

ptarmigan and other game used to abound. In the whole journey of nearly 60 miles, however, not a ptarmigan, fox or reindeer, except skeletons and rotting carcasses, was seen. Dr. Bruce strongly condemns the wholesale extermination of animal life carried out in Spitzbergen, not only by gun and trap but by poison. Norwegian hunters, he says, habitually put down poisoned bait for bears, foxes and other animals, and he holds that strict measures should be taken to protect the fauna of Spitzbergen, which at present is being rapidly and ruthlessly destroyed. A great development of the coal mines, chiefly under the auspices of American capital and enterprise, and of other mining activities financed by British capital, was observed. There is activity also on the part of the Norwegians, who are developing means of communication by post and wireless telegraphy.

THE Colorado Geological Survey has had three parties in the field during the summer of 1912. One party, under the direction of Assistant Professor Ralph D. Crawford and Mr. Philip G. Worcester, has continued the work begun last season in the Goldbrick district. A second party, under the direction of Professor H. B. Patton, of the Colorado School of Mines, has spent the summer in the Bonanza Mining district near Villa Grove. A third party, directed by Dr. George I. Finlay, of Colorado College, has been at work on an investigation of the water resources of the Arkansas Valley region.

CHARLES RICHMOND HENDERSON, head of the department of practical sociology in the University of Chicago, has been given leave of absence by the university trustees during the autumn quarter of 1912 and the winter quarter of 1913, to act as the Barrows lecturer in India. The Barrows lectures are given every three years in the principal cities of India, on the foundation established by Mrs. Caroline E. Haskell. The general purpose of the lectureship is to consider the relation of Christianity to other religions. Professor Henderson will lecture in some of the cities of Japan and China on his return to

this country. His predecessor on the Barrows Foundation was Charles Cuthbert Hall, former president of Union Theological Seminary, New York. Professor Henderson's lectures in India will be issued in book form by the University of Chicago Press.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

At the September meeting of the Yale Corporation it was announced that since the last meeting three wills have been filed for probate from which the university should receive during the year about \$750,000. These include \$250,000, unrestricted, by bequest of Matthew C. D. Borden, Yale, 1864; \$25,000 from Cyprian Brainerd, of the class of 1850, for the use of the medical department, with ultimately an additional \$40,000 after the death of certain beneficiaries, and the McPherson fund of between \$400,000 and \$500,000, "to be employed in assisting worthy indigent students." This bequest is due to the death of Aaron S. Baldwin, executor of the will of the widow of Senator McPherson, of New Jersey. Mrs. McPherson's will provided for this bequest. Announcement was also made that \$10,000 had been received from the Misses Kingsbury as a history publication fund in memory of the late Frederick John Kingsbury, of Waterbury, for many years a member of the Yale Corporation; also \$5,000 from Mrs. Arthur Ryerson, widow of the late Arthur Ryerson, Yale, 1871, to establish the Arthur Larned Ryerson scholarship in Yale College in memory of her son; also \$3,000 from Francis D. Hurtt, 1907, Law School, to establish the Sarah Ives Hurtt scholarship in the Law School.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM D. HARKINS has removed from the University of Montana to the University of Chicago, where he will have charge of the research work in general chemistry, and will give courses in inorganic and general chemistry. His position as professor of chemistry in the University of Montana has been given to Dr. R. H. Jesse, instructor in chemistry in the University of Illinois. Mr. W. G. Bateman, former professor of chemistry in the Imperial Chinese University,

has been appointed instructor in chemistry in the University of Montana, in place of Mr. J. W. Hill, who has resigned.

DR. MADISON BENTLEY, assistant professor of psychology in Cornell University, has been called to the chair of psychology in the University of Illinois. Dr. H. P. Weld, of Clark University, becomes assistant professor of psychology at Cornell.

DR. W. F. BOOK, of the University of Montana, has accepted an appointment as professor of education in the University of Indiana.

THE department of physics of the University of Illinois has added two new assistants to its teaching staff for the present year, Mr. W. H. Bair, for some time a teacher of science in the high schools of Illinois, and Mr. Earle H. Warner, assistant for several years in the department of physics of the University of Denver. Both men are to serve as half time assistants.

DR. ALVIN R. PEEBLES, formerly professor of the theory and practise of medicine in the University of Colorado, has been appointed head of the department of preventive and experimental medicine, which has been established by the regents.

DR. THOMAS CLACHAR BROWN, a graduate of Amherst, who received his doctorate from Columbia in 1909 and who has since filled the positions of assistant professor of geology at Middlebury College and assistant professor of geology at the School of Mines, Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed associate in geology at Bryn Mawr College.

MISS MARY D. MACKENZIE, professor of biology at Western College, Oxford, Ohio, has been appointed head of the biology department of the Margaret Morrison School for Women of the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh.

PROFESSOR J. LORRAIN SMITH, F.R.S., professor of pathology and pathological anatomy in the University of Manchester, has been appointed to the chair of pathology in the University of Edinburgh, in succession to Professor W. S. Greenfield.

DR. J. STILLE, of the Technical Institute at Hanover, has been appointed professor of geology and paleontology at the University of Leipzig.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE POLICY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In his paper on "A National University," printed in the issue of SCIENCE of August 16, President Van Hise takes occasion to comment on the neglect of science by the scientific bureaus. He states that the United States Geological Survey "is almost exclusively a department of practical geology" and "is not contributing in any large way to the advancement of science."

President Van Hise seems to be comparing the Geological Survey in the first decade or so following its organization with the larger service of to-day. As I am in part responsible for the Survey's present policy, I may perhaps be permitted to present this matter in its other phases. The question whether his statement is justified is not easily debatable, for the premises on which any argument should rest are not of a kind readily agreed upon. In fact, President Van Hise and other geologists might disagree as to what constitutes "advancement of science," and as to what is "practical geology." This unavoidable confusion of definition prevents any adequate comparison of past and present contributions or even of an earlier and the present personnel.

With this inherent difficulty in discussing generalities, it becomes especially a matter of regret that President Van Hise contented himself with reiteration of the charge, without definition of his terms or mention of any supporting facts. The question therefore resolves itself into a consideration of the degree of truth or justice in President Van Hise's two dicta: the Survey is "almost exclusively a department of practical geology," and "it is not contributing in any large way to the advancement of science." These deserve to be considered separately, because I can not admit that the one is a corollary of the other.