

su, under date of April 6: "Dr. Albert Tafel, the eminent German geologist and explorer, who has traveled in many parts of Asia, and who took part in the expedition to Tibet in 1904 with Lieutenant Filchreer, when they barely escaped with their lives, has again just left this border city for the Tsaidam and Tibet. In January last he visited the Koko Nor in order to ascertain the depths of the lake at different places. His camp was attacked one evening by Tibetan robbers, and a hand-to-hand fight ensued. In trying to rescue one of his men Dr. Tafel received a sword wound in the forehead, and the attack was not repulsed without some difficulty. In Shan-si Dr. Tafel found some very interesting and rare fossils, and he has also secured some good photographs of a large waterfall on the Yellow River in the north of that province."

Nature states that the Society of German Engineers, which with its 20,000 members is now the largest technical society in the world, celebrated on June 11-14 the completion of the fiftieth year of its existence. The opening ceremony was held in the Reichstag building in Berlin, under the presidency of Dr. A. Slaby. Congratulatory addresses were delivered by the Prussian Home Secretary, the Prussian Minister of Education, the Oberbürgermeister of Berlin and the rector of the Berlin Technical School, as well as by numerous representatives of kindred societies in Germany and other countries, Mr. Bennet Brough (Iron and Steel Institute) speaking for the British societies and Professor K. E. Hilgard (American Society of Civil Engineers) for the American. The proceedings terminated with a lecture by Dr. W. von Oechelhauser on technical work past and present, in which he compared the engineering works of the ancients with those of modern times, and endeavored to forecast what the future of engineering would be. On June 12 a lecture was given by Dr. A. Riedler, on the development and present importance of the steam turbine; and on June 13 papers were read by Professor Muthmann, on methods of dealing with atmospheric nitrogen; and by Dr. Hoffmann, on the utilization of power in mines and metallurgical works. Throughout

the week an elaborate program of visits, excursions and social functions was arranged for the 1,231 members and 464 ladies who took part in the meeting. The German Emperor honored the society by accepting the Grashof gold medal, and by conferring decorations on the president and other prominent members. An interesting history of the society is given in *Engineering* of June 8. The growth of the society has certainly been remarkable. It was founded in 1856 at Alexisbad, in the Hartz, by twenty-three young engineers. Friedrich Euler was elected the first president, and Franz Grashof the first secretary and editor, the work of the society being carried on in the secretary's private study. The society now has a stately house of its own and a staff of forty-seven officials. Its weekly journal last year cost £26,162 for publishing and £6,425 for postage.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS:

At the recent alumni meeting at Harvard University, it was stated that during the year graduates had contributed \$1,801,539.89 to the productive funds of the university, and that \$88,116.09 had been received for immediate use, making a total of \$1,889,655.98. This sum does not include the more than \$113,000 that the class of '81 has given to the university to be used as the corporation sees fit. It was also announced that through an anonymous gift of \$60,000 from a graduate and the cooperation of the city of Boston, a boulevard 100 feet wide with a forty-foot drive and broad park space and walks, will be laid out from the Fenway to Longwood Avenue as an approach to the new Harvard Medical School buildings.

It was announced by President Hadley at the Yale Alumni dinner that the total of the alumni fund for the year amounted to \$129,237 as compared with the \$53,500 announced a year ago.

A FUND of \$150,000, of which Mr. Carnegie contributed \$75,000, has been raised at Amherst College and will be used to provide for the work in geology and biology. It is planned to spend \$100,000 on a building and to use the balance of the money as an endowment fund.

At the Radcliffe College commencement President Briggs announced that the requisite sum of \$75,000 to secure Mr. Andrew Carnegie's gift for a college library had been secured.

MRS. LOUISA N. BULLARD has given Harvard University Medical School \$52,000 to establish a chair of neuropathology.

WE learn from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that the University of California has transferred from San Francisco to Berkeley all instruction in the first two years of the college of medicine. Students desiring admission to the medical department of the university must have completed certain studies in physics, chemistry, zoology, German and French, which ordinarily require two years of residence at a university or college of good standing. The first two years of the strictly professional work is devoted to anatomy, physiology and pathology. As heretofore, the work of the last two years of the medical course will be carried on in San Francisco.

FOREIGN papers state that the council of the University of Paris has definitely approved of the scheme for the extension of the university. This will include the construction of an institute of chemistry covering an area of 9,000 square meters. Here will be established the various departments of chemistry belonging to the faculty of science and the department of applied chemistry which, since its creation, have been provisionally installed in some sheds. The cost of this will be 3,000,000 francs, which will be divided between the city of Paris and the state. The extension scheme also includes the acquisition by the university, in view of future necessities, of a plot of land of 14,000 square meters. Towards the cost of this land the university will pay 1,900,000 francs and the city 700,000 francs, to which will be added the donation from the Prince of Monaco. On a portion of this area will be erected the Institute of Oceanography, founded by the Prince of Monaco.

At the meeting of the University Court of Edinburgh on June 17 an addition was made to the teaching staff of the university by the

establishment of an independent lectureship in general and experimental psychology in connection with the philosophical department. The funds for the lecturer's salary are mainly supplied by the Combe trustees, who have also contributed £300 towards the equipment of a laboratory. In consideration of this generous assistance the court resolved that the lectureship should be called the George Combe lectureship. George Combe, known as the author of 'The Constitution of Man,' was the chief representative of phrenology in Great Britain in the first half of last century. He left funds, which have considerably increased since his death, for promoting the knowledge of man's mental and organic constitution in relation to the external universe and its laws, and for diffusing that knowledge as widely as possible. Besides experimental teaching and research, it is expected that the lectureship will be largely utilized in connection with the training of teachers. An appointment will be made in time for work to begin next session.

DR. G. H. PARKER has been promoted to a full professorship of zoology at Harvard University.

PROFESSOR EDWARD OCTAVIUS SISSON, Ph.D., who has recently been elected head of the department of education in the University of Washington, is a native of England. He received his education in schools of this country. In 1886 he received the degree of bachelor of science in the Kansas Agricultural College. From 1886-91 he was teacher and principal in public schools.

DR. VALDEMAR KOCH has been appointed to the chair of physiological chemistry in the University of Chicago.

At Bowdoin College, Dr. Walter T. Tobie, of Portland, has been elected professor of anatomy and Dr. Thomas J. Burrage, also of Portland, assistant demonstrator of histology.

DR. GEORGE A. FALKINER NUTTALL, F.R.S., has been appointed reader in hygiene for five years in Cambridge University.

PROFESSOR HANS CHAIRI, of Prague, has been appointed professor of pathology in the University of Strasburg as successor to Professor von Recklinghausen.