

treeless regions of Alaska have been suggested, but have never been put to practical test. During the months of June and July, 1900, extensive fires swept through much of the treeless region of Nome and other portions of the Seward Peninsula. The moss and grass, when dry, were found to burn rapidly with considerable flame, and fires ran over nearly the entire region visited by prospectors during the dry months. This fact makes it evident that the surface growth of the tundra could be used for fuel, provided it were properly dried. This material has in many cases been accumulated to considerable thickness in peat bogs. With regard to the third source of fuel supply, petroleum, we have no definite knowledge of its existence in commercial quantities. It is reported to have been found in southeastern Alaska, between Yakutat and Controller bays, south of Mount St. Elias, and also on the east side of Cook Inlet near Kachemak Bay.

CRUISE OF THE ALBATROSS.

THE Fish Commission steamer *Albatross*, which sailed from San Francisco on March 11, arrived at Honolulu on March 24, as noted in SCIENCE of April 11. Heavy weather was encountered almost immediately after leaving port, and on the 12th the quartermaster of the watch was lost overboard while taking the reading of the patent log. Much interesting pelagic material was obtained with surface and intermediate nets on the outward voyage. An attempt, extending over two days, to determine the nature of the life on Erben Bank was unsuccessful, as the peculiar laval formation of the bottom resulted in the loss of all the trawls and other appliances used and subjected the dredging cable to an unprecedented strain.

The surface collecting off Waikiki on March 27 by the aid of electric light is reported by Dr. Gilbert to have been probably the most successful work of the kind ever done. Among the creatures thus obtained is a remarkable animal, first identified as a crustacean, afterwards called a worm, and finally considered a vertebrate; its eyes are on stalks half an inch long.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. DANIEL COIT GILMAN, president of the Carnegie Institution, sailed for Europe on April 17, with a view to studying foreign scientific institutions.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM JAMES is at present abroad, in order to give his second course of Gifford lectures at Edinburgh. Dr. Gwatkin, professor of ecclesiastical history in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to succeed Professor James as Gifford lecturer.

PROFESSOR SOLON I. BAILEY, of the Harvard Astronomical Observatory, is about to leave for the observatory's branch at Arequipa, Peru, where he will especially study the planet Eros.

DR. W. H. R. RIVERS, of Cambridge University, will shortly start on an expedition for the psychological study of the Todas of southern India on the lines of his work in Torres Straits.

M. T. OBALSKI has been sent by the French Government and the Paris Museum of Natural History to Canada to make collections and study the natural history and industries of the country.

PROFESSOR FRANZ SOXHLET, of the Munich technical school and director of the agricultural experimental station, has been made chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Bavarian Crown.

A VOLUME has been published commemorating the jubilee celebration in honor of M. Berthelot, held on the twenty-fourth of November last. Copies of the plaque struck in his honor have been presented to all members of the French parliament.

WE noted in our last issue that Professor Keen, of Philadelphia, had been made an honorary member of the German Surgical Association at its thirty-first Congress. The other honorary members were Professors Bergmann and König, of Berlin, Professor Guyon, of Paris, Professor Durante, of Rome, and Professor MacEwen, of Glasgow.

JOSEPH J. KINYOUN, M.D., Ph.D., late surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service and director of the Hygienic Laboratory at Wash-