

additions to the world's store of knowledge, even though unrelated, are now grouped together in one volume and published as promptly as possible. Some of the conclusions in the volume which has just appeared are of interest to the general public; others will be appreciated only by those who have made a special study of geology. For example, the articles on the rock strata known to geologists as the "Montana group" describe the strata which make up that group and their variations from place to place and interpret the facts set forth, giving their significance as to the origin of the strata and the conditions under which they were formed. Most of the field evidence was obtained in examinations of public land for the purpose of determining its value as coal land. The direct results of such work, those which appeal to the man in the street, are the bringing into the United States treasury of some hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars. Indirectly a thorough knowledge of the strata makes the finding of coal and other valuable deposits easier, but the value of the work is not wholly expressible in dollars and cents, for in the realm of pure science the understanding of the make-up of the earth and its history in the past has a value entirely apart from what such knowledge may at present yield directly or indirectly in money. An article on pitchblende ores of Colorado includes not only an account of those ores in that state but also a brief description of the principal European occurrences of pitchblende, one of the ores of radium. An article on erosion in Chesapeake Bay prophesies that certain islands in the bay will be washed away by the waves within the next century and shows the places on the bottom of the bay to which the sand and soil of these islands is being carried by the waves and currents. Another article describes some lavas which have been thrust into cracks in the earth's crust in the vicinity of Spanish Peaks, Colo. Still another article shows that the echinoderms, a class of sea animals, secrete skeletons of one kind of material in cold water and of another kind in warm water, and that the origin of magnesian or dolomitic limestone

which has long been a mystery, may be partly explained by the nature of these skeletons, myriads of which make up considerable parts of certain rocks. Several papers discuss the strata underlying the surface of the earth in various parts of the country and give data of use to the driller of deep wells. A copy of this report—Professional Paper 90—may be obtained on application to the director, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MR. JACOB H. SCHIFF, a member of the board of trustees of Barnard College and its first treasurer, has given \$500,000 to the college for a woman's building. It will include a library and additional lecture halls as well as a gymnasium, a lunch room and rooms for students' organizations.

THE University of California has received \$100,000 from an anonymous donor to endow the "Dr. C. W. and Mrs. Sarah E. Fox Memorial Beds" in the University of California Hospital, a part of the equipment of the University of California Medical School. These beds are to be maintained in the new University Hospital, now being erected in San Francisco through the gift of \$615,000 by various friends of the university. The superior court of San Francisco has just decided in favor of the university a suit for \$145,000 brought by the regents against the heirs of John M. Keith, who had refused to pay the balance of \$145,000 due under a subscription made toward this new hospital by Mr. Keith, of which but \$5,000 had been called for at the time of his death.

THE will of the late Anna Yarnall creates a trust fund of \$25,000, which is placed in the hands of the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania for the support of the botanic gardens of the Biological Hall at that institution. The income from this trust is to be continued for this purpose as long as the botanic garden is under the supervision of the head of the botanical department.

SINCE the transfer of the department of geology and geography of the University of Chicago to the new Julius Rosenwald Hall, Walker

Museum has been undergoing the necessary alterations so that it may now be used for museum purposes as was originally designed. The building is being thoroughly repaired, a modern lighting system is being installed, and much material of unique scientific value, which has never before been displayed through lack of space, is now being arranged for permanent exhibition. The director of the museum, which contains more than a million specimens, is Dr. T. C. Chamberlin, head of the department of geology; and the associate directors are Frederick Starr in anthropology, Stuart Weller in invertebrate paleontology, and Samuel Wendell Williston in vertebrate paleontology.

THE University of Illinois is completing arrangements for the construction of a new genetics building. It will contain offices for Dr. J. A. Detlefsen and Mr. Elmer Roberts and two laboratories—one for general genetics and the other for animal nutrition with classroom accommodations. When completed the building will be one story in height, 140 feet by 42 feet in width, and will cost approximately \$10,000.

By the will of Mr. W. Jackson, engineer, of Aberdeen, funds are left, subject to his wife's life interest, for the establishment of a chair of engineering in the University of Aberdeen.

PROFESSOR JULIUS STIEGLITZ has been made chairman of the department of chemistry of the University of Chicago to succeed the late Professor John Ulric Neff.

THE Harvard corporation has made the following appointments for the year opening September 27: Dr. John L. Morse, associate professor of pediatrics, has been made full professor; Dr. Frederick T. Lewis, assistant professor of embryology, has been appointed associate professor; Dr. John Warren, assistant professor of anatomy, has been made associate professor; Dr. John L. Bremer, assistant professor of histology, has been made associate professor; Dr. Francis W. Peabody has been appointed assistant professor of medicine and

Dr. Herbert S. Langfeld, assistant professor of psychology.

APPOINTMENTS in the department of agronomy at the Iowa State College for the year include: Ross L. Bancroft, M.Sc. (University of Wyoming and Iowa State College), assistant professor of soils; H. W. Johnson, M.Sc. (Iowa State College), instructor in soils and assistant in soil bacteriology; F. S. Wilkins, M.Sc. (University of South Dakota and Iowa State College), instructor in farm crops, and Roy Westley, B.Sc. (Iowa State College), instructor in farm crops.

PROFESSOR A. B. PLOWMAN, PH.D. (Harvard), has taken up his work as head of the department of biology, in the Municipal University of Akron, Ohio.

PROFESSOR WILLSTAETTER, member of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry, has been made professor of chemistry at the University of Munich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

POTASSIUM FROM THE SOIL

BULLETIN 182 of the Illinois Experiment Station by Hopkins and Aumer, brings, under the above caption, the results and discussions of a three-year course of experimentation in the growing of crop plants in the "insoluble residue" left after digestion, according to the "official method," for ten hours in HCl of 1.115 sp. g., of a "normal" soil from the Illinois corn belt, of good productiveness. The authors recall that in bulletin 123 of their station it had already been shown that this method of digestion extracted only 15 to 25 per cent. of the total potassium present, as determined by the method of fusion. In the present series of tests it was clearly shown that red clover was able to take from the insoluble residue sufficient potassium to supply a normal crop, so long as nitrogen and phosphorus were adequately present; thus illustrating the futility of the "official method."

It seems proper now to recall to mind that in the early seventies, Loughridge at my suggestion made an elaborate investigation of the effects of the digestion of a "normal" soil with