

is not actively engaged in research. The future is in our hands, let us prove ourselves worthy.

THE GORDON MCKAY ENDOWMENT FOR APPLIED SCIENCE

IN the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* the situation in regard to the McKay bequest is reviewed. It was a little more than three years ago that the agreement of cooperation between Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for instruction in the field of the engineering sciences was announced. The funds for putting these plans into effect are drawn from the great bequest of Gordon McKay to Harvard University, made for the purpose of establishing a school of applied science. This fund is held by trustees who, under the terms of Mr. McKay's will, have already transferred about two million dollars to the university and are expected, on the death of all the annuitants provided for, to bring the total payments to \$22,000,000. The cooperative arrangement between Tech and Harvard was no sooner made known than the McKay trustees, of whom the late James J. Myers, '69, was one, objected to it on the ground that it would not fulfil the wishes of Gordon McKay, who might have bequeathed his fortune to Technology, but deliberately committed it to Harvard instead. Accordingly the plan of cooperation has been put only into provisional practise in the new buildings of Technology. To ascertain whether the arrangement could be made permanent, the Harvard authorities, after introducing certain changes into the agreement, designed to meet some of the objections of the McKay trustees, petitioned the Supreme Court of Massachusetts to pass upon the legality of the arrangement.

The case has now come before Judge Pierce of that court for a hearing to determine the facts on which the court's interpretation of the law must be based. Charles F. Choate and Mr. John G. Milburn, of New York, appeared as chief counsel, respectively, for Harvard University and the McKay trustees. There was much reading of documents. President Eliot, President Lowell, President MacLaurin of the Institute, and Mr. Frank F. Stanley,

one of the trustees, appeared as witnesses. The testimony presented bore upon the history of the negotiations between Harvard and Tech, and of instruction in applied science at Harvard; also upon the method and extent of the control secured to Harvard, under the agreement, in the expenditure of the McKay bequest. The hearing lasted three days. In due time the case will go to the full bench for argument.

The provisions of Mr. McKay's will include the following:

The net income of said endowment shall be used to promote applied science:

First. By maintaining professorships, workshops, laboratories and collections for any or all of those scientific subjects, which have, or may hereafter have, applications useful to man, and

Second. By aiding meritorious and needy students in pursuing those subjects.

Inasmuch as a large part of my life has been devoted to the study and invention of machinery, I instruct the president and fellows to take special care that the great subject of mechanical engineering in all its branches and in the most comprehensive sense, be thoroughly provided for from my endowment.

I direct that the president and fellows be free to provide from the endowment all grades of instruction in applied science, from the lowest to the highest, and that the instruction provided be kept accessible to pupils who have had no other opportunities of previous education than those which the free public schools afford.

I direct that the salaries attached to the professorships maintained from the endowment be kept liberal, generation after generation, according to the standards of each successive generation, to the end that these professorships may always be attractive to able men and that their effect may be to raise, in some judicious measure, the general scale of compensation for the teachers of the university.

I direct that the professors supported from this endowment be provided with suitable assistance in their several departments, by the appointment of instructors of lower grades, and of draughtsmen, foremen, mechanics, clerks or assistants, as occasion may require, my desire being that the professors be free to devote themselves to whatever part of the teaching requires the greatest skill and largest experience, and to the advancement of their several subjects.

I direct that the president and fellows be free to

erect buildings for the purposes of this endowment, and to purchase sites for the same, but only from the income of the endowment.

I direct that all the equipment required to illustrate teaching or to give students opportunity to practise, whether instruments, diagrams, tools, machines or apparatus, be always kept of the best design and quality, so that no antiquated superseded, or unserviceable implement or machinery shall ever be retained in the lecture rooms, workshops or laboratories maintained from the endowment.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, inventor of the telephone, was awarded the Civic Forum Gold Medal for distinguished public service in New York on March 21. The presentation address was made by Dr. John H. Finley, state commissioner of education. Dr. Bell is the third recipient of the medal. It was awarded to Major General George W. Goethals in 1914, and to Thomas A. Edison in 1915.

E. W. RICE, JR., of Schenectady, N. Y., has been nominated by the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers as president for the coming year.

DR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been elected chairman, and Dr. S. W. Stratton, of the Bureau of Standards, secretary of the military committee of the National Research Council.

A RESEARCH committee to cooperate with the National Research Council has been appointed by President W. H. P. Faunce, of Brown University. The committee includes from the faculty Carl Barus, physics, Albert D. Mead, biology, Roland G. D. Richardson, mathematics, and John E. Bucher, chemistry; from the university corporation Chancellor Arnold B. Chace and Edwin Farnham Greene, treasurer of the Pacific Mills; from the alumni J. B. F. Herreshoff, of the Nichols Chemical Company, Charles V. Chapin, of the Providence board of health, John C. Hebden, of the Federal Dyestuffs Corporation and Frank E. Winsor.

PROFESSOR VON GRÜTZNER has resigned as director of the Physiological Institute, Berlin, because of advanced age.

DR. RALPH E. HALL, assistant professor of inorganic chemistry at the Iowa State College, has resigned to accept a position in the geophysical laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C.

ABOUT a year ago Professor M. A. Rosanoff, of the Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh, and Professor W. D. Harkins, of the University of Chicago, exchanged one week's service, Dr. Rosanoff lecturing on chemical kinetics at Chicago and Dr. Harkins lecturing on the periodic law at Pittsburgh. This spring the exchange will be repeated, but extended in time to six weeks. Dr. Rosanoff has been invited to deliver at Chicago a full university course of lectures on stereo-chemistry and a briefer one on his theory of chemical reactions. At the same time, namely, from early in April to about May 12, Dr. Harkins will give a full graduate course of lectures on thermo-chemistry at the Mellon Institute and the graduate school, University of Pittsburgh.

HARRISON W. CARVER, who has been connected with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh for seventeen years and has been chief librarian there since 1908, has been appointed director of the library of the American Engineering Societies in New York City. Mr. Carver has tendered his resignation in Pittsburgh and is expected to begin his new work in April.

A THIRD relief expedition will be sent to the Arctic this summer by the American Museum of Natural History to bring home the members of the Crocker Land expedition, which went north in 1913. The latest word of the expedition came from Dr. Hovey in a letter dated July 10, 1916, and was brought out by the *Cluette* last September. At that time all were well. The second relief ship, the *Danmark*, was reported in Melville Bay, 150 miles southeast of Capt York, on August 20, 1916. Admiral Peary and others think she probably reached North Star Bay at least and that the explorers are on board. The third vessel will be sent to Etah, leaving St. John's early in July. The committee hopes to obtain a Newfoundland sealer for this purpose and to bring