

THE DANISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION.¹

Few Arctic expeditions, if any, have been more carefully planned and prepared than the forthcoming Danish 'or 'Danmark' expedition, as it is officially called. The necessary funds, about 250,000kr., have been raised partly by a government grant and partly by private subscriptions. Mr. L. Mylius-Erichsen, the leader of the expedition, distinguished himself by his determined pluck and energy as leader of the Danish Greenland expedition, which made its way across Melville Bay to the Cape York Eskimo settlement on the west coast of Greenland; and he has been universally complimented by Sir Clements Markham, Professor Fridtjof Nansen, and other eminent authorities for the plan he is now about to realize.

Leaving Copenhagen on July 1, the *Danmark* will proceed to the east coast of Greenland and try to make its way through the ice as far north as possible, further north than where Sabine and Clavering landed in 1823. The first problem which will present itself to Mylius-Erichsen will be to ascertain whether Eskimo are to be found further north; if not, what has become of them, and by what route have the Eskimo made their way to East Greenland. From the place of landing the expedition will proceed by sledges along the east coast, winter *en route*, and push ahead to the northernmost point of Greenland, the most northerly land in the world. This, in Mylius-Erichsen's opinion, is the most favorable place from which to make an attempt at the Pole; the latitude is a high one, about 84 degrees, and, what is of the greatest importance, these parts are singularly rich in game, musk ox, ice-bear, etc., a fact which will enable a sledge expedition for the Pole to set out with strong, fresh dogs, fed on natural food. The expedition will return to the ship in time to winter there the second year.

The most interesting and adventurous undertaking of the whole expedition yet remains—namely, what Mylius-Erichsen, who is not given to strong expressions, himself calls the

fairly daring plan of traversing, by means of ski, dog-sledges and automobile, the inland ice of Greenland on the broadest portion of this continent. Nansen's famous crossing of Greenland took place much further south, where Greenland is much narrower; and Peary, who followed the northern slopes, had the great advantage of being in touch with the coast.

Mylius-Erichsen's plan is this: About March, 1908, he sets out, accompanied by one of his staff and two Greenlanders, belonging to the crew, the other members of the expedition, with fully-loaded sledges, going with him the first third of the journey. When they return, Mylius-Erichsen and his three followers proceed into the entirely unknown 'ice-dome' of the interior of Greenland, which rises to as much as 10,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is completely devoid of vegetable and animal life, and here one of the northern hemisphere's cold-poles is supposed to be found. At the coldest season man can probably not live there. Therefore, Mylius-Erichsen has chosen the months of March, April and May for this expedition. By means of ski, dog-sledges, and motor-car, which Nansen thinks can be used there with advantage, Mylius-Erichsen hopes to compass this exceedingly venturesome journey in about two months and a half.

From the west coast the four men proceed by a special vessel to a place on the southern part of Greenland's east coast, where they join the *Danmark*, which has in the meantime gone further south, and returned to Denmark. The expedition numbers 22 Danes as well as two German scientists, all specially fitted for the work, officers, artists, scientists, etc., some of them members of former Greenland expeditions, and all will be treated alike, receiving the same pay, etc. Motor-boats and wireless telegraphy will be special features of the equipment.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JOSEPH D. BRYANT, of New York City, has been elected president of the American Medical Association.

¹ The London *Times*.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY will, on June 20, confer the degree of doctor of science on Dr. Alexander Graham Bell.

PRELIMINARY announcements have been sent out by the secretary in regard to the joint meeting of Section B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society, which will be held at the time of the summer meeting of the Association at Ithaca, June 29 to July 3. The announcement calls attention to the fact, already noted here, that the formal opening, with appropriate ceremonies, of the new physical laboratory of Cornell University will take place on the evening of Friday, June 29.

At the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the society of Sigma Xi, which is to be held at Ithaca on July 2, during the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. J. C. Branner, vice-president of Stanford University, is to give an illustrated lecture under the auspices of the society. His subject will be 'The Great California Earthquake.'

THE committee appointed by Governor Pardee to investigate the causes of the recent earthquake has presented a preliminary report. The committee includes Professor Andrew C. Lawson, of the State University; Professor G. K. Gilbert, of the United States Geological Survey; Professor Harry Fielding Reid, of the Johns Hopkins University; Professor J. C. Branner, of Stanford University; Professor Charles Burkhalter, of the Chabot Observatory, and Professor W. W. Campbell, director of Lick Observatory.

MR. WILLIAM M. CHASE has undertaken to paint the portrait of President Angell, which will be presented to the University of Michigan.

WE learn from *The Botanical Gazette* that Dr. E. N. Transeau, Alma College, Michigan, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Station for Experimental Evolution, at Cold Spring Harbor. He will work at evolutionary problems from the ecological side.

DR. E. VON DUNGERN, professor of bacteriology and hygiene at Freiburg, has been appointed director of the scientific section of the Krebs Institute, Heidelberg.

PROFESSOR FRIDIANA CAVARA has been made director of the Botanical Gardens at Naples.

DR. J. F. PAYNE, Harveian librarian of the Royal College of Physicians, has been elected to an honorary fellowship at Magdalen College, Oxford.

M. PAUL BRUARDEL, professor of medical jurisprudence at the University of Paris, has presented his resignation in view of the fact that he will shortly be seventy years of age.

PROFESSOR D. E. SMITH, of Teachers College, Columbia University, has sailed for Spain, where he will spend the summer in seeking for early mathematical manuscripts and text-books.

AFTER January 1, 1907, the collection of copper statistics for the United States Geological Survey will be in the hands of Mr. L. C. Graton. During the coming summer Mr. Graton will visit the principal copper camps of the country, including those of the Lake Superior, Bingham and Butte districts, as well as the four great camps of Arizona at Clifton, Bisbee, Globe and Jerome, and the district about Redding, Cal.

DR. A. S. WARTHIN and Dr. F. G. Novy, of the University of Michigan, have been invited to give papers before the British Medical Association at its meeting in Toronto in August.

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, of Princeton University, and Dr. Albert Shaw, editor of *The Review of Reviews*, have agreed to lecture on American politics at Columbia University in the academic year 1906-7. The lectures are made possible by the gift of \$150,000 by Mr. George Blumenthal, to establish a chair of politics.

DR. W. H. R. RIVERS will deliver the Croonian lectures before the Royal College of Physicians of London on June 12, 14, 19 and 21, the subject selected being the action of drugs on fatigue.

IN order to perpetuate the memory of the late Professor Charles Emerson Beecher, who

was professor of paleontology in Yale University and a member of the governing board of the Sheffield Scientific School from 1897 to the time of his death in 1904, the friends of Professor Beecher have established a fund of \$10,000 to be known as the Charles Emerson Beecher Memorial Fund. The income of this fund is to be devoted to the interests of instruction or research in natural history studies in the Sheffield Scientific School, but during the life time of Mrs. Beecher and her children the income of the fund is to be paid to them.

DR. KARL ROBERT EDOUARD VON HARTMANN, known for his philosophical and literary publications, died at Berlin on June 6, at the age of sixty-four years.

WE learn from *Nature* that Baron C. R. von der Osten Sacken, author of numerous books and papers on the classification of Diptera, died at Heidelberg on May 20 in his seventy-eighth year.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY is to have a 6½-inch equatorial, suitable for student work. The glass has been presented by Mrs. Wilde, and completely refined and refigured by Messrs. Alvan Clark's Sons, of Cambridgeport.

MR. CLARENCE B. MOORE, of Philadelphia, who has spent many years in exploring the mounds of Florida, has made a gift of a large part of his archeological collection to the museums of Stockholm, Berlin, Yale and Harvard.

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed, under a plan outlined by Alfred Mosely, to send, between November and March, five hundred British teachers to the United States and Canada to study the educational systems of the two countries.

THE committee on food standards of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, which has been commissioned by Congress to collaborate with the secretary of agriculture in fixing standards of purity for foods and determining what shall be regarded as adulterations, will hold its next meeting on June 18, at the bureau of chemistry, Washington, D. C.

WE learn from *The British Medical Journal* that a General Institute of Psychology, specially intended for the study of the phenomena of subconsciousness, the investigation of the causes of criminality and the discovery of means of curing social evils will shortly be formally constituted in Paris. Among those to whom the initiation of the scheme is mainly due are Professors Brouardel, d'Arsonval and Gariel, and MM. Boutroux, Giard and A. Picard. In January last M. Dubief authorized a lottery of four millions of francs, the product of which will be applied to the purchase of a site for the proposed institute and the erection of a building containing a series of fully-equipped laboratories, a library and a museum.

ON June 5 the senate bill for the preservation of American antiquities passed the House of Representatives. The senate bill to regulate the landing, delivery, cure and sale of sponges, passed the House of Representatives with amendment.

The British Medical Journal says: "Mr. Henry S. Wellcome is organizing an exhibition in connection with the history of medicine, chemistry, pharmacy and the allied sciences. It is his aim to bring together a collection of historical objects illustrating the development of the art and science of healing throughout the ages. The exhibition, which will be strictly professional and scientific in character, will not be open to the general public. For many years Mr. Wellcome has been engaged in researches respecting the early methods employed in the healing art, both among civilized and uncivilized peoples. In particular it has been his object to trace the origin of the use of remedial agents. There is a considerable amount of information scattered throughout the world in folk-lore, in early manuscripts, and in printed books, but the difficulties of tracing out and sifting the evidence are great. Mr. Wellcome will greatly value any information sent him in regard to medical lore, early traditions or references to ancient medical treatment in manuscripts, printed works, etc., and he undertakes that the greatest care shall be taken of any objects of

historical medical interest lent for the exhibition."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Woman's College of Baltimore has received gifts amounting to \$580,000. Of this amount \$500,000 was needed to clear the college of debt and \$80,000 will be added to the endowment fund. Mr. Andrew Carnegie gave \$50,000; the Massey estate, through Mr. Chester D. Massey, Toronto, Canada, \$50,000; other gifts range from small amounts to \$30,000. The treasurer of the college puts the assets of the college as follows: Grounds, buildings and equipment, \$701,000; endowment, \$719,135.

GOVERNOR HIGGINS has approved a bill appropriating \$80,000 for a school of agriculture at St. Lawrence University, with an additional \$12,000 for maintenance. This school, it is understood, will be managed in cooperation with the authorities of the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University.

By the will of Catherine L. R. Catlin, of New York, \$60,000 is left to religious and charitable institutions, including \$10,000 to New York University.

THE administration building at Vanderbilt University, which was destroyed by fire on April 20 of last year, involving a loss of over \$250,000, is nearing completion again. The walls are of stone, brick and terra-cotta, and the floors, ceilings and roof are of reinforced concrete so that destruction by fire will not again be possible.

THE electors to the Linaere professorship of comparative anatomy, vacant by the death of Professor Weldon, will proceed to an election in the month of July. Candidates are desired to send in their names so as to reach the registrar's office not later than July 7. No testimonials are to be submitted, but candidates are invited to send in with their names eight copies of a brief statement of their career and of their scientific work and experience.

AT Yale University the following appointments have been made: Leo Frederick Rettger, M.A., Ph.D., assistant professor of bac-

teriology and hygiene in the Sheffield Scientific School; William Ebenezer Ford, Jr., Ph.D., assistant professor of mineralogy in the Sheffield Scientific School.

IN the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, Dr. Philip Hanson Hiss, Jr., has been promoted to a chair of bacteriology and Dr. F. C. Wood to a chair of clinical pathology.

AT Barnard College, Columbia University, Dr. Herbert M. Richards has been promoted to a professorship of botany; Dr. Edward Kasner, to an adjunct professorship in mathematics; Dr. Ida H. Ogilvie and Miss Margaret A. Reed have been appointed tutors in geology and zoology, respectively; Dr. Vivian A. C. Henmon has been appointed lecturer in psychology.

THE non-resident professors engaged for the summer session of the University of Wisconsin are Miss Jane Addams, Hull House, Chicago; Professor Gilbert A. Bliss, mathematics, Princeton; Professor Albert Perry Brigham, geology and natural history, Colgate; Professor Louis H. Burch, manual arts, Western Illinois Normal School; Professor Henry R. Fairclough, Latin, Leland Stanford Junior University; Professor Edward J. Lake, art and design, University of Illinois; Professor Thomas K. Urdahl, political and social science, Colorado College; Professor Claude H. VanTyne, American history, University of Michigan; Professor William H. Williams, mathematics, Platteville Normal School. Besides these non-resident professors a large number of the regular members of the university faculty will give courses in the summer session, including Professors Munro, Bardeen, Ely, Harper, Hohlfeld, Pyre, Showerman, Trowbridge, Voss, Kahlenberg, Daniels, Elliott, C. E. Allen, Laird, Lathrop, Frost, McGilvary, Slichter and Tressler.

DR. AUGUSTUS G. POHLMAN, of Buffalo, has been appointed associate professor of anatomy in Indiana University.

DR. KNIGHT DUNLAP, instructor in psychology at the University of California, has been elected instructor in psychology at the Johns Hopkins University.