The committee is now engaged in the collection of information as to the practise in use by the chemists connected with the fat and oil industry of this country by means of letters sent to as large a number of chemists who would be interested in this work as possible. As soon as this information is collected it will be considered and if necessary cooperative work undertaken to decide on the most satisfactory method or mode of expression, and finally when this is done the committee will be in a position to make its recommendation. In order to prevent needless duplication of work in the various societies in this country, the committee is collecting data as to all the work being undertaken along this line and will try to assist in whatever way it can this work of bringing some order out of the present conditions in the analysis of fats and oils which are exceedingly unsatisfactory.

The committee expects, from time to time, to publish the results of its investigations and if thought advisable make recommendations. Any person desiring information regarding the work or information along these lines should address the secretary of the committee, C. N. Forrest, Maurer, N. J.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the close of the second week of the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of Clark University, further honorary degrees were conferred as follows: doctorate of laws on Marston T. Bogert, professor of organic chemistry in Columbia University; Arthur Michael, the first professor of chemistry in Clark University, professor of chemistry in Tufts College; A. A. Noyes, professor of chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; W. A. Noyes, professor of chemistry in the University of Illinois; the degree of doctor of chemistry on Theodore W. Richards, professor of chemistry in Harvard University; of doctor of science on André Debierne, of the University of Paris, and Julius Stieglitz, professor of chemistry in the University of Chicago.

The medical department of Stanford University, formed by amalgamation with Cooper Medical College, was formally opened on September 8. Dr. H. A. Christian, dean of the Harvard Medical School, made the principal address, the subject of which was "The Career in Medicine and Present-day Preparation for it." This address will be published in Science.

Professor J. Arthur Thompson, of the University of Aberdeen, is giving in South Africa under the auspices of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science a series of lectures in celebration of the Darwin centenary.

Mr. O. H. Tittman, chief of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, is the member for the United States of the permanent commission of the International Geodetic Association, the meeting of which was held in London beginning on September 21.

At the recent meeting of the International Otological Congress at Budapest, Professor Clarence John Blake, of Harvard University, was elected president of the next congress, to be held in 1912, in Boston.

An Illuminating Engineering Society has been founded in London, with Professor Sylvanus P. Thompson as the first president.

Professor Ralph S. Tarr, Cornell University, will spend the current year in Europe on sabbatical leave.

Professor H. F. Cleland, of Williams College, spent July and August in studying certain geological features of Wolff County, Ky., and of the Forest Reserve south of Flagstaff, Arizona. He also visited the Grand Canyon of Arizona, the Yosemite and Canadian Rockies.

Secretary Charles D. Walcott, of the Smithsonian Institution, has returned to Washington after a seven-weeks' trip in the higher Canadian Rockies to the north and south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. In continuation there of his geological work in the main range of the Rocky Mountains Mr. Walcott found the base of the great Cambrian System in a fossil sea-beach that now forms a bed of white quartz pebble conglomerate some 300 feet in thickness. Below this, 4,000 feet of limestone of an older period were measured, and above it over 12,000

feet of Cambrian limestones, sandstones and shales, in which fossils were found at many horizons. Large collections of rocks and fossils have been sent to the United States National Museum.

THE expedition from the Peabody Museum of Harvard University to South America, under the patronage of Louis J. de Milhau, has returned. The past three years have been spent in explorations on the headwaters of the Amazon River in the interior of Peru and Bolivia. The primary object of the expedition was the study of the native tribes of these little known regions. Incidentally, collections were made in natural history, meteorological observations were taken, and topographical work was done. A map of the entire region, based on traverses and astronomical observations, was made for the Peruvian government. The field work of the expedition was done under the direction of Dr. William Curtis Farabee, assisted by Dr. E. F. Horr, Mr. L. J. de Milhau and Mr. J. W. Hastings.

MR. DELOS ARNOLD, donor of the Arnold Geological Collection of the department of geology, Stanford University, died at his home in Pasadena, California, on August 31.

MR. THOMAS SOUTHWELL, of Norwich, known for his work on ornithology and on whales, died on September 5, at the age of seventy-nine years.

AN International Congress of Radiology and Electricity will be held at Brussels in 1910. The congress is under the patronage of the Belgian government and the French Society of Physics.

THE third International Congress of School Hygiene, to be held in Paris, has been postponed until the first week of August, 1910.

THE ninth annual New England Intercollegiate Geological Excursion will be taken in the northern Berkshires, Saturday, October 9. A formal meeting will be held at the Wellington Hotel, Pittsfield, Mass., at eight o'clock Friday evening at which papers on the structural and glacial features and the anthropogeography of the region will be read and the outline of the excursion of the next day will be given. More detailed notices will be sent to all geologists and geographers who have attended former excursions and to others who will write to the secretary, Herdman F. Cleland, Williamstown, Mass.

THE public museum of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences, in Borough Hall, New Brighton, should be added to the list of institutions in which commemorative Hudson-Fulton exhibits have been installed. This exhibit, which was opened with appropriate ceremonies on September 4, the actual anniversary of Hudson's landing on Staten Island, is designed to illustrate the historical development of the island during the past three centuries. The original fauna and flora is shown, either by actual specimens or explanatory labels; the Indian occupation of the island is well illustrated by implements of agriculture, war and the chase, and by a model of a Manahatas Indian village. The colonial period is represented by various old prints, maps, a collection of antiques, etc. There is also a model of the water gate at the foot of Pearl Street during the Dutch period, and a model of the interior of a typical Dutch home. The costumes of various nationalities which have contributed to American citizenship are also shown. The museum is open from 1 to 5 P.M. daily except Monday; on Saturdays it is open from 10 A.M to 5 P.M.

A LETTER has been received at the Harvard College Observatory from Professor E. B. Frost, director of the Yerkes Observatory, stating that Halley's comet was observed visually by Professor S. W. Burnham with the 40-inch telescope, on Sept. $15^d\ 21^h\ 39^m$ G. M. T., in App. R. A. $6^h\ 18^m\ 51^s.1$ and App. Dec. $+17°\ 9'\ 44''$. The comet followed B. D. $+17°\ 1232$ by $12^s.7$, North $4'\ 12''.1$. The comet was also photographed with the 2-foot reflector, on September 15 and 16, by Mr. Oliver J. Lee. A second letter from Professor Frost states that the comet was also observed visually by Professor E. E. Barnard, on Sept. $17^d\ 21^h\ 1^m\ 30^s$ G. M. T., in App. R. A. $6^h\ 19^m\ 0^s.90$ and App. Dec. $+17°\ 9'\ 0''.8$. The comet followed A. G. 2122 ($=+17°$ 1232) by $0^m\ 22^s.55$, North $3'$

28″.9. "Description: 15½ magn., 12″ diameter, with possibly a faint nucleus or indefinite fleck of light in it." The comet was also photographed by Mr. Lee at the same time.

Lectures will be delivered in the Lecture Hall of the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, on Saturday afternoons, at four o'clock, as follows:

September 25—"Native Trees of the Hudson River Valley," by Dr. N. L. Britton.

October 2—"Some Floral and Scenic Features of Porto Rico," by Dr. M. A. Howe.

October 9—"The Flora of the Upper Delaware Valley," by Mr. George V. Nash.

October 16—"Collecting Fungi at Mountain Lake, Virginia," by Dr. W. A. Murrill.

October 23—"Autumnal Wild Flowers," by Dr. N. L. Britton.

October 30—"Some Plant Diseases: their Cause and Treatment," by Mr. Fred J. Seaver.

November 6—"The Reclamation of the Desert in San Bernardino Valley, California," by Dr. H. H. Rusby.

November 13—"The Hudson River Valley before the Advent of Man," by Dr. Arthur Hollick.

It is stated in the *British Medical Journal* that the sanitary commissioner with the government of India has proposed the formation of a permanent organization to inquire systematically into the problems, both practical and scientific, connected with malaria in India. The governor-general in council has decided to convene a conference to examine the whole question, and to draw up a plan for the consideration of the government of India and the local governments. The conference will assemble at Simla on October 11, and is expected to last about a week. Each local government is nominating to the conference an administrative officer of experience, a medical officer and an Indian gentleman.

In February last Surgeon C. P. Wertenbaker, of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, in giving an illustrated lecture on tuberculosis before the Negro Farmers' Conference at Savannah, Georgia, suggested the organization of a State Anti-tuberculosis League for Negroes. The idea was well received and a league was organized. The proposed plan of organization contemplated a league in each state, with a branch in every colored church. This plan, which has been followed, is given in detail in the Public Health Reports of May 28, 1909. The movement was indorsed by the last conference of state and territorial boards of health. Up to August 6, leagues had been formed in the following states: Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia. "A Working Plan" for these leagues has been published in the Public Health Reports of September 3, 1909, giving in detail the method of organization of state leagues and of the local branch leagues. The "Proposed Plan of Organization" and the "Working Plan" have been reprinted, and limited editions are available for distribution to those interested in the work. Requests for copies should be addressed to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.

The Reale Accademia dei Lincei has, as we learn from *Nature*, made awards as follows: The royal prize for mathematics is divided equally between Professors Enriques and Levi-Civita, and that for social and economic sciences is similarly divided between Professor Rodolfo Benini and Dr. G. Mazzarella. From the Santoro foundation the academy has awarded a prize of 10,000 lire to Professor Quirino Majorana, for his researches on wireless telephony; in addition minor awards to Professor Gabbi, for researches on Malta fever, and to Dr. Canovetti, to enable him to continue his experiments on air resistance. From the same benefaction grants have also been made to Professors Vinassy de Regny and Gortani, for Alpine studies; Professor Gorini, for investigating diseases of cheese; Professor Silvestri, noxious insects; Professor Almagià, study of precipices; the Lombardy commission for seiches on Laghi di Garda and Maggiore; Dr. Abetti, solar physics, in Professor Hale's observatory. The Carpi prize for experimental physiology is divided between Drs. Baglioni and Lombroso. The late Professor Sella has bequeathed to the academy a prize of 1,000 lire, to be awarded annually to some assistant in an Italian physical laboratory.

THE *Electrical World* states that according to M. P. Bellile, a French naval surgeon on board the *Descartes,* which has been engaged in the campaign in Morocco, the members of the ship's company who were employed in wireless telegraph duty developed various affections in consequence of the action of the Hertzian waves. Most commonly the telegraphists complained of their eyes, a slight conjunctivitis similar to that occurring among those who work with arc lamps being found. Although this of itself was not generally serious, in one case where the attacks recurred again and again, keratitis was produced which resulted in a leukoma of the right cornea and consequent impairment of vision. In order to protect the eyes from the ultra-violet rays of electric emanation, it was recommended that yellow or orange glasses should be worn. Not only were the eyes of the operators affected, but two cases of eczema—one of the wrist and one of the eyelid, both very difficult to cure—were seen. One of the officials who had been employed for several years in wireless telegraphy suffered from a painful palpitation of the heart, which came on after working for any length of time at the instruments for sending messages. This man was quite free from any organic lesion of the heart. M. Bellile is disposed to think that a good many of the cases of nervousness and neurasthenia, which seem now to be getting rather common among naval men, may be due to the work which is being done in wireless telegraphy.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

IT is proposed to form a University of Detroit by amalgamation of the law and medical colleges already existing in the city.

MRS. RUSSELL SAGE has given $50,000 to Syracuse University for a Teachers College.

THE installation of Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell as president of Harvard University will take place on the morning of October 6.

DR. EDMUND C. SANFORD, A.B. (California, '83), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins, '88), professor of experimental psychology in Clark University, has been elected president of Clark College to succeed the late Carroll D. Wright. Dr. James F. Porter, of the department of psychology, has been appointed acting dean of the college in the place of Professor Rufus C. Bentley, who has resigned.

PROFESSOR HERBERT J. WEBBER, will act as director of the Agricultural College of Cornell University during the absence this year of the director, Professor L. H. Bailey.

MR. H. I. STOEK, for many years editor of *Mines and Minerals,* has been appointed professor of mining engineering at the University of Illinois. He has recently been serving as an expert of the United States Geological Survey in charge of investigations of waste in mining anthracite. During the past three years he has lectured on mining at Cornell University, Pennsylvania State College, Sheffield Scientific School and Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute.

MR. W. E. WICKENDEN, of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to assume the duties vacated by Professor George C. Shaad, who has gone to take charge of the department at the University of Kansas.

THE following changes have been made in the science departments at the University of Maine for the present year: Ralph H. McKee, Ph.D. (Chicago), professor of chemistry; Charles W. Easley, Ph.D. (Clark), associate professor of chemistry; Benjamin E. Kraybill, B.S. (Franklin & Marshall), instructor in chemistry; G. A. Scott, B.S. (Wisconsin), instructor in physics; E. C. Drew, B.S. (Vermont), tutor in physics; W. E. Wilbur, B.S. (Maine), S. D. Chambers, B.S. (Baldwin), and T. L. Hamlin, M.A. (Missouri), instructors in mathematics; G. E. Simmons, M.S. (Ohio State University), and M. E. Sherwin, M.S. (Missouri), assistant professors of agronomy; W. R. Palmer, B.S. (Oregon Agricultural College), instructor in horticulture; J. R. Dice, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College), instructor in animal industry; Laura Comstock, assistant professor of domestic science; N. H. Mayo, B.S. (Maine), and W. E. Connor, B.S. (Maine), tutors in civil engi-