

thought of using the new thermo-barometric method which has been used on the Atlantic Ocean, but it has been justly stated that this method would not give results sufficiently precise. However, the chief of the expedition has not lost sight of this important question, and we can be assured that it will not be neglected.

Leveling of Precision.—The completion of the work on the railroad towards the plateau between the Andes permits the levels between Guayaquil and the base line at Riobamba to be determined with much greater facility than was possible when the arc measure was begun.

Topographic Work.—A map on a scale of 1/500,000 will be made of the whole intermountain region and special maps on a larger scale have been made in certain localities.

Magnetic Observations.—Magnetic observations have been made at nearly all the stations. They are not yet reduced.

Studies in Natural Science.—Dr. Rivet has continued his studies relating to the natural sciences and has made a number of additions to the museums. He has undertaken the study of the anthropology of the Indian races in this intermountain region.

The following is the program of work during the year 1903:

1. The completion of work on the northern section.
2. The geodetic observations on the southern sections and more or less of the section Riobamba-Cuença, comprising besides azimuth observations the determination of the latitude 'à la seconde ronde' at each station if possible.
3. A secondary latitude at Cuença and the difference of longitude Cuença-Riobamba (or Cuença-Quito) if telegraphic connection between the former stations can not be made without delay.
4. The magnetic observations as heretofore.
5. The beginning of the levels of precision.

There remains for the following years the geodetic work on the section Cuença-Payta, the pendulum observations, and the connection, if possible, by geodetic observations of the island of Puna, with the meridional chain of triangulation, with a complete astronomical station on Puna.

ISAAC WINSTON.

QUOTATIONS.

THE NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.

WHEN New York established a School of Forestry, to make sure that it should not fall into the hands of politicians and be exploited for 'what there was in it,' it was lodged under the shelter of Cornell University. It was deemed advantageous to make this arrangement for other reasons also, and particularly in order that the teachers and students should have access to the library and laboratories and lecture rooms of the university proper, where the cognate sciences of botany, chemistry, mineralogy and various kinds of engineering are taught. The university chose a professor of forestry of the highest repute, Mr. E. B. Fernow, and placed him in charge of the important work which had been assigned to it, and the state set apart certain forest lands which it owned, in order to impart the needed instruction to students. The annual reports of Professor Fernow have been published and circulated at the state's expense, and have been highly praised by all competent to form an opinion. We have never seen an unfavorable comment upon them by any expert in forestry.

The state also made an annual appropriation for its School of Forestry. That of 1902 was for \$10,000, where \$30,000 had been asked for. This year the appropriation was vetoed by the governor, and now the attorney-general has been requested by certain summer residents of the Upper Saranac Lake region to bring an action to annul the 'grant of forest lands to Cornell University'—so the dispatches read. Naturally, the newspapers have fallen into the habit of considering the university the beneficiary of both the grant and the appropriation. This is not the first time that the mistake has been made, although the fact is that the state is indebted to the university in respect of this school. The university has no pecuniary interest in the School of Forestry that is not common to all citizens of New York. What is at the bottom of this rage against the School of Forestry it is difficult to see, unless it may be the mere objection of campers, hunters and summer residents. The objectors, whoever they may

be, say that the state constitution is violated by the removal of timber from the ground 'for purely commercial purposes.' There has been no removal of timber for any such purpose. If the science of forestry is to be taught at all, it must be done by first clearing some portion of the land for the reception of new growth. The timber removed would naturally be sold on the general ground of economy and for the special purpose of reimbursing the state for the cost of cutting and hauling. The only question which now confronts the state is that of continuing the scientific instruction in forestry which it has begun or of abandoning it.—The N. Y. *Evening Post*.

AGE OF GERMAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

DR. F. EULENBURG, privat-docent in the University of Leipzig, has published in the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik* a lengthy article dealing with the age of the active full professors in the universities of Germany as also of the German universities in Austria and Switzerland. It is practically exhaustive, only about two per cent. of the complete data being wanting, so that it covers 1,288 professors for the winter term of 1890-91, and 1,429 for the winter term of 1901-02. According to these statistics, the average age of the full university professors at present is 53.4 years, which is two years above what it was a decade ago, when it was 51½ years. The highest average age is found at the ten Prussian universities, where it is 54.5 years, and the lowest average in the three universities of Switzerland, where it is 51.8. It is significant that the smaller universities exhibit a smaller average than the larger; this is explained by the fact that usually men do not gain an entrance into the faculties of the larger until they have been tried and found approved in the smaller. In different departments the average varies considerably. In the case of the 201 theological professors it is 54.2; of the 226 law professors, 54.2; of the 295 medical professors, 54.8; of the 707 men in the several departments of the philosophical faculty, 53.1. That the average among the medical men should be the highest is readily explained by the fact that the rush to this

department is especially great, and that the number of assistant professors and privat-docents is very large. On the other hand, the law faculties have not been attracting so many candidates, and the chances for earlier promotion are accordingly greater. The highest averages are reported from Berlin, Königsberg, Munich and Leipzig; which can readily be explained in the case of the first, third and fourth, as these leading universities are the Ultima Thule of the German savant's ambition. The youngest full professors are found in Bonn, Heidelberg, Vienna and Strassburg, in the non-theological faculties, and in Tübingen, Marburg, Innsbruck, Erlangen and Giessen in all departments. There are only two full professors under thirty, both in the law department, one in Tübingen and the other in Bern. About four per cent. of the professors continue in the harness after they have passed their seventieth year, but it should be remembered that in Austria, as in the German provinces of Russia, professors are retired by law when they reach this age. Eulenburg suggests that the German states pass a law giving the incumbent of an academic chair the right to retire at the age of sixty-five with a pension, and making this compulsory, except in rare cases, at the age of seventy, but in each instance, in the latter case, making the incumbent Professor Emeritus and giving the 'Lehrauftrag' to a younger man. This, he declares, would be justice to both students and professors. His discussion has an added interest when compared with the paper published in 1876 by Laspeyres on the same subject.—*Medical News*.

PROGRESS OF THE CONCILIIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM.

DR. HERBERT HAVILAND FIELD is now in this country in connection with the *Concilium Bibliographicum*, and will visit various institutions, in order to report in person on the progress of the concilium, and to enter into communication with all who are interested in bibliography in the various lines of natural history. His address during his stay in America will be 106 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York.