

ment consists of a large Cassegrain reflecting telescope with clear aperture of  $36\frac{1}{2}$  inches; a modern three-prism spectrograph; a thirty-foot Warner & Swasey steel dome, and office buildings. Spectrograms had been secured by November 1 for determining the radial velocities of twenty-five or more stars. It is expected that results will rapidly accumulate, as the equipment is devoted to this purpose exclusively. The station is in charge of Acting Astronomer William H. Wright of the Lick Observatory staff, who is assisted by Dr. Harold K. Palmer.

SR. FRANCISCO M. RODRIGUEZ, director of the Museo Nacional, City of Mexico, reports several interesting discoveries of ancient remains in the valley of Mexico. In the southeastern part of the valley, a number of hieroglyphic inscriptions cut in the rock have been found. In the southwestern part of the valley Mr. Rodriguez has discovered the remains of ancient habitation sites in nearly a score of places, and also rock inscriptions which seem to date back to a remote epoch. The museum authorities have plans for the removal to the museum of the famous tablets at the ruins of Palenque.

A DESPATCH from Yakutsk, eastern Siberia, dated January 15, says that boatmen of the expedition commanded by Lieutenant Kolchak had arrived there and reported that the efforts of the expedition to find Baron Toll on New Siberia and Bennett Islands, in the Arctic Ocean, have been unsuccessful. Baron Toll left documents on Bennett Island showing that he turned southward on November 8, 1902.

THE president of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a departmental committee to inquire into and report upon the present position of fruit culture in Great Britain, and to consider whether any further measures might with advantage be taken for its promotion and encouragement. Mr. A. G. Boscawen is chairman and Mr. Ernest Garnsey secretary of the committee.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE will of the late Charles F. Doe, a lumber manufacturer of San Francisco, bequeaths about one fourth of his estate to the Uni-

versity of California for a library. The university will receive over \$500,000.

TOWARDS the fund being raised by the senate of the University of London for the proposed Institute of Medical Sciences, Mr. Butlin, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine, has contributed £1,000, and Sir William Church, president of the Royal College of Physicians, and Mr. Tweedy, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, £100 each.

ASSEMBLYMAN DAVIS of the Committee of Public Education has introduced in the assembly of New York State a bill providing for educational unification and the reorganization of the Board of Regents. The bill provides that the secretary of state shall draw nine names from a box containing the names of the present Board of Regents, and the persons thus indicated shall constitute the Board of Regents, serving for from one to nine years. Thereafter one regent is to be elected each year, to serve for a period of nine years. They are to elect a commissioner of education, to serve during the pleasure of the board, at an annual salary of \$7,500 a year. He shall perform the duties now devolving upon the superintendent of Public Instruction and the secretary of the board of regents, both of whose offices are abolished. The first commissioner is to be elected by the legislature. Neither the state superintendent nor any member of the Board of Regents, nor any employee or appointee of either shall be eligible.

GOVERNOR ODELL has sent to the senate the report of the director of the New York State School of Forestry and a letter from President Schurman of Cornell University. In his letter President Schurman states that Governor Odell's recommendation that the experimental work be resumed subject to the condition that the state assume liability for the contracts that Cornell University has already entered into, is acceptable. The university is willing to acquiesce to a discontinuance provided it is protected against any liability on contracts which as agent of the state it has made in connection with the operation of the school.