

have been sunk, but all water for drinking and cooking purposes, and for preparing mortar, is carried in water cars. The expense of construction is thus greatly increased. All fuel has to be imported, but owing to the high temperatures little is required except for the locomotives and the repair shops.

#### METEOROLOGY IN EGYPT

CAPTAIN H. G. LYONS, Director General of the Survey Department of Egypt, gives an encouraging account of the present status of meteorological work in Egypt in his 'Report on the Work of the Survey Department in 1905' (Cairo, 1906). There are in Egypt ten stations and in the Sudan sixteen stations. The locations are shown on a map. There are also a number of river gauge stations. The central meteorological station at Helwan, of which a picture is given, is an attractive building, lighted by electricity, and equipped with standard instruments. Captain Lyons has already published several reports of unusual value on the meteorology of the Nile Basin, especially in connection with the Nile floods.

#### RAINFALL AND ALTITUDE

HANN calls attention (*Met. Zeitschr.*, Nov., 1906) to the results of rainfall measurements made in connection with the water supply of the city of Edinburgh, in the district of the upper tributaries of the Tweed. Under similar conditions of exposure, but at different altitudes, the rain-gauges show on the average an increase of 2.5 inches of rainfall in each 100 feet of increase of elevation.

#### THE 'SCOTIA' RESULTS

MENTION has several times been made in these notes of the meteorological results of the *Scotia* Antarctic expedition, these notes being based on short reports which have appeared in scientific journals. There has lately been published 'The Voyage of the *Scotia*,' by three of the staff (Edinburgh, Blackwood, 1906), which gives a popular account of the expedition, as well as a summary of the scientific results obtained.

R. DEC. WARD

#### MR. ROCKEFELLER'S GIFT TO THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER has announced his intention to give, not later than April 1, securities valued at about \$32,000,000, to the General Education Board, which he had previously endowed with \$11,000,000. The letter announcing this gift, read at a meeting of the board on February 7, is as follows:

NEW YORK, Feb. 6, 1907.

General Education Board, 54 William Street,  
New York City.

*Gentlemen:* My father authorizes me to say that on or before April 1, 1907, he will give to the General Education Board income-bearing securities, the present market value of which is about thirty-two million dollars (\$32,000,000), one third to be added to the permanent endowment of the board, two thirds to be applied to such specific objects within the corporate purposes of the board as either he or I may, from time to time, direct; any remainder not so designated at the death of the survivor to be added also to the permanent endowment of the board.

Very truly,

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

The board has acknowledged this great gift in the following terms:

The General Education Board acknowledges the receipt of the communication of February 6, 1907, from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., a member of this body, announcing your decision to give to the board for the purpose of its organization, securities of the current value of \$32,000,000. The General Education Board accepts this gift with a deep sense of gratitude to you and of responsibility to society. This sum, added to the \$11,000,000 which you have formerly given to this board, makes the General Education Board the guardian and administrator of a total trust fund of \$43,000,000.

This is the largest sum ever given by a man in the history of the race for any social or philanthropic purpose. The board congratulates you upon the high and wise impulse which has moved you to this deed, and desires to thank you, in behalf of all educational interests whose developments it will advance, in behalf of our country whose civilization for all time it should be made to strengthen and elevate, and in behalf of man-

kind everywhere, in whose interests it has been given and for whose use it is dedicated.

The administration of this fund entails upon the General Education Board the most far-reaching responsibilities ever placed upon any educational organization in the world. As members of the board, we accept this responsibility, conscious alike of its difficulties and its opportunities.

We will use our best wisdom to transmute your gift into intellect and moral power, accounting it a supreme privilege to dedicate whatever strength we have to its just use in the service of men.

It is said that Mr. Rockefeller's gifts to education now amount to about \$80,000,000.

The General Education Board has so far made appropriations, amounting to more than \$1,000,000, to eighteen colleges on condition that three times the amount appropriated should be obtained by the institutions from other sources. At the meeting of the board, on February 7, the following appropriations, as we understand on the same conditions, were made: Beloit College, Beloit, Wis., \$50,000; Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, \$50,000; Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., \$50,000; Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind., \$125,000, and the University of Wooster, Wooster, O., \$125,000.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR ERNEST W. BROWN, who this year goes from Haverford College to Yale University, has been awarded the J. C. Adams prize of Cambridge University, for his work on the motion of the moon.

PROFESSOR WILHELM VON BEZOLD, professor of physics and meteorology at Berlin, and Professor Theodor Boveri, professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at Würzburg, have been elected corresponding members of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, of Harvard University, has been elected foreign correspondent of the Geological Society of London.

IN celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the coming to Lehigh University of Professor Joseph F. Klein a reception was given him in South Bethlehem on the evening of January 22.

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society, Mr. Richard Bentley, the president, on behalf of the members of the council, presented an illuminated address to Mr. William Marriott, in recognition of his services as lecturer for the society.

THE following committee has been appointed by the president of the Washington Academy of Sciences to take charge of the arrangements for the entertainment of the International Zoological Congress during its visit to Washington after the adjournment of the Boston meeting in August, 1907: L. O. Howard, chairman, Frank Baker, W. H. Dall, H. G. Dyar, B. W. Evermann, Theodore N. Gill, H. W. Henshaw, C. L. Marlatt, A. D. Melvin, C. Hart Merriam, T. S. Palmer, B. H. Hanson, Richard Rathbun, Robert Ridgway, H. M. Smith, Leonhard Stejneger, C. W. Stiles, F. W. True, T. Wayland Vaughan, C. D. Walcott.

SECRETARY TAFT will, it is said, appoint a committee, consisting of Charles F. McKim, the architect; Frederick L. Olmstead, Jr., of Boston, landscape gardener, and Frank D. Millet, the artist, to go to Niagara and gather material for a report looking toward harmonizing the commercial buildings there, particularly the power plants, with the natural scenery.

PROFESSOR J. C. ARTHUR and Mr. F. D. Kern, both of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, continued their researches on plant rusts in the New York Botanical Garden herbarium during the month of January. Dr. M. T. Cook has been awarded a research scholarship at the garden for three months, beginning on January 1.

A CABLEGRAM to the daily papers from Calcutta states that news from Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish traveler, who last year started from Chinese Turkestan on a journey of exploration to Tibet, has been received. Dr. Hedin, who, when he sent off his courier, had already explored 840 miles of unknown country, said he hoped to reach the monastic city of Shigatse, 130 miles from Lhasa, at the end of February.