

welfare workers and a stimulation for the activities of the city for the year 1915. This Portland 1915 conference will be similar in scope and method to the Reed College conference on the conservation of human life held last May.

A NEW edition of "Les observatoires astronomiques at les astronomes," first published in 1907, is in course of preparation, under the direction of members of the Royal Observatory of Belgium, with Professor P. Stroobant as chairman. He will be glad to receive information from directors of observatories and private astronomers concerning their work and publications.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts of North Carolina is preparing to celebrate on the first three days of October the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first opening of the college. A tentative program has been adopted at a meeting held in the office of Governor Locke Craig, who is *ex officio* chairman of the board of trustees and at the head of the advisory committee which is cooperating with the committee of arrangements. In order to make the quarter-centennial celebration a complete success, efforts will be made to have in connection with it reunions of the twenty-two classes which have so far been graduated. There will also be social meetings, addresses by some of the distinguished men who took part in the founding of the college, and other interesting features. The celebration proper will take place on the morning of October 3, with the principal addresses, but the other meetings will not be at all lacking in interest. Guests who will be held in special honor throughout the celebration will be those who took part in the movement which resulted in the founding of the college.

THE faculty and students of the University of Pittsburgh held a banquet on February 25.

At the end of the current college year, Dr. Albert Benedict Wolfe, head of the department of economics and sociology, will withdraw from the Oberlin faculty in order to accept the headship of the department of sociology and economics in the University of Texas.

PROFESSOR O. PERRON, of Tübingen, has accepted the professorship of mathematics at Heidelberg, as successor to Professor L. Koenigsberger.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

STANDARD UNITS IN AEROLOGY

IN SCIENCE, January 2, 1914, p. 31, it is stated that Blue Hill Observatory would use the new units for atmospheric pressure and temperature, *i. e.*, the units proposed by Köppen at Monaco in 1909 and again by V. Bjerknes at the Vienna meeting of the International Commission for Scientific Aero-nautics, 1912. In this system, pressure is expressed in bars or decimal parts thereof, such as decibar, centibar and millibar. One million C.G.S. units constitutes a bar.

Professor A. E. Kennelly, visiting this observatory, called attention to the inconsistency of such use of the term "bar." Unknown to meteorologists at home or abroad, apparently, the bar has been defined and used with a different value. Professor T. W. Richards in 1903,¹ suggested that the pressure of a dyne per square centimeter be called a bar;² and while investigation shows that somewhat similar suggestions had been made by others, Richards's was independently made, original and legitimately deduced. Kennelly³ and others following Richards have used the bar in this sense. It has therefore priority of definition and usage and is moreover the logical and appropriate unit of pressure. For the unit proposed by the aerologists, a more fitting designation would have been "aer" or "atmos."

Unless some protest be made against the proposed bar of the aerologists, we add to the confusion of units and terms already existing in meteorology. It is important too that we

¹ Publication 7, Carnegie Inst., 1903, p. 43.

² "New Method of Determining Compressibility," T. W. Richards and W. N. Stull, *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.*, Vol. XXVI., April, 1904.

³ "Convection of Heat from Small Copper Wires," A. E. Kennelly, C. A. Wright and J. S. Van Bylevelt, *Trans. Am. Inst. Elec. Engineers*, June, 1909.