

*THE MAGNETIC SURVEY OF CHINA*

MR. DON C. SOWERS, sent out in November, 1908, by the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, to secure magnetic observations in China and Chinese Turkestan, returned to Washington last December.

Besides the leader, the party consisted of Professor C. G. Fuson, of Canton Christian College, a Chinese interpreter and a cook. Leaving Peking January 30, 1909, they went as far as Honanfu by rail; thence traveling by Chinese carts, pack animals, mule chairs, etc., the party proceeded along the great northern trade route of China, passing out of China proper at the end of the Great Wall in northwestern China, thence across the Gobi Desert to Urumtsi, the capital of Chinese Turkestan. Continuing in a southwesterly direction, skirting the Taklamakan Desert, along the south side of the Tien Shan Mountains, the expedition finally reached Kashgar, in the western part of Chinese Turkestan on July 28. Turning here to the southward the Himalaya Mountains were crossed via the five passes of the Karakorum trade route, the highest trade route in the world, arriving at Leh, India, in September, and at the railroad at Rawal Pindi, northern India, October 13.

The overland journey from the terminus of the railroad in China to the place where the railroad was again reached in northern India was over 4,500 miles in length and required eight and one half months to accomplish it. It lay through a little frequented and, until recent years, unexplored portion of the globe. It is a region full of interest for the geographer, historian and scientist.

The party was everywhere shown the utmost courtesy and every possible assistance was rendered by Chinese officials as well as by representatives of foreign governments.

Connection was made at Dehra Dun with the magnetic survey of India, at present in progress under the direction of the British government.

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

SURGEON CHARLES F. STOKES has been nominated to be surgeon-general of the navy, to

succeed Surgeon General Presley M. Rixey, who retires.

On the evening of April 2, at the Waldorf-Astoria, a dinner will be given in honor of Dr. Charles F. Chandler, head of the department of chemistry of Columbia University, whose resignation after forty-seven years of service will go into effect next June.

THE Geological Society of London will this year award its medals and funds as follows: the Wollaston medal, as already announced, to Professor W. B. Scott; the Murchison medal, to Professor A. P. Coleman; the Lyell medal, to Dr. A. Vaughan; the Wollaston fund, to Mr. E. B. Bailey; the Murchison fund, to Mr. J. W. Stather; the Lyell fund, to Mr. F. R. Cowper Reed and Dr. R. Broom.

THE council of the Royal Geographical Society has decided to award a special gold medal to Commander Peary for his journey to the North Pole, and for having undertaken such scientific investigations as his opportunities permitted; and a silver replica to Captain Bartlett for attaining eighty-eight degrees north latitude. It is expected that Commander Peary will lecture before the society on May 4. Later in the month he will lecture before the Berlin Geographical Society, which will confer on him its gold medal.

PROFESSOR W. BATESON, who vacated a fellowship at St. John's College, Cambridge, on resigning the professorship of biology in the university, has been elected to an honorary fellowship.

MR. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, having learned of the distinguished services to medical science which have been and are being rendered by the researches of Professor Paul Ehrlich, of Frankfurt, Germany, has presented to the board of directors of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research the sum of ten thousand dollars to be placed at the disposal of Professor Ehrlich for furthering his investigations into the chemical therapy of the protozoon diseases.

THE New York *Evening Post* states that Professors H. N. Morse, H. C. Jones and S. F. Acree, of Johns Hopkins, have received their sixth annual grant from the Carnegie Institution of Washington for the prosecution of