

PROFESSOR H. E. GREGORY, of Yale University, has left for the Hawaiian Islands, where he plans to spend a few months in geological investigation.

PROFESSOR C. C. NUTTING, who will lead a party of Iowa scientific men in an expedition to the West Indies next summer, has received word that the English government buildings on the Pelican islands, which will be the base of the expedition, will be turned over to the explorers without cost. Some of the men who intended to go with this expedition at first have since entered war service, but plans are going forward rapidly and the outlook is promising. Professor Nutting made a preliminary visit to the islands last summer and reported that he had never seen a place where the opportunity for scientific research was greater.

PRESIDENT STIEGLITZ, of the American Chemical Society, has appointed the following committee on the supply of organic chemicals for research during the war: E. Emmet Reid, *Chairman*, Roger Adams, H. L. Fisher, J. W. E. Glattfeld, Wm. J. Hale.

At the annual meeting of the Cambridge Philosophical Society held on October 29 the following were elected officers of the society for the ensuing session: *President*, Professor Marr; *Vice-presidents*, Professor Newall, Dr. Doncaster and Mr. W. H. Mills; *Treasurer*, Professor Hobson; *Secretaries*, Mr. A. Wood, Mr. G. H. Hardy and Mr. H. H. Brindley; *New Members of Council*, Sir J. Larmor, Professor Eddington and Dr. Marshall.

At the anniversary meeting of the Mineralogical Society, held on November 6, the following were elected officers: *President*, Mr. W. Barlow; *Vice-presidents*, Professor H. L. Bowman and Mr. A. Hutchinson; *Treasurer*, Sir William P. Beale, Bart.; *General Secretary*, Dr. G. T. Prior; *Foreign Secretary*, Professor W. W. Watts; *Editor of the Journal*, Mr. L. J. Spencer.

At Yale University, Director Russell H. Chittenden and Professor Irving Fisher have delivered the first two of the special University Lectures on Food Conservation, and

Frederic C. Walcott, '91, of Mr. Hoover's staff, will give the third lecture, on "Governmental aspects of food conservation," in January.

ALONZO DORUS MELVIN, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, since 1905, known for his work on animal diseases and their bearing on human health, died at his home in Washington, aged fifty-five years.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Harvard University Corporation has announced the receipt of securities to the value of \$89,946.50 from James Byrne, '77, of New York City, to establish the "Byrne professorship of administrative law." The securities are the first payment towards a total foundation of \$150,000.

THE following telegram was sent by Dr. Hollis Godfrey, December 5, to presidents of all institutions giving degrees in technical courses: "I have just been authorized by the Secretary of War to request you to inform all your technical students that if they wait until drafted they can, upon summons to the draft camp, take with them a letter from you stating their special qualifications, such letter to be filed with occupational census questionnaire of the War Department. Under authority of this authorized telegram, the Secretary of War also authorizes me to say that every effort will be made to use each student's special training in connection with specialized occupations in the army, so as to afford technical students of draft age fully as great an opportunity through the draft as if they enlisted now."

THE annual meeting of the American Mathematical Society will be held in New York City on Thursday and Friday, December 27-28. The fortieth regular meeting of the Chicago Section will be held at the University of Chicago on Friday and Saturday, December 28-29. Friday afternoon will be devoted to a joint meeting with the Mathematical Association of America, at which Professor W. B. Ford will deliver his retiring address as chairman of the section.

MR. L. O. HOWARD, consulting engineer of Salt Lake City, has been appointed dean of the School of Mines of the State College of Washington at Pullman.

At the Stevens Institute of Technology, L. A. Hazeltine has succeeded the late Professor Ganz as acting professor of electrical engineering in charge of the department.

JAMES H. ELLIS, research associate in physical chemistry at Throop College of Technology, Pasadena, Cal., has become a member of the physics department of the college as instructor in electrical measurements.

MR. I. L. MILLER, of Indiana University, has been appointed professor of mathematics in Carthage College.

PROFESSOR A. S. LEYTON has resigned the chair of pathology and bacteriology of the University of Leeds.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SOCIEDAD CIENTÍFICA ANTONIO ALZATE

FOR those who have been led by a perusal of the daily papers to suppose that Mexico was in a progressive state of disorganization, the recent issues of the "Memorias" of the "Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate," of Mexico City, will afford good proof that their hasty judgment had been erroneous.

The thirty-sixth volume of the *Memorias* of this Society, which has just appeared, and comprises 740 pages of text with 82 plates, is entirely devoted to a monograph on the State of Puebla by Señor Enrique Juan Palacios.¹ His study falls into three main sections, the first of which regards the ethnology, geology and climatology of the state, the second, its flora and fauna, its industries, its mineral resources, and its commerce and means of communication; the third section treats of the political divisions of the state, and of its

history, embracing a description of its principal communities, chief among which is of course the city of Puebla, consisting of about 100,000 inhabitants.

The area of the state is given by the writer as 33,653 square kilometers, or about 14,000 square miles, and its population as nearly 1,100,000, showing a density of nearly 80 to the square mile. In population it ranks third among the Mexican states. The white race numbers 86,000, the population of mixed race 826,000 (three quarters of the whole), and the Indians, nearly 200,000. Within its territory is the highest peak in North America, with the exception of Mount McKinley. This is the mountain bearing the Indian name Citlaltépal, or "Smoking Mountain," though often called Orizaba. It rises to a height of 5,675 meters, or 18,614 feet, and is an extinct, or at least an inactive volcano.

The fossil remains found in the state of Puebla are of considerable importance. Among them are bones of *Elephas Columbi* Falconer, found at San Jeronimo, in the district of Tehuacán, and also in the region about the city of Puebla. Within the limits of its municipality, at Molino de Santa Barbara, fossil elephant tusks have been unearthed; mastodon tusks have also been discovered in the state, as well as teeth of *Elephas primigenius* (pp. 54, 55).

Ample space has been devoted to the mineral resources of Puebla and to their exploitation. While the principal interests of the state are agricultural and industrial, there were, according to the statistical report of 1907, as many as 29 mines then in operation (copper, iron, gold, silver and lead), the number of persons employed being 1,068; the production was valued at 1,168,428 Mexican dollars. Most of these mines must have been small undertakings, since Southworth in his Mining Directory for 1908 only notes three mines as in active operation, that of San Lucas (gold and silver) in the district of Tehuacan; that of Tetala, an English company organized in 1904, with a capital of £100,000, and the mine "La Aurora" of Tezuitlan, an enterprise dating from 1905,

¹ "Memorias y Rivista de la Sociedad Científica Antonio Alzate," published under the direction of the perpetual secretary, Rafael Aguilar y Santillan, Tomo 36, 2 parts, Mexico, June, 1917. 740 pp., 82 pls., 8°, "Puebla, su territorio y sus habitantes," by Enrique Juan Palacios.