

THE second Shaler Memorial Research, supported by the Shaler Memorial Fund of Harvard University, will consist of a study of shoreline changes along the Atlantic coast by Professor D. W. Johnson and two or three assistants. Special attention will be given to changes in the form of beaches within recent geological time, and to supposed evidences of recent coastal subsidence. Since the problem of coastal subsidence is affected by the relative heights of high tides on the outer and inner sides of barrier beaches, lines of levels will be run between the ocean and lagoons, upon which tidal observations will be based. The most important localities from the Bay of Fundy to southern Florida will be examined during the spring and early summer. During the latter part of the summer Professor Johnson will visit localities on the coasts of England, Holland and Sweden, for the purpose of making comparisons with similar localities on the Atlantic coast of North America.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

M. AUGUSTE LOUTREFIL has bequeathed \$700,000 to the Paris Academy of Sciences, \$500,000 to the University of Paris and \$20,000 to the Pasteur Institute.

THE University of Michigan has received a gift of \$10,000 from William J. Cook, now of New York, and formerly of Hillsdale, Mich., to be used toward the erection of a residential hall for women.

By the will of Miss Susan G. Lansing, of Albany, N. Y., Rutgers College receives the sum of \$5,000, together with one third of the residuary estate, which, it is estimated, will bring about \$10,000 additional.

THE residue under Sir Francis Galton's will is bequeathed to the University of London for the encouragement of the study of eugenics.

THE technique of printing and publishing is a new course of study at the University of Wisconsin in connection with the course in journalism. It is designed for students of agriculture, engineering and commerce, who are preparing to enter technical and trade

journalism. A class in technical and trade journalism has been organized to give further training in this field.

THE University of Illinois special train to rural schools started out for a two weeks' trip over the Illinois Traction system on February 27. The special consists of two cars fitted up with illustrative material for the use of the speakers who accompany the train. About one thousand children are visiting this special every day. The county superintendent of schools of each county that the special visits accompanies the party and acts as guide and director.

PROFESSOR V. H. BLACKMAN, of Leeds, has been appointed to the professorship of plant physiology and pathology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE USE OF NUMERALS FOR SPECIFIC NAMES IN SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY

IN a recent number of SCIENCE, Dr. Needham has suggested the use of a numerical system of naming species, in addition to the present binomial system devised by Linnæus.

To this suggestion there are several objections, which to the practical worker in taxonomy seem wholly insuperable. In the first place, the name of an animal is not the main element concerned. The specific name covers our conception of the species, a conception likely to be greatly modified by thorough study. The generic name indicates our conception of where it belongs. This conception, of necessity, changes with the progress of knowledge. The changes in name mark such progress. To the taxonomist, certain changes of name are as real and as important as any other forward step in science. It is of course unfortunate that some species have had many different names. So have many genera also. This is due primarily to the inherent difficulties of the subject, as few branches of knowledge are more intricate than the study of the genetic derivation of forms, and their exact geographical distribution. These two branches of science, taxonomy and zoogeography, must