

will be addressed by Professor R. C. Tolman on "The Theory of Relativity." The fourth, February 15, will be addressed by Professor C. S. Hottes on "Some Recent Advances in the Physiology of the Cell" and the fifth on March 15, will be addressed by Professor G. M. Whipple on "Recent Development in Mental Testing." The speakers are all from the University of Illinois.

THE following lectures were recently given at Oberlin College, under the auspices of the department of zoology: "The Maturation and Fertilization of the Eggs of *Nereis*," by Dr. Omer Van der Stricht, of the University of Ghent (now at Western Reserve University, Cleveland); and "The Significance of the Egyptian Mummy," by Professor T. Wingate Todd, head of the department of anatomy at Western Reserve University Medical School.

At the Lowell Institute (Boston), on Tuesday and Friday evenings beginning Tuesday, December 5, a course of six lectures is being given by George Sarton, D.Sc., editor of *Isis* and lecturer on the history and philosophy of science at Harvard University. The course is on science and civilization in the time of Leonardo da Vinci, the titles of the lectures being:

1. "The Age of Leonardo."
2. "The Place of the Earth in the Universe."
3. "Geographical Discoveries."
4. "Progress in Physics and Chemistry."
5. "Progress in Biology and Medicine."
6. "The New Humanism."

FIVE lectures will be given at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in December by Dr. E. Mellanby, acting superintendent of the Brown Animal Sanatory Institution, on the part played in disease by water, salts and other simple substances.

THE Swiney Lectures on Geology on "The Mineral Resources of Europe" have been delivered by Dr. J. S. Flett, at the Royal Society of Arts, London.

THE Kelvin lecture was delivered before the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, on November 9 by Dr. Alexander Russell, who explained how, in many fields of fundamental importance to the electrical engineer, Lord

Kelvin's work had provided the basis on which his successors had built.

FREDERICK J. HAMILTON MERRILL, director of the New York State Museum from 1894 to 1904 and New York state geologist from 1899 to 1904, later a consulting geologist and mining expert in New York City, Arizona and California, died in Los Angeles on November 29, in his fifty-fifth year.

NEWTON B. PIERCE, formerly plant pathologist for the U. S. government for the Pacific coast region, and more recently private collector and breeder of rare plants, died at his home in Santa Ana, Calif., the thirteenth of last October, aged sixty years.

SIR HIRAM STEVENS MAXIM, the distinguished inventor, died in England on November 24.

MR. CHARLES SMITH, master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge and the author of works on mathematics, died on November 13, at the age of seventy-two years.

PROFESSOR H. M. WAYNFORTH, until recently professor of engineering in King's College, London, died on November 5, aged forty-nine years.

HENRIK MOHN, the distinguished Norwegian meteorologist, died on September 12 at Christiania, aged eighty-one years.

MEMBERS of Section E, Geology and Geography, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are requested to forward titles and abstracts of papers to be read at the New York meeting, to Dr. George F. Kay, Iowa City, Ia., not later than December 12.

THE Sullivant Moss Society will hold its twelfth meeting on Friday, December 29, at Barnard College, Columbia University, in connection with the convocation-week meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNOR EDWARD F. DUNNE and Dr. S. W. Stratton, director of the Bureau of Standards, are among the speakers that will give addresses on the occasion of the dedication of the new ceramics building at the University of

Illinois on December 6 and 7. Partly in connection with the exercises of the dedication of the new ceramics building, there will be held the annual session of the Illinois Municipal League, the 7th and 8th of December. University men giving addresses at this meeting will be Professor F. H. Newell, who speaks on "City Pavements"; Professor Edward Barton, on "The Latest Methods of Sewage Treatment"; Professor J. E. Smith on "Delays in the Execution of Public Works"; H. E. Babbitt on "Organization of Water Departments," and Professor J. M. Mathews on "Law Enforcement and Home Rule."

MRS. W. L. MARSDEN, of Seneca, Oregon, has given to the University of California extensive texts, grammatical notes and a vocabulary of the northern Piute language, recorded by her husband, the late Dr. W. L. Marsden. It is intended that these materials shall be edited by Professor A. L. Kroeber, for publication in the University of California publications in American archeology and ethnology.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Nielsine Nelson, the first woman physician in Denmark, bequeathed to the medical faculty of the University of Copenhagen three funds of 20,000 crowns each for scholarships for needy women medical students, and a further 50,000 crowns for the same purpose in the name of Ludvig Trier, a friend who had aided her and other students.

DR. GEORGE E. VINCENT, president of the University of Minnesota, has been appointed president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and will take up this work on May 15, 1917. He succeeds Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who will become chairman of the board of trustees, a newly created office. It will be remembered that Mr. Jerome D. Greene recently resigned the secretaryship of the board.

PROFESSOR ERNEST LINWOOD WALKER, of the University of the Philippines, has been appointed a lecturer on tropical medicine at the Harvard Medical School.

MR. W. L. DORAN, for the last two years graduate assistant in botany at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been appointed

instructor in botany and assistant botanist at the New Hampshire Agricultural College and Experiment Station.

DR. ROY G. HOSKINS has been appointed associate professor of physiology in the Northwestern University Medical School.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

OBSERVATIONS OF THE AURORA OF AUGUST 26 FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ALASKA

SINCE the auroral display of August 26 has been reported from so many places I will take occasion to slightly extend the area over which it was observed by advising that it was a very conspicuous feature of the northern sky at Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It was therefore observed from Atlantic to Pacific.

KAY ALEXANDER

November 15, 1916

I HAD an unusual opportunity for observing the auroral display of August 26, being at that time camped on the recently discovered Mount Alexander Mackenzie, on the crest of the Rockies of British Columbia in latitude $53^{\circ} 57'$, longitude $120^{\circ} 27'$.

Auroral displays are not unusual in this region even in summer, but the phenomenon of August 26 was by far the most brilliant and remarkable I have observed. It occurred at a very opportune time for me, as I was then returning after an exploration of the great west glacier. I got off the ice at 7:45 P.M., as the last rays of twilight faded; as I had still three miles to travel to camp, including the crossing of a steep 2,000 foot canyon, I was facing a chilly night under the stars, when quite suddenly the whole heavens became brilliantly illuminated and I was thus enabled to make the difficult climb back to camp.

The display began about 8:30 P.M. Pacific (120th meridian) time, with the formation of a bow of light in the north, surmounting a dark area which suggested the Crookes dark space in a vacuum tube. This increased in brilliancy and was supplemented by other irregular bows or bands of light, crossing the sky from east to west. These were the principal