

and lead, the handling of which has been ascertained to produce injurious effects, *i. e.*, lead-poisoning, the government of the Netherlands has decided to open a competition under the following conditions.

The government desires a medium for the setting and resetting of diamonds to be cut—which needs not necessarily be an alloy—the use of which can not produce effects detrimental to the health of those handling the same, or an elaborate project of altering the method now in use, in such a manner that no such injurious effects can be produced.

The following requirements have further to be fulfilled:

1. The medium or the method must be practicable for all sizes and shapes of diamonds in the following branches of the diamond industry, *viz.*, brilliants, roses and so-called non-recoupés, now being cut in the Netherlands.

2. The application must be such as to be learned by the workmen, used to the present method of work, without any great difficulty, while the setting and resetting must not require more time, or considerably more time than is usual now.

3. The application and use must not entail considerable pecuniary outlay.

The Minister of the Interior has appointed a committee of experts to consider the answers submitted, and to award the prize. The answers must be written in either the Dutch, French, English or German languages, and must be accompanied by samples or objects to enable the committee to form an opinion about the practical value of the invention, as also of a legibly written address of the competitor.

The answers, and the samples or objects pertaining thereto, must be sent carriage paid, and if sent from foreign countries duty paid, before January 1, 1906, to Professor Dr. L. Aronstein, chairman of the committee, Chemical Laboratory of the Polytechnic School, Delft, Holland.

The prize to be awarded for a complete solution of the problem is six thousand florins. The committee is empowered to divide the prize among different competitors, or to par-

tially award the prize in case of a partial solution of the problem, for instance if it is applicable to one of the above-named branches of the diamond industry. The committee is also empowered to prescribe certain conditions, to be fulfilled by the competitor, before awarding the prize.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

At the annual anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on May 22, Sir Clements Markham resigned the presidency of the society which he has held during the past twelve years. Sir George Goldie, founder of Nigeria, was elected to the presidency, Sir Clements Markham and Colonel D. A. Johnston were elected vice-presidents.

DR. HENRY S. PRITCHETT, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give the commencement address at the University of Michigan, on June 22.

DR. LEWELLYS F. BARKER, who is giving up the headship of the department of anatomy at the University of Chicago to accept the chair of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, was given a dinner by his colleagues at the University of Chicago, on May 27.

M. SÉBILLOT has succeeded M. Deniker as president of the Anthropological Society of Paris.

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE will confer the degree of Doctor of Laws on Professor Henry M. Howe, of Columbia University.

DR. WILLIAM JAMES, professor of philosophy at Harvard University, will give a course of lectures at the University of Chicago during the summer session.

MAJOR E. C. CARTER, U. S. A., commissioner of public health for the Philippines, has been relieved and will return to Washington. Dr. Victor G. Heiser, of the U. S. Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, has been appointed commissioner of public health.

MR. H. E. BARNHARD, state chemist of New Hampshire, has been selected as the chemist for the new Indiana Laboratory of Hygiene at Indianapolis, provided for by the last legislature.

PROFESSOR RUDOLF HAUTHAL, of the Natural History Museum at La Plata, has been appointed director of the Museum at Hildesheim.

DR. W. B. WHERRY has resigned his position as bacteriologist at the Government Laboratories, at Manila, and has returned to his former position with the Rush Medical College at Chicago.

PROFESSOR OMORI, the Japanese authority on earthquakes, is going to India to make an examination of the scenes of the late Indian earthquake, more especially in the Kangra Valley.

MR. O. M. LELAND, department of civil engineering of Cornell University, will have charge of part of the field work connected with the survey about to be made to determine the boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia.

DR. LEWIS E. JEWELL, of the Johns Hopkins University, will be one of a party to observe the solar eclipse from North Africa.

DR. HUGO MÜNSTERBERG, professor of psychology at Harvard University, sailed for Germany on June 1.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, chief of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, sailed on June 3 for Europe. He goes first to Italy and then to Germany, his object being, more particularly, to secure information in regard to the parasites that feed on the gypsy moth and the brown-tail moth.

PROFESSOR B. M. DUGGAR, of the University of Missouri, sailed for Europe on May 20. He will attend the International Congress of Botanists at Vienna, and will spend the coming year in work at various botanical laboratories on the continent. During his absence the department of botany will be in charge of Mr. Howard S. Reed. Mr. H. L. Shantz, of the University of Nebraska, has been added to the instructing force for the coming year.

DR. IRA N. HOLLIS, professor of engineering at Harvard University, will spend next year in Geneva.

DR. A. P. BRIGHAM, professor of geology and natural history at Colgate University, will spend the summer in Europe, sailing on June 14.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR, of Vassar College, will spend next year abroad.

At the meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on May 22, M. Maquenne read an obituary notice of the late M. Duclaux.

THERE will be a civil service examination, on June 28, for the position of plant pathologist at \$1,600 per annum in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture.

THE board of estimate of New York City has appropriated \$850,000 to begin the erection of the New Bellevue Hospital, the cost of which will be \$8,500,000.

THE Food Standards Committee of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists has been this week in session at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, to give final consideration to the standards for edible oils and flavoring extracts. The following members were present: Wm. Frear, of State College, Pa.; Henry A. Weber, Columbus, Ohio; Melvill A. Scovell, Lexington, Ky.; Edward H. Jenkins, New Haven, Conn.; and Harvey W. Wiley, of Washington, D. C. Before returning to Washington, Dr. Wiley will deliver the commencement address at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station at Stillwater, the subject being 'Success.'

THE International Institute of Sociology, established at Paris, of which Professor Gustav Schmoller, of Berlin, is the president, has accepted an invitation of the Sociological Society, supported by the University of London, to hold its next congress in London in July, 1906.

THE India correspondent of the *Lancet* writes: "The plague epidemic continues with unabated virulence. For the week ending April 22 54,602 deaths were recorded, as compared with 51,786 for the preceding seven days. The death-roll for 1905 promises to exceed all former records. In 1901 the total deaths from plague were returned at 273,679, in 1902 the number rose to 577,427, in 1903

it reached 851,263 and in 1904 it was 1,022,299. From January 1 of the present year up to April 15 the number of fatal cases is reported at 576,366, and it is very doubtful whether these figures tell the whole truth. Of the total of 64,214 seizures with 54,602 deaths during the week ending April 22 the Bombay presidency had 3,497 cases and 2,787 deaths; Madras, 65 cases and 65 deaths; Bengal, 4,993 cases and 4,351 deaths; the United Provinces, 18,249 cases and 16,637 deaths; the Punjab, 33,162 cases and 27,362 deaths; Burma, 183 cases and 175 deaths; the Central Provinces, 223 cases and 175 deaths; Mysore state, 50 cases and 40 deaths; Haidarabad state, 401 cases and 316 deaths; Central India, 117 cases and 84 deaths; Rajputana, 2,924 cases and 2,406 deaths, and Kashmir, 359 cases with 215 deaths. These detailed figures will show how the disease has extended over the country and the heavy mortality of the cases. The mortality is higher this week in the Punjab by 3,420, in the United Provinces by 753, in Rajputana by 200, in Burma by 20, in Kashmir by 28, in Bombay city by 132 and in Calcutta by 130. The only noticeable decrease is in the districts of Bengal, where the epidemic seems to be abating. In this area, however, the outbreak occurred earlier in the season. During the present outbreak the anti-plague serum from the Pasteur Institute in Paris has been somewhat extensively used for the treatment of cases both in Bombay and Calcutta, and, although it is early to form a definite opinion, numerous individual reports would seem to show its value.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. PERCIVAL LOWELL has established a liberally endowed fellowship, to be known as The Lawrence Fellowship, for the Department of Astronomy at Indiana University. By the terms of the endowment the fellow is appointed by the department, but the appointment is subject to the approval of the founder. A Lawrence fellow shall be given an opportunity for astronomical research at the Lowell Observatory and to prepare a thesis on some astronomical subject agreeable to the director

and the fellow. Mr. John C. Duncan has received the appointment for the year 1905-6.

DR. W. W. KEEN, professor of surgery at Jefferson Medical College, has presented to that institution \$5,000 to found as a memorial to his wife the Corinna Borden Keen Research Fellowship. The conditions of the fellowship are that whenever there is accumulated from the income the sum of \$500 it shall be awarded to a graduate of the college.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY has been offered \$40,000 by Mr. Carnegie for a library building on condition that a similar sum be raised for its maintenance. It is expected that work will begin at once. The addition to Brice Scientific Hall and the woman's dormitory, Hepburn Hall, will be ready for use by the students of the summer session.

MR. J. P. BRANCH, of Richmond, Va., has given \$30,000 to Randolph-Macon College for a dormitory.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY has begun the erection of a Science Hall to contain the departments of geology and geography, biology and physics and the museum collections. It will be built of stone at a cost of about \$90,000, the dimensions being 117 x 70 feet. It will be ready for use during 1906.

At the University of Colorado 86 degrees were conferred at the commencement exercises on June 7. The number receiving the various degrees was as follows: M.A., 9; M.S., 2; B.A., 40; B. S. (engineering), 14; M.D., 6; LL.B., 15.

JOHN PEARCE MITCHELL, A.B. (Stanford), who is now studying in Berlin, has been appointed assistant in chemistry at Stanford University.

At Barnard College, Columbia University, Miss Margaret A. Reed has been appointed lecturer in zoology, and Miss Marion E. Latham, assistant in botany.

MR. ERNEST BROWN, lecturer in applied mechanics in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed assistant professor in this subject at McGill University. Dr. J. W. Hickson has been appointed assistant professor of psychology and lecturer in philosophy.