

ture, that M. Lagrange has resigned his office and has presented to the Belgian Academy of Sciences his two years' arrears of salary, or a capital sum of ten thousand francs, to establish a prize to be awarded, at intervals of four years, for the best contribution to our knowledge of the physics of the globe. In expressing the thanks of the Academy for the gift, General Brialmont described the circumstances which led to M. Lagrange's resignation. It appears that for the past two years the position of director of the Observatory has been a humiliating one, because a young infantry officer, without scientific attainments, has controlled the establishment.

WE are glad to notice that the House of Representatives has, under a suspension of the rules, passed a bill increasing the salary of the Commissioner of Education for Porto Rico from \$3,000 to \$4,000. If, however, our Government is generous in disposing of the money of the Porto Ricans, it should be just in distributing the greater wealth at its disposal, and the eminent Commissioner of Education for the United States should receive as large a salary as the commissioner for Porto Rico.

MR. STARK has introduced into the House of Representatives a resolution of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, requesting the passage of the bill for the establishment and maintenance of a school of mines in every State where such does not now exist, which has been referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

AT a recent meeting of the New England Anti-vivisection Society, Joseph L. Greene quoted from Senator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, to the effect that the bill against cruelty to animals in the district of Columbia would probably not be taken up at the present session, because of the pressure of business.

THE German budget for 1901 includes 200,000 Marks for the construction of a laboratory for hydraulic experiments at Berlin. The total cost of the laboratory will be about 365,000 Marks. It will be used by the administrations of the Imperial Marine and Inland Waterways and by the students of the technical school. The budget also provides for non-recurring ex-

penditures on science and art over 6,000,000 Marks.

GREAT interest is being taken in the imminent drying up of Great Salt Lake caused by irrigation. We are informed that the plan suggested by Mr. Marcus E. Jones to build a canal from the headwaters of the Snake river, and thus bring water into the Great Basin to replace the waste by evaporation is meeting with general favor. The Utah Legislature is expected to take up the matter at this session. The agricultural sections of Utah are threatened with disaster unless something is done soon.

UNDER the auspices of the International Aeronautical Committee balloon ascents for meteorological purposes were made on January 10th—in so far as the program was carried out—at London, Bath, Paris, Strasburg, Berlin, St. Petersburg and in Virginia.

WE learn from the *Electrical World* that, at a recent meeting of the Frankfort-on-the-Main Association of Electrical Engineers, Herr Wolff, manager of the local branch of the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft, showed a new form of Nernst lamp. The necessary initial heating of this lamp is effected by a spiral of platinum embedded in fireproof composition. By means of a switch concealed within the base of the lamp, this spiral is automatically cut out of circuit after the lamp has been rendered sufficiently conductive by the imparted heat.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

YALE UNIVERSITY has received a bequest of \$50,000 by the will of Albert E. Kent of Chicago, a graduate in 1853. The money is to be used for the enlargement of the Kent Chemical Laboratory which Mr. Kent gave to the University twenty years ago. Yale University has also received during the week, by the death of Benjamin Douglas Silliman, the oldest alumnus of the University, a sum, said to be \$80,000, left by a brother in trust. It is expected that the University will also receive a bequest by the will of Mr. Silliman. Yale University would also receive a trust fund of \$500,000, left by T. B. Winthrop, an alumnus, in case neither of his children should survive.

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has offered to give \$200,000 to Oberlin College, on condition that \$300,000 in addition be collected during the year.

THE sum of \$25,000 has been collected for Amherst College, making available \$75,000 promised by two alumni, Mr. D. Willis James and Mr. C. M. Platt.

MR. H. H. HUNNEWELL, of Wellesley, has given \$25,000 to Wellesley College for the department of botany.

THE will of the late Joseph Ricker, of Portland, Maine, provides for the distribution of about \$300,000 among charitable, religious and educational societies. Among the bequests are the following: Bowdoin College, \$20,000; Bangor Theological Seminary, \$25,000; Tuskegee Institute, \$2,500, and Bates College, \$10,000.

ON January 1, 1901, President Jas. W. Strong had secured gifts and pledges to the endowment fund of Carleton College amounting to \$100,000. This secured the conditional gift of \$50,000 from Dr. D. K. Pearsons offered a year ago. The college has always given unusual prominence to its scientific courses and has an exceptionally good equipment of scientific apparatus.

A UNIVERSITY for women has been founded in Tokio and is expected to open in 1901. A site and about \$120,000 have been donated to it.

THERE will be a second meeting of the Association of Universities in Chicago from February 26th to 28th. Among the subjects to be discussed are 'Migration among Graduate Students,' 'Examinations for the Doctor's Degree,' 'Fellowships' and 'To what extent should a Candidate for the Doctor's Degree be required to show a Knowledge of Subjects not immediately connected with his Major Subject?'

THE University of California will offer at its next summer session instruction in philosophy, education, history, Latin, Greek, physics, chemistry, botany, mathematics and other departments. A short course for farmers is being planned, in which practical instruction will be given in horticulture, irrigation, dairy husbandry, stock breeding, etc. The following

professors from eastern universities will take part in the work: James E. Russell, dean of the Teachers College of Columbia University; John Dewey, professor of philosophy in the University of Chicago; H. Morse Stephens, professor of modern history in Cornell University; James W. Bright, professor of English philology in Johns Hopkins University; Liberty Hyde Bailey, professor of horticulture in Cornell University; and Albert S. Cooke, professor of the English language in Yale University.

C. E. CHADSEY, Ph.D. (Columbia), has been appointed lecturer in the department of education, University of Colorado. He will lecture on sociological topics, etc. P. H. Keyser, M.D., has been appointed instructor in psychopathology in the department of psychology of the same university. Students in the law school are required to take the course, and it is an elective in the medical school.

DR. WM. G. SPILLER has been appointed demonstrator of neuropathology at the University of Pennsylvania, and will conduct an elective course for a limited number of graduates and students for the study of the pathology of the central nervous system and the preparation and examination of microscopic sections.

JOHN M. BUCHER, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), has been appointed associate professor of chemistry at Brown University. He recently graduated at Lehigh University and has been instructor in Tufts College. At the same university Mr. W. B. Jacobs has been appointed professor of the science and art of teaching.

JOSEPH S. CHAMBERLAIN, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), instructor in chemistry, Oberlin College, has accepted the position of private assistant to Professor Ira Remsen, Johns Hopkins University.

DR. MAX VERWORN, associate professor and assistant in the Physiological Institute in the University at Jena, has been called to an associate professorship of physiology at Göttingen, where he will be director of the Physiological Institute.

DR. H. GOLDSCHMIDT, associate professor of chemistry at Heidelberg, has been called to the University of Christiania.