

Soon after the declaration of hostilities with Germany, the Chief Signal Officer called to the attention of the committee the large amount of material which was coming before the War Department comprising inventions and suggestions relating to aeronautics in warfare, and asked assistance in examining and disposing of such material. Accordingly, this committee, through an appropriate subcommittee appointed for the purpose, has acted as a board of inventions for the government in matters relating to aeronautics, and since the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Germany it has weekly examined hundreds of suggestions and inventions pertaining to this subject. Several suggestions of value have been received and brought promptly to the attention of the particular government office most directly interested.

In December, 1916, the subject of cooperation with the Post Office Department in the establishment of aerial mail routes was considered, and the same matter in one form or another has been considered from time to time since that date.

In the latter part of 1917 the general subject of civil aerial transport was brought to the attention of the committee and a special subcommittee was appointed to take under consideration the various phases of civil and commercial uses of aeronautics with special reference to the conditions which may be expected to develop at the close of the war.

The committee has made progress during the year in the study and investigation of the following problems: Stability as determined by mathematical investigation, air-speed meters, wing sections, aeronautical engine design, radiator design, air-propeller design and efficiency, forms of airplane, radio telegraphy, noncorrosive materials, flat and cambered surfaces, terminal connections, characteristics of constructive materials, and standardization of specifications for materials.

NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

THE fifteenth annual geological excursion of the New England colleges and universities was held on Friday, October 12, and Saturday, Oc-

tober 13, under the leadership of Professor J. B. Woodworth, of Harvard University, and Dr. Edward Wigglesworth, of the Boston Society of Natural History. Owing to the unusual conditions universally prevailing this year, the only colleges represented, aside from Harvard, were Mount Holyoke and Williams.

The excursion consisted of a trip to the island of Marthas Vineyard, including on the way a hurried visit to the white cedar "submerged" bog north of Woods Hole, where the question of coastal movements was discussed. On Friday afternoon, automobiles conveyed the party over the outwash glacial plain to the Weyquobsque cliffs, where the succession of the Cretaceous clays and the Miocene and Pleistocene sands and gravels was studied, as well as the rapid work of the waves in cutting back the cliffs. Spits and bars, built by the alongshore currents, were well seen from the uplands.

Saturday morning was spent at the Gay Head cliffs, studying the section of clays, sands, and boulder beds ranging from the Cretaceous to the Pleistocene, complicated by faulting and the crumpling and overthrust folding of the clays and gravels under the overriding ice of the Glacial Period. The afternoon was spent studying the so-called "morainal topography" to the northeast of Gay Head, a topography most of whose features seem to be due, primarily, to erosion during Vineyard interglacial time, deposits of Wisconsin age forming only a thin veneer on the surface of the preexisting land-forms, and carrying with them, in places, many large boulders.

In recording the appreciation of the members of the party of the care taken by the leaders to make every feature of the trip, even including the weather, a great success, the opening words of the announcement sent out before the excursion may well be repeated, "Motto: 'Go (with them) and see!'"

MEDICAL WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

ON the first of January a new charter went into effect in Cincinnati, which places all of the medical, scientific and nursing work in