

ing as far as possible in concert with the authorities engaged in the reduction of the observations of the German and Scottish Antarctic Expeditions, which in part covered the same period of time. It was proposed that the special scientific results of the expedition should be published in a uniform series of volumes similar to the published records of the *Challenger* Expedition. The subject of Mediterranean fever was referred to the tropical disease committee of the society. At the request of the Colonial Office an advisory board was constituted as a sub-committee of the tropical diseases committee, with Colonel Bruce, F.R.S., as chairman. The president and council had received from the Court of the Goldsmiths' Company a grant of £1,000 'for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of original research work in connection with the character and properties of radium,' accepting the responsibility of the proper application of the grant. In December, 1902, the Lords of the Treasury appointed a committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Herbert Maxwell, F.R.S., M.P., to inquire into and report upon the administration of the parliamentary grant by the Meteorological Council, and to make such recommendations as might seem to them to increase the utility of the grant. The committee reported last May and commented forcibly on the insufficiency of the funds remaining over for progressive meteorological research. They advised that the service should be attached to one of the great government departments, in which case the present council would not be required. They pointed out how savings to the amount of £2,500 a year might be effected. The National Physical Laboratory had continued its work with success during the year, the last of the five for which the original annual grant of £4,000 was made by the Treasury. A memorandum had been sent to the Treasury which recommended (1) that a sum of nearly £30,000 was required for capital expenditure, and (2) that the annual grant should be raised in the course of four years to £10,000; while, with a view to supporting these proposals, a request was made for an official inquiry into the work and organization of the laboratory. The question was

still under consideration. The donations and subscriptions promised to the laboratory, in most cases for five years, had increased and now reached about £2,000. Work had been begun on the new magnetic observatory at Eskdale Muir, for which a sum of £3,000 was provided in the Treasury estimates for the year. Other matters dealt with in the report were publications, the government publication grant of £1,000, and the library. The report also contained the Royal Society's statement on scientific education in schools, made last January, which was forwarded to all the universities in the United Kingdom, and to which many sympathetic replies had been received.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR JAMES F. KEMP, head of the Department of Geology of Columbia University, has been elected president of the New York Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR C. P. NEILL, who holds the chair of political economy in the Catholic University of America, has been appointed U. S. commissioner of labor to succeed the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, who will hereafter devote his whole time to the presidency of Clark College. Dr. Wright was given a farewell banquet by the Unitarian Club, at Washington, on the evening of December 14.

PROFESSOR WILLET M. HAYS, who holds the chair of agriculture in the University of Minnesota, has been appointed assistant secretary of agriculture.

At the twelfth annual meeting of the Geological Society of Washington, after listening to a paper by Mr. G. K. Gilbert on 'Crescentic gouges on glaciated surfaces,' the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—G. P. Merrill.

Vice-presidents—Waldemar Lindgren, A. H. Brooks.

Secretaries—G. O. Smith, H. Foster Bain.

Treasurer—M. L. Fuller.

Members of the Council—T. W. Vaughan, David White, F. L. Ransome, M. R. Campbell, T. W. Stanton.

Mr. G. K. Gilbert was selected to represent the society as vice-president of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

MR. LUTHER BURBANK, the well-known California expert on plant-breeding, has been appointed a special lecturer at Stanford University. It is reported in the daily papers that Mr. Burbank has received a liberal grant from the Carnegie Institution, which will permit him to devote himself to scientific work for the next ten years.

As already announced, the council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the Gunning Victoria Jubilee prize for 1900-1904 to Sir James Dewar. In addition, the council has awarded the Keith prize for 1901-1903 to Sir William Turner for his memoir entitled 'A Contribution to the Craniology of the People of Scotland' and for his 'Contributions to the Craniology of the People of the Empire of India,' Parts I., II.; the Macdougall-Brisbane prize for 1902-1904 to Mr. John Dougall, M.A., for his paper on 'An Analytical Theory of the Equilibrium of an Isotropic Elastic Plate'; and the Neill prize for 1901-1904 to Professor J. Graham Kerr, M.A., for his researches on *Lepidosiren paradoxa*.

THE Astley Cooper prize of £300, which is offered triennially for medical research on a specified subject, has been awarded to Mr. W. Sampson Handley, Hunterian professor in the Royal College of Surgeons, for an essay entitled 'Epigastric Invasion of the Abdomen in Breast Cancer.'

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR CARL KINSLEY, of the department of physics of the University of Chicago, will go abroad on the first of January to spend six months in study at the laboratory of Professor J. J. Thomson in Cambridge.

MR. CHAS. T. KIRK, a graduate student in geology at the University of Oklahoma, is conducting some investigations on the subject of concretions. He desires to correspond or to exchange specimens with any one interested in this particular subject.

PROFESSOR HELY-SHAW, who has held the chair of engineering for the past twenty years at Liverpool, has accepted the post of principal organizer under the Transvaal Technical Council.

THE death is announced of Miss Achsa M. Ely, since 1887 professor of mathematics at Vassar College.

WE regret also to record the death of Dr. Karl Ueberhorst, professor of philosophy at the University of Innsbrück.

SEVERAL specimens of native gold, some of especial value on account of their crystalline form, have disappeared from the mineral cabinet of one of the leading educational institutions. Collectors and curators of museums are respectfully asked to report to Pinkerton's Detective Agency any information that may lead to the identification of the thief or to the discovery of the whereabouts of the specimens.

It is said that Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given \$540,000 for the establishment in Boston of an institute similar to Cooper Institute, which is to be added to a fund of \$270,000, which has grown from \$5,000 left one hundred years ago by Benjamin Franklin.

THE constitutional amendment exempting the California Academy of Sciences from further taxation was carried at the election November 8, 1904, by a majority of nearly 11,000.

THE seventh biennial convention of the Society of the Sigma Xi will be held on Thursday evening, December 29, 1904, at eight o'clock in the auditorium of Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

A WESTERN meeting of the American Physical Society is to be held in the Ryerson Physical Laboratory on April 22, 1905. The arrangement of the program is in the hands of Professor Robert A. Millikan, of the department of physics of the University of Chicago.

THE Pelé Club will hold its third annual session at Philadelphia, on the evening of December 28. The organization hopes to be of service to the science of geography in collecting and studying phenomena.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that a meeting of medical men was held in Paris on November 25, when it was resolved to invite British physicians and surgeons to pay a return visit to Paris. Professor Bouchard, member of the Institut, was elected president of the Paris committee, and the opinion

was expressed that some date early in May—probably between May 7 and 14—would be most convenient.

NEGOTIATIONS have been completed whereby Purdue University is to receive from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, through the courtesy of Mr. Samuel Higgins, general manager, the historic locomotive 'Daniel Nason.' A few years ago the university interested itself in securing from railways samples of such classes of locomotives as are now being superseded by machines of more modern construction, its purpose being to preserve as museum exhibits types of design which were in danger of becoming extinct. As a result of this plan, a number of valuable relics are already upon its grounds. From the beginning of this movement, an effort has been made to secure a representative of a type which was common throughout New England thirty years ago, namely, an eight-wheeled engine having cylinders inside the frames connecting with the crank axle. This effort has now been crowned with success. The 'Daniel Nason' is said to have been built in 1858. It was exhibited in Chicago in 1893 and has been held as a relic at Roxbury, Mass. The engine weighs about twenty-five tons, is complete with its tender and will be shipped to the University at Lafayette, Indiana, upon its own wheels. The university is also to become the custodian, in behalf of the same railway, for a stage-coach passenger car which is said to have been placed in service in 1835. It consists of the body of a stage-coach suspended over a simple railway truck by means of thorough-braces. It will seat inside and on its top about twenty persons. The American Locomotive Company has presented to the university the full-sized model locomotive cylinders sectioned to show the piston valve construction, which formed a part of its exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis.

THE lecture arrangements at the Royal Institute, London, include the following: A Christmas course of lectures (experimentally illustrated and adapted to a juvenile auditory) on 'Ancient and Modern Methods of Measur-

ing Time,' by Mr. Henry Cunynghame; Professor L. C. Miall, Fullerian professor of physiology, R. L., six lectures on 'Adaptation and History in the Structure and Life of Animals'; Professor Karl Pearson, three lectures on 'Some Recent Biometric Studies'; Professor W. E. Dalby, two lectures on 'Engineering'; Mr. A. H. Savage Landor, two lectures on 'Exploration in the Philippines'; Professor W. Schlich, two lectures on 'Forestry in the British Empire'; Mr. J. J. H. Teall, two lectures on 'Recent Work of the Geological Survey'; Professor H. H. Turner, three lectures on 'Recent Astronomical Progress'; Professor R. Meldola, two lectures on 'Synthetic Chemistry'; Professor J. J. Thomson, three lectures on 'Electrical Properties of Radioactive Substances'; and Lord Rayleigh, three lectures on 'Some Controverted Questions of Optics.' The Friday evening meetings will begin on January 20, when a discourse will be delivered by Professor Sir James Dewar on 'New Low Temperature Phenomena'; succeeding discourses will probably be given by Dr. E. A. Wilson, Mr. Cecil Smith, Mr. J. W. Gordon, Professor H. Marshall Ward, Chevalier G. Marconi, Professor J. J. Thomson, Sir Squire Bancroft, Professor G. H. Bryan, Professor J. Wright, Professor T. Clifford Allbutt, Lord Rayleigh and others.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE regents of the University of Nebraska have passed a resolution accepting a gift of \$66,000 from Mr. John D. Rockefeller for the erection of a building to be used for religious purposes.

DR. FOWLER, late president of Corpus College, Oxford, has under his will left £1,500 to his own college, a like sum to Lincoln, of which he was formerly fellow and tutor and honorary fellow at the time of his death, and £1,000 to Merton, where he was a post-master.

MR. CLIFTON D. HOWE, assistant in the department of botany of the University of Chicago, has received an appointment to an instructorship in botany in the Biltmore Forestry School.