

tant at Havana. A committee on an ecological survey appointed by the Illinois Academy of Science, of which Dr. Forbes is chairman, is associated with this work in an advisory capacity, and the members of the committee will share in its investigations. The station is equipped with a floating laboratory, a gasoline launch and the various apparatus necessary for aquatic collection and investigation. It is the intention of the management to open the station to biological and ecological investigators during the summer of 1910.

THE third meeting of the permanent commission of the International Seismological Association will take place August 30 to September 4, at Zermatt, Switzerland.

THROUGH the kindness of Professor Lambrecht and Dr. Davies, of the University of Leipzig, arrangements have been made for a special room for Americans who visit the celebration at the 500th anniversary of the founding of Leipzig University. This room is at the Goldner Bär, Universität Strasse 11. Americans should register at this place and they will here be given any information that they need for the celebration.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AMONG gifts to Yale University announced at the recent commencement were \$100,000 to establish a John Sloane memorial fund for the increase of salaries and two gifts of \$20,000 each towards the establishment of a professorship of education. It is further announced that a compromise has been effected in the case of the will of Frederick C. Hewitt, by which the university will receive \$400,000.

THE Drapers' Company have renewed their grant of £2,000 (£400 a year for five years) to the department of applied mathematics in London University under Professor Karl Pearson, thus enabling the research work in statistics and in the biometric laboratory to be continued and extended. The Mercers' Company have made a grant of £500 to the department of physiology.

THE new Institute of Physiology at University College, London, was opened on June 17 by Mr. Haldane, the secretary of state for war.

DR. HENRY B. WARD, of the University of Nebraska, has accepted a professorship of zoology in the University of Illinois.

DR. RAYMOND H. STETSON, of Beloit College, has been appointed professor of psychology at Oberlin College.

DR. FRANK N. FREEMAN, who for the past year has held the traveling fellowship in philosophy and psychology from Yale University, has been appointed instructor in educational psychology in the University of Chicago.

MR. CLINTON R. STAUFFER, A.M. (Ohio State) has been appointed instructor in geology in Western Reserve University.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. DECKER, now in the graduate school of the University of Chicago, has been appointed instructor in biology and geology at Allegheny College for the coming year.

APPOINTMENTS and promotions in the St. Louis University School of Medicine are announced as follows: Dr. M. F. Engman has been made professor of dermatology in place of Dr. John H. Duncan, resigned. Drs. J. W. Marchildon, J. J. Honwink and R. D. Carman have been advanced from instructors to assistant professors of bacteriology, dermatology and "roentgenology," respectively.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

"THE DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The reference to the bill in SCIENCE for June 18, 1909, page 973, in the interesting letter of "T. C. M." is not quite accurate. The bill was introduced in the Indiana legislature and provided that the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of the circle should be exactly three to one. It was referred to "The Committee on Swamp Lands." The introducer of the bill evidently had never heard of π , and if he had, would probably have considered it a symbol of traditional New England breakfast dish.

The published report of the hearings before the special committee of parliament on the "Daylight Saving Bill," from which the

following quotations are taken, does not indicate that it is supported by many distinguished men of science. It was testified that the "Science Guild" of which Sir Norman Lockyer is chairman, and which is composed of "scientific people or people who take an interest in science" feels "that it is a great mistake to tamper with time." The bill was strongly opposed by Sir William H. M. Christie, the astronomer royal, and Sir David Gill, who was recently his majesty's astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope. It was through the influence and active work of the latter that standard time was substituted for local time in South Africa in 1903. The bill was favored by Professor Rambaut, professor of astronomy in the University of Dublin, and Sir Robert S. Ball, formerly astronomer royal of Ireland, but both of these gentlemen strongly opposed the proposition to set the clocks one hour ahead. They favored the idea of making three changes of twenty minutes for the summer, returning to Greenwich mean time for the winter; in other words, the long-hour and short-hour plan. To this the practical objections are very great and it is understood that its advocacy before parliament has now been definitely abandoned.

Sir William H. M. Christie called attention to the fact that neither Sir Robert Ball nor Professor Rambaut, when in Ireland, had "succeeded in persuading their countrymen of the advantages of early rising which might have been secured by substituting Greenwich for Dublin time, the Irish clocks being thus put twenty-five minutes forward," although they tried to do so.

The tenor of all the arguments in favor of the bill was that many persons would be deceived into getting up earlier by setting the clocks ahead when they could not be persuaded to do so otherwise.

It is reported in the daily papers that many English employers have voluntarily arranged to have the day's work of their employes commence a half hour or an hour earlier in the summer, thus securing honestly the advantage it is claimed people would gain by changing the clocks and without "juggling with the

uniform measurement of time" as Sir William Christie properly terms it.

When the mass of the English people come to fully realize that by shifting the clocks an hour ahead they will be adopting a time *made in Germany*, perhaps their patriotic impulses will induce them to come to the assistance of common-sense people and make any attempt to pass the so-called "Daylight Saving Bill" absolutely hopeless.

W. F. A.

NEW YORK CITY

A REMARKABLE AURORA BOREALIS

ONE of the brightest auroras seen in recent years at Blue Hill Observatory was visible for several hours on the evening of May 15 last. When first observed, at 8:58 P.M., it formed three detached luminous patches, the two brightest having been near the zenith. At 9:10 P.M. the latter two merged to form one large bluish-gray mass, of unusual brightness. After that, the luminosity changed rapidly from moment to moment, while the form was altered but slightly, the whole mass moving slowly to the south and west. For about three quarters of an hour the main mass took the shape of a long-handled dipper, the bowl appearing like the head, and the handle like the tail of a huge comet, which many people thought the phenomenon to be. At 10:36 P.M. it was seen as five detached areas of light, which, after about ten minutes, joined to form an unbroken arch which reached from west to east almost entirely across the sky, the highest point passing slightly to the south of the zenith. After 11 o'clock the arch broke up into separate masses which changed in brilliancy from time to time, but gradually faded until all had disappeared by 11:30 P.M. In the two hours from 8:59 P.M. to 10:59 P.M. the mass moved as a whole about 25° toward the south and about 50° toward the west, as measured from a point near the center of the main mass which was originally about 5° to the north of the zenith. After 10 o'clock we had the unusual condition of the "northern lights" entirely to the south of a west-to-east line through the zenith. It is also worthy of note that the southern border was at all times a