

It is an integral part of the medical department of Tulane University of Louisiana, and begins its second year of existence with bright prospects.

#### *THE ESKIMOS OF CORONATION GULF*

THE Stefansson-Anderson expedition to Arctic America was organized in 1908 and sent out under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History. The expedition was in charge of Mr. Vilhjalmr Stefansson, a graduate of Harvard University, and Dr. R. M. Anderson, of the University of Iowa. Mr. Stefansson devoted his attention to the anthropological work of the expedition, while Dr. Anderson was occupied with the zoological work.

Between May 13, 1910, when he first came in contact with the Eskimo of Cape Bexley, and May 18, 1911, when he left the Prince Albert Sound people to return to his base near Cape Parry, Mr. Stefansson saw about a thousand persons, roughly speaking. He took cephalic measurements of 206 of these.

It appeared both to Mr. Stefansson himself and to the Alaskan and Mackenzie River Eskimo who accompanied him on this journey that the people visited differed considerably in physical characteristics from any Eskimo they had seen previously. Perhaps the most striking feature was that beards were not only more common and more abundant than among the men of the western Eskimo, but also of colors varying from black to a very light brown tending to red.

The blond tendencies are most prominent in southwestern Victoria Island, but they are met with at least as far east as a hundred miles east of the mouth of the Coppermine River, Coronation Gulf. Although no scientific census was taken to determine the exact degree of blondness of every individual seen, Mr. Stefansson feels safe in saying that more than half the individuals seen have eyebrows lighter than black and ranging all the way to a very light brown. The tendency to blondness seems less strong in the women than in the men. A few individuals had curly hair and perhaps a dozen had eyes noticeably

lighter than the ordinary Eskimo brown, ranging to blue or blue-gray.

These and other facts of a similar character were observed by Mr. Stefansson and will, in due course, be published by the museum. It is too early to settle definitely on any theory explaining the facts. Of the various explanations that have so far been suggested it seems to Mr. Stefansson that the one open to the fewest serious objections is that of the admixture of a large amount of European blood at some fairly remote period. In this connection the disappearance in the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries of the Norse colony from Greenland suggests itself as a possible source of the European-like characters. Many things militate against the supposition that they can be derived from any of the Franklin expeditions of the middle of the last century; one of these is that the only Eskimo of this district seen at close quarters by Franklin himself is described by him in terms which fit very well the blond type found to-day ("Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea in the Years 1819-1822," by John Franklin, Philadelphia, 1824, p. 316). The purely biologic theories that might explain the facts also seem to have their serious drawbacks.

#### *RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR HENRY SHALER WILLIAMS*

PROFESSOR HENRY SHALER WILLIAMS, of the department of geology of Cornell University, has retired from active teaching and has been appointed professor of geology, emeritus. In making the appointment the Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

The trustees of Cornell University desire to record their appreciation of the long and varied services of Professor Henry Shaler Williams and their regard for his high personal character.

A graduate of Yale University in 1868, he was afterwards in the service of that university and professor in the University of Kentucky. His connection with Cornell University began in 1879, when he was appointed assistant professor of geology, becoming later professor of geology and paleontology. He also discharged the duties of secretary of the faculty and was dean of the general

faculty from 1887 to 1892, when he was called to his alma mater as Silliman professor of geology. During this time he maintained as later an intimate connection with the United States Geological Survey and was associate editor of the *American Journal of Science* and *Journal of Geology* and a frequent contributor to other learned periodicals and societies.

In 1904 he was recalled to Cornell University as professor of geology and continued his work with the United States Geological Survey. He now retires to accept a pension under the Carnegie Foundation. The trustees desire to repeat the cordial expression of their appreciation of his ability and fidelity to the university which they recorded on his resignation in 1892. They further express the hope that he may long enjoy the facilities of the university to which he has generously contributed and continue his distinguished services to geological science.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has, according to cablegrams from Stockholm, been awarded the Nobel prize in medicine. Dr. Carrel, who was born in France in 1873, has carried forward important research work in experimental pathology, physiology and surgery.

SIR W. T. THISELTON-DYER, F.R.S., has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.

THE Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has appointed Professor Allen J. Smith and Professor Hugo de Vries delegates to the dedication exercises of the Rice Institute, and Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn a delegate to the dedication exercises of the New York State Education Building.

PROFESSOR DUGALD C. JACKSON, head of the department of electrical engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been given leave of absence until January first and has gone to England at the British government's request. When the English Post Office Department considered the purchase of the different telephone lines, it determined to call one authority outside the country to work with the English commission. The selection of the government was Professor

Jackson, who is now called to England for the final work of appraisal.

PROFESSOR W. J. HUSSEY, director of the Detroit Observatory of the University of Michigan, is at present engaged, as has been reported in SCIENCE, in the reorganization of the Astronomical Observatory of the University of La Plata, Argentina, of which also he is director. Professor Hussey was granted eighteen months' leave of absence from Michigan last spring in order that he might carry forward the plan of cooperation between the observatory at Ann Arbor and the similar institution in the southern hemisphere. He left for the south last June and since that time has been followed by Messrs. P. T. Delavan and B. P. Dawson, both of whom have been trained in astronomical work at Michigan. Mr. Delavan returns to Argentina, where he was a member of the Carnegie expedition for the observation of fundamental stars in the southern hemisphere. The fourth member of the present expedition to the La Plata Observatory was Mr. H. J. Colliau, the Detroit Observatory instrument maker, who sailed on August 20 to join Professor Hussey and assist in the reconstruction of the instrumental equipment of the southern institution. With Mr. Colliau went a shipment of machinery, tools and supplies to equip the new observatory shop which Professor Hussey is having built at La Plata. Dr. Sebastian Albrecht, formerly of the Lick Observatory, and more recently first astronomer of the Argentine National Observatory at Cordoba, has been appointed junior professor of astronomy in the University of Michigan. During Professor Hussey's absence the Detroit Observatory of the University of Michigan is in charge of Professor R. H. Curtiss, the assistant director.

PROFESSOR HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN gave the address published in this issue of SCIENCE on behalf of the State Museum at the ceremonies in Albany connected with the dedication of the new museum quarters in the Education building on October 15. On the evening of that day a commemorative dinner was given