

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE National Academy of Sciences will hold its stated annual meeting at Washington on April 16th, 17th and 18th.

THE spring meeting of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Cosmos Club, Washington, on Wednesday, April 17th, at 4.30 p. m.

DR. GEORGE DAVIDSON, professor of geography in the University of California, has been elected a correspondent of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR F. G. HESSE, who holds the chair of mechanical engineering in the University of California, was offered a banquet at San Francisco on March 29th to celebrate his twenty-five years of service in the University of California. About 150 of his friends and former students were present and speeches were made by Professor Joseph Le Conte and others.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. W. W. Keen, professor of surgery in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has been presented to the institution by his colleagues and students. Dr. Keen, as we have already noticed, has been granted a long leave of absence for travel abroad.

THE fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Abraham Jacobi's doctorate was celebrated at the New York Academy of Medicine on April 3d. Dr. Jacobi was introduced by Dr. R. F. Weir, the president of the Academy, and read a paper on 'German Medical Text-books of Half a Century Ago.'

PROFESSOR J. MARK BALDWIN, of Princeton University, has sailed for Europe to supervise the publication of the second volume of the 'Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology,' which is printed by the Oxford press, and to arrange for the translation of the work into foreign languages. It is expected that the first volume will be published in a week or two.

DR. J. A. BERGSTRÖM, associate professor of psychology and pedagogy in the University of Indiana, has been given leave of absence in order that he may study the school systems in Germany and Sweden.

PROFESSOR GEORGE FREDERICK WRIGHT was

given a reception on April 4th, by the students of Oberlin College, on the occasion of his return from his geological trip round the world.

E. R. CUMINGS, of the department of geology of the University of Indiana, has been given leave of absence in order to carry on his studies at the Johns Hopkins University.

MR. CHARLES P. STEINMETZ has been nominated by the Council of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for president. In the ballot of members Mr. Steinmetz received seventy-six votes, Mr. L. B. Stillwell sixty five and Professor M. I. Pupin forty-four. The Institute will hold a *conversazione* at Columbia University on April 12th.

M. FAYE has been appointed president of the Council of the Paris Observatory for the present year.

M. SABATIER, of Toulouse, has been elected a correspondent in the section of chemistry at the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE Midland Railway Company, of Great Britain, is sending two engineers, Messrs. Seeley and Woollinscroft, to the United States to study American railway methods, including the use of electricity.

MR. VAUGHAN CORNISH has returned, as we learn from the London *Times*, from an expedition in search of snow waves in Quebec, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. These waves were found to be well developed on frozen rivers and lakes and on the open prairie, where photographs and measurements were taken. They are produced without the intervention of any obstruction, and sometimes occur in groups or trains of waves comprising 100 succeeding ridges. Their movement is sufficiently rapid to be readily visible. In certain conditions of the snow true ripples are also formed, which are similar to the ripples produced by wind in loose, dry sand. In both ripples and waves the steeper face is on the lee side. In moist or coherent snow, such as usually falls in England, the wind carves the surface into ridges, which have their steep face on the windward side.

MR. WILLIAM KENT, of New York City, author of 'Kent's Mechanical Engineers' Note

Book' and of 'Steam Boiler Practice,' also associate editor of the *Engineering News*, is to deliver a series of six lectures before the senior students in engineering of Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind. The lectures of Mr. Kent will extend through the week beginning April 15th and will close a long series of lectures delivered at Purdue by outside engineers.

THE death is announced of Audubon Wheelock Ridgway, assistant in the Department of Ornithology of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago. He was born in Washington in 1877, and was the only son of the eminent ornithologist, Dr. Robert Ridgway.

THE death is also announced, at Berlin, of Dr. Schlichter, the African traveler and geographer.

DR. C. R. ALLEN, vice-president of the Torrey Botanical Club, has presented the New York Botanical Gardens with his valuable collection of stoneworts.

THE *Astronomical Journal* states that the following grants from the Gould Fund have recently been made: to Mr. John A. Parkhurst, \$30; to Dr. Herman S. Davis, \$500; to Mr. Paul S. Yendell, \$225; to Professor Simon Newcomb, \$25. A considerable additional amount of income has accrued, for the distribution of which applications are awaited. These applications may be made by letter to any of the directors, stating the amount desired, the nature of the proposed investigation, and the manner in which the money is to be expended. The directors, desiring to stimulate the participation of American astronomers in the attempt to bring up the arrears of cometary research, offer to them the sum of \$500 for computation of the 'definitive' orbits of comets; this sum to be distributed at the average rate of \$100 for each computation—the amount to vary according to the relative difficulty of the computation, and to be determined by the directors of the Gould Fund. Computers should promptly notify the directors of their participation or desire to participate, and manuscripts should be submitted not later than July 1, 1902.

It is stated in *Popular Astronomy* that Dr. Lewis Swift has disposed of his astronomical equipment to the Pasadena and Mount Lowe

Railway. The instruments are to remain on Echo Mountain, and Professor E. L. Larkin is now director of the observatory.

DR. PATRICK GEDDES, who was responsible for the formation of the International Association for the Advancement of Science, Arts and Education, and the holding of an International Assembly at the Paris Exposition last year, proposes a similar assembly, in connection with the exposition and congresses to be held at Glasgow this year.

THE Zoological Society of London has arranged the following lectures to be held after the general meetings on Thursdays, April 18th, May 16th, June 20th and July 18th:

'On the Protection and Nourishment of young Fishes':

Professor C. STEWART, LL.D., F.R.S.

'Biological Stations at Home and Abroad.' With lantern illustrations: Professor W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S.

'Mimicry.' With lantern illustrations: Professor E. B. POULTON, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

'Rhinceroses, Recent and Extinct.' Mr. F. E. BEDDARD, F.R.S., F.Z.S.

THE laboratory of the U. S. Fish Commission for the study of marine biology, at Beaufort, N. C., will re-open for work on the first of May, and will remain open through September. The laboratory is open to those wishing to carry on botanical or physiological work, as well as to those engaged in zoological investigations. The usual histological apparatus and reagents are provided, and the collecting outfit includes a steam launch with dredge and trawl. The more commonly used journals will be kept on file. There is no charge for tables. Applicants for tables should address Hon. Geo. M. Bowers, U. S. Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries, Washington, or Professor H. V. Wilson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. Inquiries as to climate, accommodations, etc., should be addressed to the latter.

THE ship built for the use of the German Antarctic Expedition was launched at Kiel on April 1st, in the presence of a distinguished company. The vessel has been named *Gauss* in honor of the great mathematician.

THE census of France was taken on March 24th. The results are looked forward to with

special interest, owing to the small increase in the population in recent years. In the census taken five years ago the population of France was 38,517,975.

THE Navy Department for some time has been giving attention to the subject of wireless telegraphy, with a view of ascertaining how far it can be practically applied to the naval service, and Secretary Long has appointed a special board of officers to make a thorough inquiry on the subject. The board consists of Captain Chadwick, Lieutenant Powellson and Lieutenant Commander Hodgson. The meeting of these officers will take place at Newport, and it is expected that their conclusions will determine to what extent the wireless system can be utilized for the Navy.

IN order to make the free distribution of seeds by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as useful as possible, Secretary Wilson has secured authority to send out young trees as well as seeds.

THE Senate of Minnesota has passed Senator Chilton's bill prohibiting the marriage of insane, epileptic and idiotic persons, and requiring a medical certificate of all applicants for marriage licenses.

THE American Social Science Association will hold its general annual meeting at Washington, beginning on Monday evening, April 15th, and continuing four days.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

It is said that the litigation over the Lamson estate, bequeathed several years ago to Yale University, has ceased and the University will at once receive about \$450,000. Of this sum \$150,000 is to be used for an auditorium and the balance for the endowment of professorships in Greek, Latin and English.

It has been announced that the donor of the \$200,000 to the University of Pennsylvania for a new physical laboratory is Mr. Randolph Morgan, of Philadelphia, one of the trustees. The laboratory will be known as the Morgan Laboratory of Physics.

THE senate of Cambridge University has ac-

cepted a tender for the erection of the new botany schools at a cost of over \$100,000.

THE trustees of Harvard University have purchased about 400 acres of land near Centre Harbor, on Squam Lake, in New Hampshire, to be used as a camp where surveying will be taught during the summer months.

A ROYAL commission is to be appointed to enquire into the question of university education in Ireland.

THE Committee of Fifteen, appointed by the National Council of Education in 1898, to consider and report upon the question of a national university at Washington, will hold a meeting to formulate its final report, at Columbian University, Washington, on Thursday, May 23d, and following days. It will be remembered that the preliminary report of the Committee was adverse to the establishment of a national university, in the usual use in which the word 'university' is used; but it has in contemplation the development of a plan to make systematic use of the resources of the Government at Washington for research and investigation by university students.

THE courses in medicine for women, in connection with the University of St. Petersburg, have been closed indefinitely, owing to the recent riots in that city.

DR. G. A. MILLER, instructor in mathematics in Cornell University during the past four years, has just accepted an assistant professorship in the Leland Stanford, Jr., University, and will leave for his new field of work soon after the close of the Cornell Summer School in which he takes part. Readers of SCIENCE will recall that only a few months ago, Dr. Miller was awarded the prize offered by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Cracow for the solution of a question in groups, this competition being open to the world.

DR. C. N. McALLISTER, assistant in the Yale psychological laboratory, has been appointed lecturer in experimental pedagogy at Yale University.

THE Trustees of Ohio State University have elected John A. Bownocker professor of inorganic geology and Charles S. Prosser professor of geology and head of the department.