

raphy at the Zurich Polytechnic School, has died at the age of fifty-one years.

sary to make their stay there warm and comfortable for the winter. Captain F. P. Evans, R.N.R., by permission of Sir James Mills, chairman of the Union Steamship Company, of New Zealand, will command the *Nimrod* on her voyage to the Antarctic. It is hoped that news from the Antarctic will be received about March or April, 1909.

A TELEPHONE line has been installed to provide means of communication between the Queen Margherita Observatory on the Gniffet Peak, on Monte Rosa, and the observatory lower down the mountain. The carrying out of this line entailed many difficulties; the higher observatory is 14,960 feet above the sea. This building is only open for two months each year in the middle of summer.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE regents of the West Virginia University, at their meeting in June, voted an increase of 10 per cent. in the salaries of all members of the faculty above the rank of instructor.

THE Board of Education of New York City asks for \$33,031,484.65 for the schools in the coming year, an increase of \$6,258,521.06 over 1908. The increase of about \$5,500,000 for this year is largely due to the proposed increase of teachers' salaries, this alone occasioning an increase in the budget of \$3,273,163.52. It is estimated that the increase in the number of pupils for 1909, will be nearly 25,000. To provide a teaching staff for the increased registration in the elementary schools alone will require employment of 9 men principals, 2 women principals, 3 male assistants to principals, 15 assistants to women principals, 102 men teachers, 636 women teachers, and 82 kindergartners, at a total additional expense of \$136,315.47.

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY will celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of its foundation in July of next year.

THE foundations of the new hall of engineering of the University of Nebraska have been completed, and work has begun on the superstructure. The sum appropriated for

this building is approximately \$100,000, and it is hoped to have it completed by the opening of the fall semester in 1909.

THE newspapers *Reich* and *St. Petersburger Zeitung*, have been fined \$1,500 each for publishing articles criticizing the policies of Mr. Schwartz, the new minister of education. He is said to have issued an order that all university professors and instructors belonging to the constitutional democratic party should either renounce their political principles or give up their positions.

It is reported that ten members of the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, have resigned.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR DEXTER BUTTERFIELD, for ten years professor of mathematics in the University of Vermont, has accepted a similar position in the Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute, from which he was graduated in 1892 and in which he was formerly instructor.

DR. GEORGE A. COE, professor of philosophy at the Northwestern University, has been appointed to a chair in the Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

DR. ERNST A. BESSEY, pathologist in the United States Department of Agriculture, for the past three years in charge of the United States Subtropical Laboratory of Miami, Florida, has been elected to the professorship of botany in the University of Louisiana, at Baton Rouge. He will assume his new duties on October 20.

LIEUT.-COLONEL BOURGEOIS, chief of the geodetic section of the French Army Geographical Service, has been appointed to the chair of astronomy and geodesy in the Paris École polytechnique, vacant by the resignation of M. Poincaré.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### SCHAEBERLE AND GEOLOGICAL CLIMATES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In Professor Schaeberle's last communication to SCIENCE, June 5, p. 894, he makes the statement that "it now rests solely with the scientists to demonstrate, if possible, that some vital flaw exists in my (Schaeberle's) published work (upon the effective surface temperature of