

was obscured, and the country is covered with a thin coating of volcanic dust. At Wanganui, some sixty miles distant, a thick haze overhangs the town, and the air is distinctly sulphurous. Violent explosions and rumblings have been heard many miles away.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A BILL now before the Pennsylvania legislature provides for the appropriation of \$950,000 to the University of Pennsylvania, \$475,000 for each of the two years beginning June 1, 1909, and June 1, 1910, the money to be used for: hospital maintenance; new hospital building; the continuation of the new veterinary building; the maintenance of the new veterinary building; maintenance of the general university; increase of the library, and a new building for the department of architecture.

THE Hall of Engineering of Northwestern University, given by Mrs. G. F. Swift and Mr. E. F. Swift, at a cost of \$100,000, was opened on March 24. It will be remembered that Mr. John F. Hayford, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, has accepted the directorship of the new school of engineering.

MR. FREDERICK W. VANDERBILT, in addition to his recent gift of a dwelling house for the use of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, has purchased an adjacent house for \$50,000 for the school. With the sale of these two houses the entire square bounded by Wall, College, Grove and Temple streets, with the exception of the building of the New Haven Colony Historical Society and the house on the corner of Grove and Temple streets, in which Noah Webster wrote his dictionary, has passed into the hands of the Sheffield Scientific School.

A HONG-KONG Chinaman residing at Saigon has offered to contribute \$4,000 to the university endowment fund, and he also undertakes to raise \$40,000 among his compatriots in Saigon.

FOR the purpose of founding a Capper Pass chair of chemistry at Britol University Mr. W. Capper Pass, son of the late Mr. Alfred Capper Pass, who was a member of the council of

Bristol University College, has increased his subscription of £4,000 to £10,000.

A CONFERENCE of the deans of the colleges of liberal arts in state universities of the middle west was held at the University of Wisconsin on March 25. Dean Olin Templin, of the college of liberal arts and sciences at the University of Kansas, who is chairman of the meeting, announced a program of four papers to be presented for discussion, as follows: "Method of Grading," by Dean John C. Jones, of the University of Missouri; "Student Organizations," by Dean L. G. Weld, of the University of Iowa; "The Relation of the College to the Other Schools of the University," by Dean Evart B. Greene, of the University of Illinois, and "Advanced Standing," by Dean J. O. Read, University of Michigan.

THE department of engineering of Colorado College will conduct a summer school of surveying at Manitou Park, elevation 7,500 feet, for four weeks beginning June 7. Professor T. B. Sears, of the department of civil engineering at the University of Nebraska, has been chosen director. Several cottages are available for the school and tents are being erected for the accommodation of the students. Manitou Park is on the reserve of the Colorado School of Forestry, twenty miles west of Colorado Springs.

DR. J. H. KASTLE, for the past three years chief of the division of chemistry, of the Hygiene Laboratory, Washington, D. C., has been elected professor of chemistry in the University of Virginia.

M. PERROT, of the Observatory at Meudon, has been appointed professor of physics in the Paris Polytechnic School to succeed M. Becquerel.

M. CAULLERY has been appointed professor of zoology at Paris to succeed the late M. Giard.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AMERICAN CHEMICAL HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Having been appointed historian of the American Chemical Society and having arranged for the care of its documents by the Smithsonian Institution, I