

ments that have been built from Philadelphia, Boston, Glace Bay, Newcastle (N. B.), New York, Norfolk, New Orleans, Panama, Key West, San Diego and Hanover, Germany. When atmospheric disturbances have been very pronounced on the large antenna at the West Laboratory, they have been very slight on the direction finder apparatus, which is entirely indoors, having no antenna or earth or other outside connection. This apparatus appears to be well adapted to use (a) on merchant and naval ships to obtain the direction from any lighthouses or lightships that may be equipped with radio fog signaling apparatus, (b) to obtain the direction of one ship from another at sea, (c) to communicate between ships or ship and shore stations irrespective of direction by reducing interference and atmospheric, (d) to use by the War Department in field service, as the receiving apparatus is portable and requires no ground or antenna, and can be carried readily in a light vehicle or even by a single observer, (e) to use by the Coast Guard Service to receive distress signals and locate the direction, (f) for use by the Bureau of Navigation to locate amateur or other stations that are not observing the radio regulations or are otherwise interfering with radio-transmission of the government or legitimate commercial business. The Bureau of Standards is prepared to demonstrate the apparatus to representatives of the War and Navy Departments or other interested departments at any time desired.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AN anonymous gift of \$10,000 for surgical research at Columbia University has been announced by the trustees.

MORSE HALL, erected in 1890 and containing Cornell University's valuable chemical laboratories and scientific equipment, was destroyed by fire on February 13. The loss is estimated at \$300,000, partly covered by insurance. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

THE board of trustees of the Ohio State University have ratified the proposal made by President W. O. Thompson for the establishment and maintenance of research professorships. The plan provides that men of recognized ability may be relieved from teaching to devote their entire time to scientific research.

DR. GORHAM BACON has tendered his resignation as professor of otology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, to take effect at the close of the present academic year.

To fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. William J. Means, dean of the College of Medicine of the Ohio State University, Dr. Eugene F. McCampbell, secretary of the state board of health, has been appointed to the deanship.

DR. WALDEMAR SCHLEIPP, associate professor of zoology at Freiberg, has been called to the chair of comparative anatomy at Würzburg, vacant by the death of Th. Boveri.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### SCHOOL AND THE LONG VACATION

THERE is a widespread belief shared by those working in the pedagogic field and those on the outside that something is radically wrong with our educational methods. The results achieved in schools and colleges are in no way proportionate to the native intelligence, the expenditure of effort in teaching and the stupendous outlay of money represented by material equipment and cost of maintenance. Employers of labor in stores, shops and factories complain of the lack of training and efficiency in the young men and women available for hire, and college teachers of sound judgment seem quite generally convinced that the average student at the end of his four-years' course has not enough to show in cultural attainments and useful knowledge. As I have intimated, this disappointing result is not due to lack of ability on the part of the American youth, who for quickness of perception and capacity of learning are not outclassed by the youth of any nation. The fault lies elsewhere. It would carry me too far from my present purpose were I to enter upon a discussion of all the defects of our system. I intend dealing with one only, a definite concrete condition easily comprehended and fully remediable if once educators are impressed with its significance.