

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE American Philosophical Society has elected Dr. Samuel P. Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, to be vice-president of the Society, and Dr. Ira Remsen, president of the Johns Hopkins University, to be one of the councilors.

'THE Races of Europe,' by Professor W. Z. Ripley, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and professor-elect of economics at Harvard University, has been 'crowned' by the award of the prix Bertillon of the Société d'Anthropologie of Paris.

PROFESSOR J. W. GREGORY has been appointed acting head of the Geological Survey of Victoria, with a view to its reorganization.

M. MICHEL LEVY, inspector of the French mines, has been appointed a member of the council of the Conservatory of Arts and Meas-ures.

THE foreign papers report that Professor Virchow, who has been confined to the house as the result of a fall, is making good progress towards recovery.

THE Medical Advisory Board of the Health Department of New York City has organized by electing Dr. Edward G. Janeway chairman and Dr. T. Mitchell Prudden secretary.

DR. F. W. PAVY, F.R.S., has been chosen president of the National Committee for Great Britain and Ireland at the Fourteenth International Congress of Medicine to be held at Madrid in April, 1903.

DR. JOHN D. JONES, formerly assistant chief of the bureau of forestry, and more recently a representative of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of investigating the condition of agriculture in Asia, Hawaii and the West Indies, was appointed in June, 1899, as technical adviser to the Japanese department of agriculture and commerce. In recognition of his services the Emperor has recently conferred on him a high order.

DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON, president of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, has been formally notified of election to honorary membership in the National Society of Natural Science and Mathematics, Cherbourg.

DR. J. W. LOWBER, of Austin, Tex., has been elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of London.

DR. T. H. MACBRIDE, professor of botany in the State University of Iowa, has been invited to deliver the address at the opening of the new library building at Muscatine. The address is to be given under the auspices of the Fortnightly Club of that city.

IN a course of lectures at Trinity College, Professor H. S. Graves, of Yale Forest School, will give 'Problems of American Forestry' March 11, and Rev. Henry C. McCook, D.D., 'The Homes and Habits of American Ants.' In addition Dr. McCook will address the students of the department of natural history upon spiders.

THE Navy Department has extended for six months the leave of absence granted to civil engineer Robert E. Peary, now in the Arctic regions.

DR. EDWARD PALMER, the veteran explorer of Mexico, left Washington on January 15 for a collecting expedition in the province of Santiago, Cuba. He will obtain the usual number of sets, which will be offered for sale upon his return. Dr. Palmer will be accompanied by Mr. Charles Louis Pollard and Mr. William Palmer, both of the United States National Museum, who will collect plants, mammals, birds and reptiles for that institution. As the party will pay especial attention to the unexplored mountains in the southern portion of the province, it is expected that the scientific results will be valuable.

PROFESSOR RALPH S. TARR, of Cornell University, is spending the winter in geological study in Italy and will spend the spring and summer in the study of the glacial deposits of Germany and the British Isles.

Nature states that an expedition to Lake Eyre, the great depression in Central Australia sinking below sea-level, has recently left Melbourne. The party consists of Professor J. W. Gregory, his assistant, Mr. H. J. Grayson, and five students of the geological department of the Melbourne University. The main objects of the expedition are the study of the

physical history of the Lake Eyre basin and the collection of fossils, especially the extinct giant vertebrates. The camel caravan starts from Hergott Springs, a station 440 miles north of Adelaide. It is hoped that the collections will throw light on some unexplained native traditions as to former giant animals that inhabited the Lake Eyre basin.

A BUST of Sir Frederick Bramwell has been presented to the Royal Institution, of which he was formerly honorary secretary.

At the celebration of University Day at the University of Pennsylvania on February 22, a portrait of Benjamin Franklin, by Gainsborough, will be presented by the class of 1852.

DR. PAUL F. MUNDÉ, the well-known New York gynecologist, at one time professor at Dartmouth College, died on February 7, aged fifty-five years.

ALFRED BRASHEAR MILLER, D.D., LL.D, president emeritus of Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa., died on January 30, aged 72 years. He had been identified with the college from its foundation in 1851, having been president for 40 years and president emeritus three years.

COMMISSARY-GENERAL G. D. LARDNER, an Englishman who contributed to the advancement and popularization of astronomy, has died at the age of eighty-four years.

THE British National Physical Laboratory at Bushy House will be officially opened on March 19.

At the annual meeting of the Association of American Universities which opens at Chicago on February 24, the following four main questions will form the basis for discussion:

(1) 'The scope and character of the dissertation required for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy'; (2) 'The membership and policy of the Association of American Universities: Should it be enlarged, and, if so, under what principle of selection? Should the Association devote its attention to questions of graduate work in the arts and sciences exclusively, or shall it also consider and include law, medicine, theology, and political science?'; (3) 'What is research in a university sense, and how is it best promoted?' and (4) 'The degree of Master of Arts: Shall the granting of

this degree be encouraged, and, if so, what should it mean, and under what conditions shall it be given?'

These four topics have been assigned respectively to the University of Chicago, the University of California, Clark University, and Cornell University.

THE annual congress of the British Sanitary Institute will be held in Manchester on September 9-13. The section of sanitary science and preventive medicine will be presided over by Sir J. Crichton Browne; that of engineering and architecture by Sir Alexander Binnie; and that of physics, chemistry and biology by Professor A. Sheridan Delpéine.

THE board of directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, at its annual meeting in Philadelphia, elected the following officers: Professor Leo S. Rowe, *President*; Samuel McCune Lindsay, Franklin H. Giddings and Woodrow Wilson, *Vice-Presidents*; James T. Young, *Secretary*.

At the annual meeting of the Peary Arctic Club, the present officers were reelected: M. K. Jesup, *President*; H. W. Cannon, *Treasurer*; and H. L. Bridgman, *Secretary*. Resolutions were adopted congratulating Lieutenant Peary on rounding in 1901 the northern end of the Greenland Archipelago.

A CIVIL service examination will be held on March 25 to fill the position of computer in the Bureau of Forestry, at a salary of \$1,000 a year. On the same day an examination will be held for the position of piece-work computer in the Naval Observatory and also for a similar position in the Nautical Almanac Office. On March 4 there will be an examination for the position of seed laboratory assistant in the Bureau of Plant Industry, at a salary of \$720.

THE feasibility and advisability of adopting the metric system of weights and measures in the United States will be the subject of discussion at a stated meeting of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia on February 19. The basis of the discussion will be the report of a special committee, which is as follows:

WHEREAS, It is desirable to obtain an international Standard of Weights and Measures, also

to simplify and regulate some of our existing standards; and,

WHEREAS, The Metric System is commendable not only as a suitable International Standard, but also for facility of computation, convenience in memorizing and simplicity of enumeration;

Resolved, That the Franklin Institute approves of any movement which will promote the universal introduction of the Metric System with the least confusion and expense.

Resolved, That the National Government should enact such laws as will ensure the adoption of the Metric System of Weights and Measures as the sole standard in its various departments as rapidly as may be consistent with the public service.

At a recent meeting of the convocation of the University of London the following resolution was passed: "That this House is of opinion that, in the interests of commerce, science and education, legislation should be promptly undertaken to make compulsory in this kingdom, after a proper interval, the use of the metric system of weights and measures for all purposes."

We take the following items from the current issue of *The Botanical Gazette*: Dr. E. B. Copeland, formerly of the University of West Virginia, is engaged in research work at the University of Chicago.—Dr. Bradley M. Davis, of the University of Chicago, has returned to his work from a stay in Paris.—Miss Josephine E. Tilden, of the University of Minnesota, has returned from an exploring trip on the Vancouver coast.—Dr. John M. Coulter, formerly of Syracuse University, has been appointed professor of botany in the Manila Normal School, Philippine Islands.

MR. S. HARBERT HAMILTON has started on a scientific exploring and collecting trip in the vicinity of Santiago, Cuba. Collections will be made in all branches of natural history, the bulk of which will go to The New York Botanical Gardens, The American Museum of Natural History and The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Specialists or institutions desiring material direct from the locality are invited to correspond with Mr. Hamilton at Santiago, Cuba.

At a meeting of the Zoological Society of London on December 3, a series of papers on the collections made during the 'Skeat Expe-

dition' to the Malay Peninsula in 1899-1900 was read. Mr. F. G. Sinclair reported on the Myriapoda, and enumerated the forty species of which specimens had been obtained. Of these, nine were described as new to science. Mr. W. F. Lanchester contributed an account of a part of the Crustacea, viz., the Brachyura, Stomatopoda and Macrura, collected during the Expedition, and described six new forms. Mr. F. F. Laidlaw enumerated the Snakes, Crocodiles and Chelonians which had been obtained, and described two new species based on specimens in the collection. An appendix to these papers, drawn up by Mr. W. W. Skeat, contained a list of names of the places visited by the members of the 'Skeat Expedition.'

Our consul general at St. Petersburg writes to the Department of State that the gradual deforestation of Russia is attracting increased attention throughout the Empire, and the Forestry Society, as well as the forestry department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Domains, are discussing means for regulating the consumption of timber and for propagation. 'Wooden Russia,' as it is familiarly called, does not appear to be in any immediate danger, as a recent official report states that forests in this country now cover a gross area of 188,000,000 hectares (464,548,000 acres). Among European countries, Sweden comes next, with 18,000,000 hectares (44,478,000 acres) of forest. In Russia, the forests cover 36 per cent. of the whole imperial area. The Swedish forests occupy 44 per cent. of the total area, and the Austro-Hungarian 32 per cent. of the territory of the Dual Monarchy. Reckoned by the population, there are 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of forest to each inhabitant in Russia, 3.85 hectares (9.5 acres) in Sweden, 4.22 hectares (10.4 acres) in Norway, and 0.28 hectare (0.69 acre) per head in Germany. The forests have a greater importance for Russians than for people of West European countries, as villages and country houses are largely built of wood, stone and brick houses being almost unknown, and the forests furnish the main sources of fuel supply. While the imperial committee complains that it is private owners who are recklessly devastating the forests and urges that adequate laws and regulations be

enacted to prevent this, the Forestry Society calls attention to the fact that, according to the official report of the forestry department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Domains, the Crown forests furnished a revenue of 17,600,000 rubles (\$9,064,000) in 1890 and 48,000,000 rubles (\$24,720,000) in 1899. It is claimed that this advance in nine years could not be due to the natural increase of timber growth, and it is urged that the Government set an example in moderation.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Laboratory of Engineering, presented to the Stevens Institute of Technology by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, at a cost of \$55,000, was dedicated on February 6. Mr. Carnegie made a speech and was presented by President Morton with a silver box containing a piece of the first 'T' rail ever made, the rail that was invented by Robert L. Stevens and was made in 1830 by Sir John Guest at his works in Wales, under the personal supervision of Mr. Stevens.

THE new Hall of Liberal Arts of the State University of Iowa, erected and equipped at a cost of about \$200,000, was dedicated on January 23.

WAYNESBURG COLLEGE celebrated its semi-centennial anniversary in November last at which time gifts to the endowment amounting to \$36,000 were announced. Col. J. M. Guffey, of Pittsburg; J. V. Thompson, Esq., of Uniontown, and Timothy Ross, John Rose and T. J. Wisecarver, of Waynesburg, contributed \$5,000 each. The enrolment of students last year was 391.

MR. WARREN A. WILBUR, of South Bethlehem, Pa., has given an additional \$5,000 for the equipment of the new mechanical laboratory at Lehigh University.

THE midwinter edition of the Cornell University *Register*, just published, gives the first official and precise census for the current year. The figures are the following: Trustees, 39; teachers, 387; students, graduate department, 183; graduate students in undergraduate departments, 185; academic department, 817; law school, 197; medical college, 415; college

of agriculture, 86; veterinary college, 51; college of forestry, 38; college of architecture, 50; college of civil engineering, 212; Sibley college (mechanical, including railway, electrical, marine, etc.), 784. The total of all classes and courses is 2,792 in the regular lists and about 500 in the summer schools. Of the total 1,679 come from New York State, the remainder from every State in the Union and from all parts of America and of the British Empire, from China, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey and Korea. Of the 784 students in the undergraduate courses of Sibley College, 62 are graduate students; there are also 14 candidates for the Master's degree and 2 graduate students not candidates for a degree. There are 4 candidates for Ph.D., taking their major work in M.E., and one D.Sc., making a total for 1901-2 of 805 students in all classes and courses.

THE Wesleyan University Summer School of Chemistry and Biology will be organized in July, 1902, and will be open for a period of four weeks. It will be in charge of Professors W. O. Atwater, W. P. Bradley and H. W. Conn, aided by a number of assistants.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM L. ROBB, of Trinity College, has been appointed head of the new department of electrical science in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y.

DR. GEORGE E. DE SCHWEINITZ, of Jefferson Medical College, has been appointed professor of ophthalmology in the University of Pennsylvania to succeed the late Dr. W. F. Norris.

MISS SUSAN M. HALLOWELL has resigned the professorship of botany at Wellesley College, and has been made professor emeritus. Miss Hallowell was appointed professor of natural history on the opening of the College in 1875.

At Cambridge University Professor T. H. Middleton has been elected professor of agriculture in the place of Dr. Somerville.

DR. DAVID WELSH, the senior assistant to the professor of pathology in the University of Edinburgh, has been elected the first professor of pathology in Sydney.

THE Senior Mathematical Scholarship at Oxford has been awarded to Arthur W. Conway, B.A., Corpus Christi College.