can be decided upon.

MR. H. J. MACKINDER, reader in geography at the University of Oxford, has just left England in charge of an expedition, the object of which is to make a thorough study of Mount Kenia, in British East Africa. The *London Times* states that the expedition is partly subsidized by the Royal Geographical Society, though a very considerable portion of the funds is contributed by Mr. Hausburg, one of the members of the expedition. Mr. Mackinder is also accompanied by two competent Swiss guides and two taxidermists and collectors. The expedition is well equipped with instruments, cameras and other means of carrying on scientific work. Dr. J. W. Gregory, when he visited Mount Kenia, succeeded in attaining a height of 17,000 ft., and his observations proved that further investigation would certainly yield interesting scientific results. Mr. Mackinder and his party propose to camp at a height of about 16,000 ft., and from this as a base they hope to make a good map of the whole mountain, ascend to its summit, journey all around it, investigate its glaciation and its geology, and make ample collections of animals and plants. As the expedition goes to work under specially favorable conditions, interesting results are expected. Mr. Mackinder hopes to spend at least a month on the mountain, and expects to be back in England about the beginning of October.

It is intended that the first malaria expedition of the tropical medicine department of University College, Liverpool, should go to Sierra Leone in August. The expedition will be headed by Major Ross, and will include Dr. Sunnett, the demonstrator to the Liverpool school. The malarial season is at its height in August, and the conditions are then most favorable for research. Major Ross hopes to prove his theory that malaria is caused by the bites of a certain species of mosquito. The expedition will determine, by the methods which Major Ross employed in India, which are the malaria-bearing species in the locality chosen, and then inquire whether it is possible, by filling up the particular puddles in which they breed, to exterminate malaria in a given district.

It has been decided that the Imperial School for the Study of Tropical Diseases, the establishment of which is due to the suggestion of Professor Koch, is to be settled at Hamburg. Professor Koch originally wished to have it in Berlin, but reasons of convenience have led to the substitution of Hamburg, where patients can be landed directly. The institution is for the present to be equipped to receive 30 patients.

MAJOR RONALD ROSS, I.M.S., inaugurated his first course of lectures on Tropical Medicine at University College, Liverpool, on June 12th, by an address on the 'Possibility of Extirpating Malaria,' in which he dealt in detail with the means of exterminating malaria-bearing mosquitos.

A REPRESENTATIVE of Reuter's Agency has had an interview with Doctor Henryk Arcowski, the Polish mineralogist and geologist of the *Belgica* Antarctic expedition. The *Belgica* expedition entered the Antarctic circle from the opposite direction to that in which the British expedition under Mr. Borchgrevink is now working, Lieutenant Gerlache, with the *Belgica*, going via Cape Horn and the South Shetland Islands, while the British expedition started from Hobart for Victoria Land. Dr. Arcowski said that their first object was to make a voyage in the Antarctic, but beyond this there was on starting no definite program. It was intended to examine the various scientific conditions. On leaving Staten their object was to go direct to the south and to explore in the region of Grahamsland and Palmer Land, on which no landing had been made since their discovery, in the early part of the century. On February 13th, four weeks after leaving Staten Island, they left the newly-discovered land which they named Danco Land and in three days sighted Alexander I. Land. On the 28th the *Belgica* ran into the Antarctic ice pack. The temperature fell and the *Belgica* stuck fast. For a whole year she remained immovable, and for the first time human beings prepared to spend a winter in the Antarctic. They had quite expected to winter in the south polar region, but they had hoped to do so on land. For that purpose they had everything prepared,

as it was their intention to build an observatory and depôt. They were, however, quite unable to find land on which to establish a depôt, and had to remain on the ship. The Antarctic winter lasted two months, but owing to the bad weather that prevailed they did not see the sun for three months. They spent the winter in scientific work. All of them suffered a good deal during the Antarctic night, owing to defective circulation and heart trouble. All pulled through except Lieutenant Danco, who succumbed to heart failure in June of last year, and his remains were buried beneath the ice. The only other member of the expedition to lose his life was Carl Wiencke, a Norwegian sailor, who was lost overboard between Staten Island and the Antarctic. At the beginning of the present year they began cutting a channel through the ice for the *Belgica*. After much hard work they cut a passage 900 meters in length, the ship got free of ice on March 14th last. As soon as they got free of the ice they steamed direct for Cape Horn, and reached Punta Arenas, Patagonia, on February 27th. The scientific results were satisfactory and were quite what was expected. Unlike the Arctic the Antarctic has no animals. The only signs of life found on land were a number of very small insects, which were discovered among the penguin rookeries. In the water there was plenty of life. There were far more seals than in the north polar regions, a great quantity of small whales and an abundance of penguins. The Antarctic land they found to be entirely mountainous, absolutely glaciated—covered with snow and ice. In some places, where the cliffs were too precipitous for ice and snow to lodge, lichen and moss were found. Dr. F. A. Cook, of Brooklyn, surgeon and anthropologist of the expedition, has returned to New York and has given similar accounts to the press.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

By the will of the late R. C. Billings, of Boston, Harvard University, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts each receive \$100,000 and an additional \$50,000 is given to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for scholarships. The