

Variation" (Magnetic Declination). It was found that in the Pacific Ocean the charts previously possessed were erroneous along certain well traversed routes by as much as three or five degrees, and that systematically at times. Hence these errors were of sufficient magnitude to be taken into account in practical navigation.

ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

THIS fund, which was established by Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Stamford, Connecticut, "for the advancement and prosecution of scientific research in its broadest sense," now amounts to \$26,000. As accumulated income is now available, the trustees desire to receive applications for appropriations in aid of scientific work. This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the trustees to give the preference to those investigations *which can not otherwise be provided for*, which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance. The trustees are disinclined, for the present, to make any grant to meet ordinary expenses of living or to purchase instruments, such as are found commonly in laboratories. Decided preference will be given to applications for small amounts, and grants exceeding \$300 will be made only under very exceptional circumstances.

Applications for assistance from this fund, in order to receive consideration, *must be accompanied by full information*, especially in regard to the following points: (1) Precise amount required; (2) exact nature of the investigation proposed; (3) conditions under which the research is to be prosecuted; (4) manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended.

All applications should be sent at once to the secretary of the board of trustees, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. KEEN has been elected president of the American Philosophical Society, Phila-

delphia, succeeding Dr. Edgar F. Smith, who declined reelection.

At the recent meeting of the American Society of Zoologists, Eastern Branch, held at the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. William Morton Wheeler, American Museum of Natural History; *Vice-president*, Professor Herbert S. Jennings, Johns Hopkins University; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Lorande Loss Woodruff, Yale University; *Member of the Executive Committee*, Professor Gilman A. Drew, University of Maine.

At the recent Madison meeting of the American Economic Association Professor Simon N. Patten, of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected president, to succeed Professor Jeremiah W. Jenks, of Cornell University.

M. GONNESSIAT, of the Paris Observatory, has been appointed director of the Observatory of Algiers.

PROFESSOR CORNIL, of Paris, having reached the age limit of seventy years, has been retired from the chair of pathological anatomy and histology, which he may be said to have first founded in France.

DR. DAVID HILBERT, of the University of Göttingen, has been made a member of the Bavarian-Maximilian Order for Science and Art.

LORD BRASSEY has been elected a corresponding member of the geographical section of the French Academy of Sciences in succession to the late M. Oudemans.

PROFESSOR RAPHAEL MELDOLA, F.R.S., past president of the Chemical Society, has been elected president of the Society of Dyers and Colorists, in succession to the late Sir W. H. Perkin.

THE University of St. Andrews has resolved to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. upon the following scholars, on February 16: Lord Avebury; Mr. Francis Darwin, president-elect of the British Association; Mr. Philip Norman, treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries; Sir E. J. Poynter, Bart., president of the Royal Academy; Mr. Charles Hercules Read, past president of the Anthropological Institute; and Principal MacAlister, Glasgow.