

THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

DR. J. W. GREGORY, who was appointed scientific leader of the British Antarctic Expedition and as such recently contributed to *Nature* a plan of the scientific work, has now stated that he cannot accept service under the regulations laid down. This resignation, for so it has been regarded by the committee, is a very severe blow to the prospects of the expedition, or at least to the scientific results that might have been expected. Some, perhaps, prophesied failure when they saw the attempt that was made from the first to place the expedition under admiralty control and naval discipline. Friction and consequent heat became inevitable when the committee proceeded to appoint two leaders—a naval and a scientific—without defining their powers from the outset. It is well known that the meetings of this committee have been a series of fights between the geographers and naval men as opposed to the purely scientific men; and Dr. Gregory has over and over again been on the point of resigning. We understand that the ultimate dispute was over the question of landing, which Dr. Gregory wished to have fixed as a main object of the expedition, and not left entirely to the discretion of an unscientific commander. But the actual cause of rupture is immaterial. The position, thanks to the naval manoeuvres, has always been an impossible one for the scientific men. While Dr. Gregory's absence in Australia has placed him at a disadvantage. Sir Clements Markham may be congratulated; but the committee will have a difficulty in finding a head for the scientific staff with half the competence of Dr. Gregory. The only satisfactory feature of the affair is that there has been no unpleasantness between members of the scientific staff, though doubtless some of them would be glad to follow Dr. Gregory's example.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. FREDERICK PETERSON, of Columbia University, has been appointed by Governor Odell the medical member of the State Lunacy Commission. Dr. Peterson's appointment at the present time is especially fortunate, owing to the complications in connection with the State Pathological Institute, which will doubtless be settled with regard to the best interests of science and the care of the insane in the State hospitals.

At a meeting of convocation on April 20th, McGill University conferred on Dr. Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey of Canada, the degree of Doctor of Science.

DR. JACOB ERIKSSON, professor of plant physiology at the Agricultural Station, Stockholm, has been elected a member of the Stockholm Academy of Sciences.

DR. ERNST KOKEN, professor of mineralogy and geology in the University at Tübingen, has been elected a corresponding member of the Geological Society of London.

THE Geographical Society of Paris has awarded the Henri Duveyrier gold medal to Dr. Cureau and the Alexandre Boutroue silver medal to Dr. F. Weisgerber.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of D.Sc. upon Professor A. H. Church, F.R.S., in recognition of his contributions to chemical and mineralogical science.

A. S. HITCHCOCK, of the Kansas Agricultural Station, has been appointed assistant agrostologist in the United States Department of Agriculture.

DR. CLAYTON H. SHARP, instructor in physics at Cornell University, has resigned this position to become testing officer of the Lamp Testing Bureau. This bureau is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, which has hitherto been engaged solely in testing incandescent lamps, but which is in the near future to establish a laboratory in New York City for testing and standardizing not only electric lamps, but also all kinds of electrical apparatus and instruments.

DR. WILLIAM H. SQUIRES, who has spent the past two years in study at the University of Munich, is expected to return in September to Hamilton College, where he has been appointed professor of psychology, logic and pedagogics.

AT the general meeting of the Royal Institution, London, on May 6th, the following vice-presidents were nominated for the ensuing season: Sir Frederick Bramwell, Sir James Stirling, Sir William Abney, Lord Kelvin, Mr. George Matthey and Mr. Frank McClean.

DR. ERNST GILG has been appointed curator of the Botanical Museum of the University of Berlin.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, chief of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, lectured at Orange, N. J., on May 16th, giving practical information in regard to the relations of mosquitoes to disease and directions for exterminating the insects.

MR. ELWOOD MEAD, expert in charge of irrigation experiments, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., is in Cambridge for the month of May giving a course of lectures on irrigation to the engineering students of Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the Croonian Lectures before the Royal College of Physicians of London will be given by Professor W. D. Halliburton, F.R.S., on June 11th, 13th, 18th, and 20th. The subject of the course is 'The Chemical Side of Nervous Activity.' The Goulstonian Lectures, 'On Certain Mental States associated with Visceral Disease in the Sane,' postponed owing to the illness of Dr. Head, will be given on June 25th and 27th, and July 2d.

THE sum which is being raised for the purposes (a) of placing a bust, relief or portrait in the Bodleian Library, and (b) of forming a fund to be called the 'Max Müller Memorial Fund,' which may be held by Oxford University in trust for the promotion of learning and research in all matters relating to the history and archeology, the languages, literatures and religion of ancient India, now amounts, as we learn from

the *London Times*, to about £1,750. The subscribers include the King, the German Emperor, the King of Sweden and Norway, Prince Christian, the Duchess of Albany, the Prime Minister, the Crown Prince of Siam, a number of Indian princes, and a great many well known people in Oxford and the country generally. It is hoped eventually to raise £2,500, so that at least £2,000 may be available for the 'Memorial Fund.' Professor A. A. Macdonell is honorary secretary to the movement, and Mr. C. Grant Robertson, All Souls College, Oxford, honorary treasurer.

PROFESSOR H. G. VAN DE SANDE BAKHUYZEN, the Secretary of the International Geodetic Association, has sent from London an announcement calling attention to the death of Dr. Adolphe Hirsch, director of the Observatory at Neuchâtel. Professor Hirsch was a member of the Association, since the first meeting in Berlin in 1866, and was the following year, elected secretary. This office he held for thirty-five years, having resigned it at the meeting at Paris last year, owing to the condition of his health.

DR. CHARLES RICE, chairman of the revision committee of the United States Pharmacopoeia, died in New York City on May 15th. Dr. Rice was born in Munich in 1841. He received a very thorough education in Vienna, Munich and Passau, acquiring a mastery of several oriental languages, the classics and the modern tongues. He was an accomplished linguist and was recognized as an authority on questions of philology and etymology. Dr. Rice came to America in 1862 and, during the war, served in the navy as surgeon's steward. After his discharge from service he entered the Department of Public Charities and Corrections, of New York City, and has been the chemist of that department and superintendent of its drug department for many years. He has served as chairman of the revision committee of the United States Pharmacopoeia since 1880, and, in the language of Dr. Horatio C. Wood, President of the last Pharmacopoeial Convention in May, 1900, 'has made it in its scientific accuracy, in its general usefulness and in the efficiency and elegance of its resulting preparations, the peer of the best.'

DAVID SHEPARD HOLMAN, the inventor of accessories to the microscope and other devices, died on May 13th. He was for a long time actuary of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, for which he frequently lectured. Recently he has been an expert in the laboratory of the Atlantic Refining Company.

THERE will be a civil service examination on June 3d for the position of soil analyst in the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, at a salary of \$750. The subjects of the examination are physical chemistry, soil analysis, soil physics and German.

THE Godard and Bertillon prizes of the Anthropological Society of Paris will be awarded during the present year. The Godard prize (500 fr.) will be given for the best memoir on an anthropological subject, and the Bertillon prize (500 fr.) for the best memoir on a subject concerned with demography. Manuscripts or publications in competition for the prizes should be in the hands of the secretary of the Anthropological Society (15 rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, Paris) not later than July 11, 1901.

THE Federation of the Agricultural Unions of Italy has decided to offer an international prize of the value of about \$200 to be awarded to the person who discovers and makes public the best method for obtaining exact and constant results in the determination of the fineness of the flowers of sulphur and of mixtures of sulphur and copper sulphate. Competitors must send in their papers in a sealed envelope to the head office of the Federation (Ufficio direttivo della Federazione Italiana dei Consorzi agrari, Piacenza, Italy) before March 1, 1902. The papers will be examined by a special commission to be named by the Reale Accademia dei Lincei, Rome.

THE extensive herbarium of the late Dr. T. Bernard Brinton has been presented to the Botanical Garden of the University of Pennsylvania.

CABLEGRAMS to the daily papers report that the observations of the solar eclipse on the 17th instant were only partially successful, the sun being more or less obscured by clouds. The corona was of the expected minimum type,

being more diffuse and less definite than in the case of the eclipse a year ago.

A TELEGRAM was received on May 16th, at the Harvard College Observatory, from Professor R. H. Tucker, Lick Observatory, stating that Comet Queenstown was observed by Dr. R. G. Aitken, May 15^d. 6668 Greenwich Mean Time in R. A. 5^h 38^m 25^s.8 and Dec. + 3° 52' 12".

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S Hall of Fame will be dedicated on May 30th with elaborate ceremonies. The different tablets will be unveiled and addresses will be made. Professor B. L. Robinson, of Harvard University, and Professor B. D. Halsted, of Rutgers College, will unveil the tablet to Asa Gray, and Professor R. H. Thurston the tablet to Eli Whitney. The tablet to S. F. B. Morse has been assigned to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, to be represented by Carl Hering, president, who will associate with him the president-elect. The tablet to Robert Fulton will be unveiled by James R. Croes, president, and Charles Warren Hunt, secretary, of the American Society of Civil Engineers. It has not yet been announced who will unveil the tablet to the memory of Audubon.

ACCORDING to a preliminary program, issued by the American Society of Electrical Engineers, the summer meeting of the Institute will open on August 14th, when a formal reception will be held in New York City. It is planned to spend the two following days in visits to the electrical works in the neighborhood, and on Sunday to go to Albany, traveling in part by boat up the Hudson River. On August 19th, the works of the General Electrical Company at Schenectady will be visited, after which the party will proceed by special train to Buffalo. It is proposed to hold the general meeting at Buffalo on Tuesday morning and to visit the Exposition in the afternoon. On the three following days the morning sessions will be devoted to the reading and discussion of papers. August 22d will, if possible, be devoted to an excursion to Niagara Falls, where the electrical works will be visited. The various sub-stations at Buffalo will also be open to members. The closing meeting will probably be held on August 24th.

THE Royal Society of Canada held its spring meeting at Ottawa, beginning with the meeting of the council on May 26th. We hope to publish some account of the proceedings in a subsequent issue.

THE second meeting of the Russian Surgical Congress will be held at Moscow in January, 1902 (9th, 10th and 11th), under the presidency of Professor A. Bobroff.

THE Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine will send to West Africa, during the present month, an expedition against the *Anopheles* mosquito under Major Ronald Ross. A leading Glasgow citizen has placed at the disposal of the school and Major Ross a sum of money sufficient to defray the expenses of one year's trial in some malarious city. A staff of workers with all necessary appliances will therefore be maintained at a selected West African city, attacking mosquitoes in the city and environs.

A SMALL collection of pictures, illustrative of the people of the Senegal and French Soudan and their customs, painted by M. Joseph de la Nézière, is on exhibit at the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society, London.

A CORRESPONDENT to the *London Times* writes that the meeting of the Royal Society on May 9th was strictly private, the usual admission of a certain number of the general public being suspended. The Society was engaged in discussing the report of a committee appointed to consider some means of establishing a British academy of larger scope than the existing Royal Society, which should represent philosophico-historical branches of study, as well as the more exact sciences to which the Royal Society has in the main, if not altogether, confined itself. The idea sprang out of the fact that the Royal Society has taken an active part in the formation of an international association of the principal scientific and literary academies of the world. This association is divided into two sections—scientific and literary. While the Royal Society can represent Great Britain in the scientific section, it seems that it has no organization eligible to represent Great Britain in the other section, which includes history, antiquities, philosophy, economics and so forth—subjects which may

be studied in a scientific spirit, but do not lend themselves to experiment and exact verification. The discussion, like the report upon which it was based, was inconclusive. The Royal Society shrinks from taking an active part in the formation of another academy dealing with the subjects in question, which might in various ways, and especially in its demands upon the public purse, become a serious rival to the Royal Society itself. The only alternative is that the Royal Society should enlarge itself in one way or another so as to include the studies classed on the Continent as literary. But, though more than one way of doing this has been suggested, the difficulties in every case are obvious and great. So far as can be gathered, the weight of opinion in the Royal Society is against any attempt to meet what, after all, is a rather visionary demand. If the disadvantages flowing from the want of an academy are as serious as they are represented, it is obviously the students of the subjects in question who ought to supply the need they feel. The Royal Society has a vast field for its energies in connection with its own proper work.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

PRESIDENT J. H. BARROWS has announced that of the \$300,000 necessary to secure the conditional gift of \$200,000, offered by Mr. John D. Rockefeller to Oberlin College, the sum of \$150,000 has already been promised.

A GIFT of \$25,000 to the Yale Bicentennial Fund has been made by William C. Whitney, of New York City.

MRS. S. H. CAMP, of Hartford, Conn., has given \$10,000 to the Philosophical Department of Yale University for a departmental library.

IN 1897 Governor Roswell P. Flower presented to Cornell University \$5,000 to found a library for the use of the New York State Veterinary College; and Mrs. Flower has now given \$10,000 to endow this library. With the books and periodicals obtained with the original gift, and those which can be obtained from year to year by the income of the endowment fund, it is believed that the Flower Library will become one of the best equipped libraries of comparative medicine in the world, and be