to each commissioner for distribution in his own country. A copy will be sent to any person sufficiently interested, who will apply to Dr. C. W. Stiles, secretary to International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

SIR ALFRED KEOGH, director-general of the British army medical service, presiding at a lecture at the Royal Institute of Public Health on February 14, is reported in *Nature* to have stated that in France at that moment there were only five cases of enteric fever and eighteen cases of paratyphoid fever, with seventy or eighty doubtful cases. He attributed this result to inoculation, and the general good health of the army to good food, in addition to careful sanitation. The health of the army at all the fronts was said to be better than the ordinary health of the army in peace-time.

DR. LEO J. FRACHTENBERG, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, returned to Washington, D. C., on February 4, after a stay of almost two and a half years in Oregon and Washington, where he investigated the ethnology, mythology and languages of the various Indian tribes scattered throughout these states. Dr. Frachtenberg's researches in this area have resulted in evidence that three of the most important linguistic stocks of the northwest, namely, the Salish, Wakashan and Chimakuan, have ultimately been derived from one common stock, which he proposes to call the Mosan group. This name has been suggested by the fact that the numeral 4 (*mós* or *bós*) occurs in each of these stocks in one form or another. While working on the social organization of the Chimakuan tribes Dr. Frachtenberg observed an entirely new feature in the social life of the American Indians. This feature consists of the existence of professional orders, whose members do and must follow one and the same profession. Thus there are special orders for fishermen, hunters, sealers, whalers, shamans, rainmakers, etc. During the last two weeks of his stay in the west Dr. Frachtenberg succeeded in raising a fund of $25,000 as a nucleus for the purposes of organizing a Museum of Natural History in the city of Portland, Oregon. On January 29 he succeeded in starting a similar movement in Spokane, Washington, and it is hoped that the city of Spokane will in the near future have a museum specially devoted to the American Indians of that region.

PRELIMINARY estimates by John D. Northrop, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, indicate that the quantity of crude petroleum produced and marketed in the old fields of the United States in 1916 was 292,300,000 barrels. This quantity is greater by 4 per cent. than the corresponding output in 1915, which reached the record-breaking total of 281,104,104 barrels. Mr. Northrop estimates that 38 per cent. of the 1916 total came from the Oklahoma-Kansas field, 30 per cent. from California, and the remaining 32 per cent. from the Appalachian, Lima-Indiana, Illinois, north Texas, north Louisiana, Gulf coast, and Rocky Mountain fields.

IN 1916 Alaska mines made a mineral production valued at $50,900,000. These are the advance figures issued by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, and are based on estimates made by Alfred H. Brooks. The output of Alaska mines in 1915, which was greater than that of any previous year, had a value of $32,850,000, and the increase in 1916 was therefore over 54 per cent. It was the product of the copper mines that so greatly swelled the mineral production of the year. This amounted to 120,850,000 pounds, valued at $32,400,000. There was also, however, an increase in gold output, which in 1916 was $17,050,000 and in 1915 was $16,700,000. Of the gold produced in 1916, $10,640,000 is to be credited to the placer mines. Alaska also produced in 1916 silver, lead, tin, antimony, tungsten, petroleum, marble, gypsum and coal to the value of $1,300,000. During 32 years of mining Alaska has produced $351,000,000 in gold, silver, copper and other minerals. Of this amount $278,000,000 represents the value of the gold, and $68,000,000 that of the copper.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE legislature of Kansas appropriated $1,524,000 for the University of Kansas for the

next biennium, and $1,250,000 for the Kansas State Agricultural College. The three normal schools were given approximately $970,000, and the various other schools and sub-experiment stations $242,000. The total appropriation for all designated educational institutions was a little less than four million dollars for the two years beginning July 1, 1917.

THE will of the late William W. Lawrence, president of the National Lead Company, provides that on the death of Mrs. Lawrence a sum of over $200,000 will go to Princeton University.

A BILL has been enacted in New Jersey designating the scientific departments of Rutgers College as the State University of New Jersey.

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed between Northwestern University Medical School and the Chicago Fresh Air Hospital for a course of instruction in tuberculosis for the members of the senior class in the medical school. The class is divided into sections, each receiving clinical instruction for a period of four weeks.

To meet the increased cost of supplies and to permit an enlargement of educational facilities, tuition in the medical school of George Washington University has been increased from $150 to $175 a year, and in the dental school from $125 to $150, to take effect next fall.

DR. SCOTT NEARING has presented his resignation at Toledo University owing to criticisms made by citizens of the city of his anti-militaristic activities. It will be considered by a committee of the trustees.

IN accordance with the reorganization plan at the Creighton University College of Medicine, the bio-chemical and physiological laboratories have been merged into a single department under the direction of Professor S. Morgulis. Dr. William A. Perlzweig, of the Rockefeller Institute, has been appointed assistant professor of bio-chemistry in the department.

DR. ETHAN A. GRAY, medical superintendent of the Chicago Fresh Air Hospital, has been appointed assistant professor of medicine in Northwestern University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A RELIEF MAP OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mr. Kinkaid's proposition (SCIENCE, March 9), to construct a relief map of the United States "300 feet square or 600 feet square" would be, judging from my own experience, a pretty costly one. A relief map of the state of New York 35 feet long, east and west, and 26 feet broad, north and south, now in our museum, cost $17,000 to make. Estimating broadly the dimensions, area and cost of a map of the entire United States on the same scale, the map would be 237.5 feet long, and at the same proportion of cost the expense of making it would be $1,045,500. This is on the scale of one mile to the inch. If the scale were one half mile to the inch, the cost would be, in the same proportion, $4,182,000.

And where in Washington or elsewhere would Mr. Kinkaid put such a map of the United States, 600, or even 300 feet long? There is no building large enough to hold it. Buildings 600 feet long and 300 feet wide are not bagatelles. Perhaps one might be built for a million dollars, but it is doubtful.

Surely for this proposition, as Mr. Kinkaid suggests, "the main problem is to find the philanthropist." But before going out to hunt him, let us remember that only 40.2 per cent. of the United States has been covered by topographic surveys in such detail as to give an adequate basis for such a relief map as he has dreamed of.

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AN ANCIENT REFERENCE TO THE EMERALD

OUR college librarian, Professor Chipman, while arranging a course on "Books and Libraries" happened to call my attention to a translation of the oldest known manuscript which could justly be called a book, an Egyptian parchment entitled "The Instruction of Ptah-hotep."[1] In glancing it through I came across this interesting sentence:

[1] Translated by B. G. Gunn. E. P. Dutton, 1910.