

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.