THE Carnegie Institution expedition to Tobago, British West Indies, was exceptionally successful. The southwestern end of Tobago consists of elevated coral-bearing limestones and the coast from Milford Bay northward is flanked by a modern coral reef. Dr. Herbert Lyman Clark, of Harvard University, collected 73 species of echinoderms in this region, and of these Dr. Th. Mortensen, of Copenhagen University, reared 10 throughout their larval stages; among them a crinoid Tropiometra which was abundant over the shallow reef-flats. Dr. A. G. Mayer studied the Siphonophores, the pelagic life being abundant, due to the fact that the water of the great equatorial drift of the Atlantic strikes immediately upon the coast of Tobago. The coastal waters of Tobago are those of the clear blue tropical ocean, for the island lies to the northward of the muddy shores of Trinidad.

N. S. AMSTUTZ, of Valparaiso, Indiana, recently gave an illustrated lecture on the "Marvels of Illustration" during an afternoon meeting at the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., and in the evening before the Association of Federal Photographers in the new National Museum.

Two Harvard graduates and a member of the junior class in Harvard College will leave this month on an expedition to South America for the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. The party, consisting of Dr. L. S. Moss, of Baltimore, a graduate of the medical school; Dr. C. Tello, a Harvard graduate who is now living in Lima, Peru, and G. K. Noble, '17, of Yonkers, N. Y., will sail from New York for Paita, Peru. From this point they will cross the Andes and into the Amazon Valley. The purpose of the expedition is to collect zoological specimens and to study the native tribe of Guarani Indians.

SIX physicians and six nurses, comprising the sixth medical relief expedition to be sent from the United States to the Central Powers under the auspices of the American Physician's Expeditions Committee, have left New York on board the Holland-American line steamship *Ryndam* for Rotterdam, whence they will proceed to Austria. The party is headed by Dr. Joseph Irilus Eastman, of Indianapolis, professor of surgery in the University of Indiana.

THE Royal Society has awarded to Miss Dorothy Dufton, of Girton College, Cambridge, the first year's income of their Lawrence Fund, for an investigation of pneumonia produced by poisonous gases. The income of the Lawrence Fund, about £160 a year, is devoted to research in the relief of human suffering. Miss Dufton is the daughter of Dr. S. F. Dufton, inspector of schools in Leeds, and is doing research work in Cambridge University Physiological Laboratory.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE magnificent new buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the Cambridge side of the Charles River, were dedicated last week with imposing ceremonies. At the formal dedicatory exercises on June 14, addresses were made by President Richard C. Maclaurin, by President A. Lawrence Lowell, of Harvard University, now allied with the institute, by Governor Samuel W. McCall, and by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge.

THE tenth annual report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, published on June 19, shows that the income from general endowment was $697,892, and the expenditures $712,852. The income from the endowment of the Division of Educational Enquiry was $50,300, and the expenditures $54,633.

AT the commencement exercises of Wesleyan University the Van Vleck Astronomical Observatory, the gift of the late Joseph Van Vleck, of Montclair, N. J., was dedicated.

To represent the faculty of Cornell University as delegates at the meeting of the board of trustees, the following have been elected: Dexter S. Kimball, professor of machine design and industrial engineering; Walter F. Willcox, professor of economics and statistics, and John Henry Comstock, emeritus professor of entomology and general invertebrate zoology.

MR. ERNEST MARTIN HOPKINS, until 1910 secretary of Dartmouth College and since en-

gaged in business in Boston, has been elected president of the college, to succeed President Ernest Fox Nichols, who has resigned to accept a chair of physics at Yale University.

At the University of Nebraska, Dr. David D. Whitney, now at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., has been appointed professor of zoology, in charge of courses in the fields of genetics, evolution and experimental zoology. Homer B. Latimer, now professor of zoology in Nebraska Wesleyan University, has been appointed associate professor of zoology, in charge of work in vertebrate anatomy, embryology and histology.

George Frederic Ordeman, Ph.D., has been elected associate professor of chemistry, and Robert William Dickey, Ph.D., associate professor of physics in Washington and Lee University.

At Sibley College, Cornell University, the following instructors have been promoted to the grade of assistant professors: Clarence Andrew Pierce, in power engineering; Myron A. Lee, in machine design, and John George Pertsch, Jr., in electrical engineering. Joseph Franklin Putnam has been appointed assistant professor of electrical engineering. He has been professor of physics in St. John's College, Shanghai. Frederick George Switzer has been appointed instructor in the mechanics of engineering.

Vera Dantschakoff, M.D., of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been appointed instructor in anatomy, and Rosalie F. Morton, M.D., as attending surgeon at Vanderbilt Clinic of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

Recent additions to the faculty of the University of Arkansas are J. Sam Guy, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins), head of the department of chemistry, succeeding the late Dr. C. G. Carroll; F. G. Baender, M.S. (Cornell University), formerly assistant professor in the University of Iowa, head of the department of mechanical engineering; P. B. Barker, late of the agricultural faculty of the University of Missouri, head of the department of agronomy. Arthur M. Harding, Ph.D. (Chicago), returns to the university, after a year's leave of absence, as professor of mathematics and university examiner.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CORAL REEFS

To the Editor of Science: In his article on "Coral Reefs" in the April *Scientific Monthly*, Professor Davis gives an abridged and distorted version of Alexander Agassiz's theory, thus setting up a dummy to be conveniently knocked down. A careful consideration of *all* the forces suggested by Agassiz as contributing to the formation of atolls and barrier reefs should convince Professor Davis that the hypothesis calls for neither cliffs, deltas nor talus on the islands enclosed by barrier reefs. For the ring of living corals breaks the force of the waves; and the great quantities of water piled over the reef by the trade winds forms a gigantic modified pothole which scours out the material eroded from the island. Professor Davis has stated that any theory would account for the formation of atolls and barrier reefs themselves. He appears to forget that it was because many investigators in the field were unable to reconcile the facts observed with the theory of subsidence that led them to suggest other explanations. Any one at all familiar with the methods of work of both the elder and younger Agassiz would never think of quietly assuming that either was ignorant of the literature of his subject.

G. R. Agassiz

ANOTHER POISONOUS CLAVICEPS

The results of the experiments by Brown and Ranck, showing the poisonous action of *Claviceps paspali* Stevens and Hall on animals, published in Technical Bulletin 6, Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, has just been received by me and read with unusual interest, as I have followed the history of this interesting fungus since 1902.

I first noticed the disease produced by *Claviceps* very abundant and conspicuous on *Paspalum lævе* in Maryland in the summer of 1902, and in the autumn of the same year a sample of it was received from a Maryland