and the Minister of Public Works, Senor Ramos Nexia, has adopted a plan for making surveys for the determination of artesian water conditions along the lines of national railways. He contemplates topographical and geological surveys of a character similar to those executed by the U. S. Geological Survey, from which he derived the initial suggestion. He last summer applied to the U. S. government for the services of a geologist and such assistants as he might need, and our government has responded cordially to that request. Mr. Bailey Willis has accordingly entered into a contract for the term of two years, to execute topographical and geological surveys for the specific purpose of ascertaining artesian water possibilities in those districts which the minister may designate. With him are associated Mr. Chester W. Washburne, of the U. S. Survey, Mr. J. R. Pemberton, of Stanford University, and Mr. Wellington D. Jones, of Chicago University, as geologists, and Mr. C. L. Nelson and Mr. W. B. Lewis, as topographers, and the party sails shortly for Argentina to enter upon the work. While these surveys have a specific purpose, their possibilities of usefulness in developing the natural resources and encouraging settlement in the regions surveyed will not be overlooked, and the work will be founded on these scientific studies, upon which alone practical conclusions can safely rest. Thus it is hoped that a definite contribution to knowledge in geography and geology may be made.

It is desirable to point out that the Argentine government has a geological survey which has been in existence since 1903 in its present organization and which dates back half a century as a bureau of mines. It is under the direction of Senor E. M. Hermitte, who is assisted by Messrs. Bodenbender, Keidel and Schiller, three German geologists who have done excellent stratigraphic and paleontologic work, particularly in districts of the central Argentine Andes. They have unfortunately not been supplied with maps. The established Bureau of Mines, Geology and Hydrology is under the minister of agriculture. The surveys which are about to be made are undertaken by the minister of public works. The two operations are thus officially distinct, but it is hoped and anticipated that they may be mutually helpful.

THE ENGINEERING BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

The new $300,000 engineering building, and the new $150,000 power plant of the University of Cincinnati are rapidly nearing completion. The engineering building is of reenforced concrete and stone, four stories in height, built to accommodate five hundred students, and inasmuch as the greater number will be cooperative students, the building will accommodate one thousand.

Among the main features of the building will be a large laboratory 200×40 feet in size. This laboratory will be surrounded by balconies, which will give a much larger floor space than is indicated by the dimensions of the room itself. In addition to this there will be a large general club room for the students taking the regular engineering courses. There will also be a large consulting library, solely for the use of the College of Engineering.

The building will be fire-proof throughout and of the best possible construction. One marked feature of the building will be the absence of a great mass of heavy machinery which is usually found in engineering colleges. The students will possess the unique advantage of having at their disposal the use of the latest and most improved machinery in all of the different manufacturing industries having plants in the city of Cincinnati. They will gain their knowledge of the different operative processes at first hand in the great manufacturing establishments, for which Cincinnati is famous. This condition has permitted the use of space which would have otherwise been occupied by machinery for extensive scientific and research laboratories.

The power plant is one of the most extensive and thoroughly equipped in the country, and has been built to meet the needs of a growing university for many years to come. It will supply heat, light and power for all of the different buildings of the university.

One marked departure from the customary arrangement of university buildings will be

found in the class-room facilities in the new engineering building. Inasmuch as the building has been erected mainly for the use of the rapidly enlarging cooperative department, it was felt by Dean Schneider that the old arrangement of class rooms was inadequate to meet the needs of the mature men who constitute a large proportion of the university student body. These men come from the various shops and large establishments of the city to the college, and in their daily experience in actual productive work, they have been confronted by many problems, not alone of theory, but of practise, and these problems have suggested to them certain very definite questions which they bring from the shops to the college for answer by their instructors. It was felt that a change in the ordinary class-room work and arrangement was needed to meet these new conditions. Each section will have a room which will be wholly its own. This room will be furnished with a table 5×10 feet, comfortable chairs, drawing tables, drawer lockers and magazine racks. Each group will have one such room, which will serve the dual purpose of club and class room.

The purpose will be to make these rooms not only places for recitation and instruction, but also sub-social centers. They will contain everything needed to satisfy the social needs of each section, and during the time when classes are actually being conducted in this room, the teacher and the men in the class room will sit around the large table and the practical and theoretical questions which the students have asked will be discussed in open session. This is a marked innovation in interior college arrangements, but the whole plan of the engineering college is being evolved to meet the special needs of the cooperative system, and any change whatsoever which promises to more satisfactorily meet the needs of a student body such as will occupy this building, will be thoroughly tried out before its adoption or final rejection.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

THE International School of American Archeology and Ethnology was inaugurated in the City of Mexico on January 20. The founding patrons of the school are the government of the United States of Mexico, the government of Prussia, Columbia University and Harvard University. The University of Mexico has placed at the disposal of the school rooms in which classes may be held, and will facilitate access to libraries, museums, institutes and other scientific centers in which are pursued studies like those of the school, and will aid in the support of the school with an annual subsidy of $6,000. Each patron will in turn appoint and pay a director of the school, and will also allot fellowships which will be sufficient to cover the expenses of board and lodging and transportation of a fellow. In accordance with the statutes the government of Prussia has appointed as director Professor Eduard Seler, director of the section of anthropology and archeology in the Royal Museum at Berlin, who has already made extensive researches in Mexico. He will hold office for one year, and will be aided by Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia, during his presence in Mexico as professor of anthropology at the National University. Two appointments to fellowships have been made, Dr. Werner Von Härchelmann by Prussia, and Miss Isabel Ranives Castaneda by Columbia University.

All the explorations and studies of the school are to be subject to the laws of the country in which the work is undertaken, and all objects found in investigations or explorations will become the property of the national museum of the country in which the studies are carried out. In case similar specimens of the same kind of object are discovered duplicates will be given to the patrons who supply the necessary funds for the exploration. Most of the explorations will be conducted in the rich fields of Mexico, and the government of that country has already given the necessary authorization for the investigations which will soon be begun and are certain to produce interesting and valuable results.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR JOSEPH LARMOR, Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge University and