

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.

THE University of Cambridge has conferred the honorary degree of M.A. upon Mr. Sidney Herbert Ray, assistant master at St. Olga Street Council Schools, Bethnal Green, in recognition of his study of Oceanic languages.

THE Vienna Academy of Sciences has made an appropriation of \$300 to Dr. Robert Falta for his work on diabetes.

PROFESSOR W. A. KELLERMAN, of the Ohio State University, is now in the republic of Guatemala prosecuting his fourth mycological expedition to that country, assisted by students H. E. Barber, S. B. Stowe and J. F. Zimmer. The party will collect parasitic fungi and material in related branches of natural history, returning about April 1.

DR. GEORGE A. DORSEY, curator of Anthropology in the Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago since 1897, has begun a long trip in the interests of the museum. He visits first the leading museums on the continent and then proceeds to Ceylon by way of Egypt. In Ceylon he will study the Rock Veddahs, considered the lowest in culture of all the inhabitants of the earth. He then crosses to Southern India and on to Siam, Sumatra and Java. From Java he proceeds to Australia and then to New Zealand where he will study the Maoris. His next objective will be various islands of the Melanesian group. On his way home he will stop at the Philippine Islands to explore some of the little known parts of Mindanao and Mindoro.

THE Herbert Baxter Adams prize of \$200.00 offered biannually by The American Historical Association for the encouragement of historical research and offered in 1907 for the best unpublished monograph in the field of European history, has been awarded to William Spence Robertson, of Western Reserve University, and Edward B. Krehbiel, of the University of Chicago. The prize is to be divided between them. The prize-winning theses will be published by The American Historical Association both as separate publications and as parts of the annual report of the association. Dr. Robertson's thesis was on "Francisco de Miranda and the Revolutionizing of Spanish America." Professor

George L. Burr, of Cornell University, was acting chairman of the committee on award.

THE secretary of the Lamarck memorial, adding to his former report, records that he has received contributions from the following institutions and societies: Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, N. Y. Zoological Society, American Paleontologists, American Zoologists, American Naturalists, American Museum of Natural History, Washington Biological Society; and from the following individuals: Messrs. W. S. Marshall, George F. Eaton, Metcalf, Townsend, Hargitt, C. W. Dodge, Davenport, Conklin, Hussakof and Ball.

THE funeral of Lord Kelvin at Westminster Abbey, on December 23, was impressive in character. The pall-bearers were: The Lord Rayleigh, O.M., president of the Royal Society; The Right Hon. J. Morley, O.M., secretary of state for India; Sir Archibald Geikie, K.C.B., president of the Geological Society; Professor A. Crum Brown, Royal Society of Edinburgh; The Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge; Sir J. Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., Institution of Civil Engineers; Sir Edward H. Seymour, O.M., admiral of the fleet; M. Gaston Darboux, perpetual secretary of the Academy of Sciences of France; The Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, high commissioner for Canada; Sir George Darwin, K.C.B., University of Cambridge; Dr. McAlister, principal of the University of Glasgow; Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, Institution of Electrical Engineers.

A MEMORIAL meeting in honor of Lord Kelvin was held at the United Engineers Building, New York City, on January 12, under the auspices of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr. Henry G. Stott presided, and among those who made addresses were Dr. Elihu Thomson, Rear Admiral George W. Melville and Professor E. L. Nichols, of Cornell University.

PROFESSOR BOECKH, an eminent medical statistician and emeritus director of the Berlin Statistical Bureau, has died at the age of eighty-three years.

THE fourth lecture in the Harvey Society course was delivered at the New York Academy of Medicine building on Saturday evening, January 11, 1908, by Professor Ernest H. Starling, of the University of London. Subject: "The Chemical Control of the Body."

THE Lees and Raper memorial lecture, 1908, will be delivered in the Town Hall, Oxford, by Mr. William McAdam Eccles, M.S., F.R.C.S., on February 4. Subject: "The Relation of Alcohol to Physical Deterioration and National Efficiency."

At the request of the New York Physics Club, Professors Crocker and Sever and Mr. Arendt, of the department of electrical engineering of Columbia University, will give to its members a series of demonstrations on electrical engineering, so far as it bears upon high-school physics. These lectures will be free and will be given in the engineering building of Columbia University on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5:15 o'clock, February 4 to March 24, inclusive. It is expected that they will be open to all teachers of secondary schools as well as to members of the New York Physics Club.

THE Western Reserve University lecture course now being announced includes lectures upon political, sociological, medical and scientific subjects. Dr. James Elbert Cutler, formerly of the University of Michigan, and now associate professor of sociology upon the newly established Selah Chamberlain Foundation at Western Reserve, opened the course Tuesday evening, January 14, with his lecture, "Lynching as an American Practise." Professor Cutler has made a special study of lynching, and has contributed articles upon the subject to both northern and southern publications. Other lectures of the course are to include "The Results of the Anti-Tuberculosis Movement," by Dr. John H. Lowman, of Western Reserve Medical College, date to be announced later: "The More Recent Developments in Astronomy," by President Charles Sumner Howe, of the Case School of Applied Science, March 3, and "Municipal Home Rule: the Relation of the City and the State," by Dr. Augustus Raymond Hatton,

of Western Reserve University, March 17. Dr. Hatton is associate professor of political science upon the M. A. Hanna Foundation. The lectures are free and are to be given in the physical laboratory on the Adelbert College Campus.

THE Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University announces its forty-second annual Sheffield lecture course, to begin January 17, 1908. Following is a list of the lecturers and their subjects, with the dates:

January 17—"Mars as seen from the Andes," by Professor David Todd.

January 24—"Northern Mexico: its Deserts, Plateaus and Canyons," by Dr. Edmund Otis Hovey.

January 31—"Nature Study in relation to protecting and propagating American Game Birds," by Professor Clifton F. Hodge.

February 7—"Personal Experiences in Alaska and the Chilkoot Pass," by Mr. Alfred H. Dunham.

February 14—"Modern Long-span Bridges, with special reference to the Quebec Disaster," by Mr. Frank W. Skinner, C.E.

February 21—"Persian Travels," by Dr. William Lord Smith.

February 28—"Heredity in Man and the Lower Animals," by Dr. Charles B. Davenport.

March 6—"Rare Earth Industries," by Mr. Harlan S. Miner.

March 13—"Silk, Natural and Artificial," by Professor Charles F. Chandler.

March 20—"History and Habits of the Fur Seal," by Mr. Frederic A. Lucas.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission announces an examination on April 1, 1908, to fill several vacancies in the position of micro-analyst (either sex), at \$1,500 per annum, and at lower salaries, depending upon the qualifications shown, in the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture.

MR. ENGLEBRIGHT has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to establish in the Department of the Interior a Bureau of Mines. The bill has been referred to the committee on mines and mining.

A COPY of a decree issued by the provisional governor of Cuba has been transmitted by the Department of State to the Department of Commerce and Labor. It names a commission of fourteen members, headed by Rafael

Fernandez de Castro, president of the Agrarian League of the island, and empowered to prepare a report and submit a draft of a law for the amelioration of agricultural conditions in Cuba.

CONSUL-GENERAL RICHARD GUENTHER, of Frankfort, says it is reported that a Hamburg joint stock company has purchased a large tract of land along the mouth of the Elbe at Cuxhaven, where power works are to be erected. The action of the ebb and flow of the tide is to be employed in generating electric energy to be used in factories about to be established. The works will also furnish electric power to the town of Cuxhaven and other towns in the vicinity. The daily capacity of the plant will reach 14,000 horse power.

THE French Administration des Postes et Télégraphes is, according to the Paris correspondent of the London *Times*, engaged in making some interesting experiments with a view to the improvement of telephone communication. On an underground cable between Lille and Roubaix a certain number of self-induction coils on the system of Professor Pupin, of Columbia University, have been intercalated. As was found to be the case in America, the results obtained have been excellent, and there is some talk of greatly increasing the use of these coils on a number of other telephone lines.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE will erect a \$50,000 building for Bates College for the study of science, providing a similar sum is raised to support the department.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has received from the trustees under the will of Miss Harriet N. Lowell the sum of \$2,000, this being the first annual payment of a part of the income of her estate in accordance with a provision by which the money will be for surgical research. In addition to this immediate benefit, the university has the remainder of the estate, subject to the life tenancy above mentioned. The university has received from Mr. Francis Skinner \$2,500 as his final payment on account of his gift of \$5,000 for the purchase of books for the

Arnold Arboretum, in memory of his father, Francis Skinner, of the class of 1862.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received for the equipment of the Department of Mining and Metallurgy three gifts of \$2,500 each from estate of D. Willis James, Adolph Lewisohn and the Nichols Copper Company.

STEPS have been taken by the authorities of the University of Wisconsin to increase the practical value of the instruction in agriculture by establishing a full two-year course to include the maximum amount of scientific and practical work. The present four-year course in agriculture has been revised with view to introducing into the first two years a number of subjects bearing directly upon farming, instead of confining the first years of the course as heretofore to purely scientific work. Graduation from high school or equivalent preparation will be required for entrance to the new two-year course, as well as to the present four-year course. At least six months of practical farm experience will be required for the completion of either of these courses.

ACCORDING to a decree issued by the ministry of education, ceremonial matriculation is henceforth to be dispensed with in Austrian universities.

DR. ALBERT ROSS HILL has accepted the presidency of the University of Missouri to succeed President R. H. Jesse. Dr. Hill was dean of the College for Teachers at Missouri until last year when he accepted the deanship of the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University.

DR. E. O. LOVETT, professor of mathematics at Princeton University from 1900 to 1905 and since professor of astronomy, has resigned to accept the presidency of the institute established at Houston, Texas, by the late William M. Rice, with an endowment, which after long litigation is said still to amount to over \$2,000,000.

MR. A. T. STUART has been appointed superintendent of schools in Washington to succeed Dr. William E. Chancellor, who has been dismissed by the Board of Education. The main charge against Dr. Chancellor appears to have been lack of judgment and tact.