

Davidson for photographing the field of stars round the sun on the occasion of the total eclipse of the sun last week (May 29), the sky was clear for at least part of totality, and that the program was satisfactorily carried out. The photographs have been developed, and all the stars expected are shown on the plates taken with the astrographic lens, as well as on those taken with a second telescope lent by Father Cortie. The expedition will remain at Sobral until the necessary comparison photographs are taken *in situ*. The message from Professor Eddington at Prince's Island, off the coast of West Africa, which reads "Through cloud, hopeful," may be taken to imply that some success will also be derived from the work of this expedition.

It will be remembered that Professor Eddington and Mr. Cottingham were provided with the 13-inch object-glass of the astrographic telescope of the Oxford University Observatory, whilst the observers in Brazil had the similar object-glass from Greenwich, and that the program of both stations was to take photographs of the stars that surrounded the sun, of which there are at least twelve within 100' of the sun's center of photographic magnitude ranging from 4.5 to 7.0, for the purpose of testing Einstein's relativity theory of gravitation, and also the hypothesis that gravitation, in the generally accepted sense, acts on light. Photographs that have been taken during the eclipse will be compared with others that have been, or will be, taken of the same stars in the night sky to detect any displacement that may be considered to be due to the presence of the sun in the field.

There is at present no information as to the type of the corona, and apparently few observing parties have been organized to make observations to record this. From a note in the daily press last week, said to emanate from the Yerkes Observatory, it seems not unlikely that a large prominence may have been on the limb of the sun at the time of the eclipse.

It had been announced that the Cordoba Observatory would dispatch an expedition to Brazil, and that possibly Professor Abbot, of the Smithsonian Institution, would proceed to

La Paz, Bolivia, where the eclipse happened at sunrise, with coronal cameras and with instruments for measuring the sky radiations by day and night, but it is too early to have heard of any results of such observations. Also it has been announced that Professor D. P. Todd would take photographs of the eclipse from an aeroplane at a height of 10,000 feet from the neighborhood of Monte Video, where the eclipse would only be partial.

REVISTA MATEMATICA HISPANO-AMERICANA

UNDER the above title a new mathematical periodical began to appear at the beginning of the present year, which may be of some general scientific interest both on account of territory covered by its title and also on account of some of its unique aims. One of these is the publication of corrections of errors found anywhere in the mathematical literature. These corrections are to appear in a special section headed *Glosario Matematico*.

While mathematics is an exact science its literature is by no means free from different types of errors, varying from slight oversights to those relating to matters of fundamental importance. The majority of these errors are readily recognized by the careful reader and need only to be pointed out to be acknowledged; but, as mathematics grades gradually into various inexact sciences—such as philosophy, history and physics—it is clear that a part of its literature relates to the eternal approximations towards an unstable limit and here the question of errors connects up with endless words.

The corrections in the *Revista*, published at Santa Teresa, 8, Madrid, Spain, are supposed to be confined to the former type of errors and these corrections may serve the double purpose of curtailing the repetition of such errors and of pointing out somewhat slippery ground in mathematical fields. It is also of interest to walk securely over ground where experts slipped by overlooking lurking dangers which their slipping caused to change to well-marked pitfalls.

General interest in this new mathematical periodical may perhaps be enlisted by the can-

did manner in which the unfavorable mathematical situation among the Spanish-speaking people is depicted in a short note appearing in the first number of this journal. The comparatively slight contributions made by these people along the line of mathematical research stands in great contrast with the large advances made by the people living immediately north of Spain.

One of the most important steps towards the remedy of an unfortunate public situation is to exhibit the great need of such a remedy. It is hoped that the present journal may be successful in this direction and also in awakening interest in a field which is so fundamental for the further scientific development of the people using the Spanish language. The editor of the journal is J. Rey Pastor.

G. A. MILLER

EXPEDITIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MISS ALICE EASTWOOD, curator of botany, of the California Academy of Sciences, has just returned from a three months' study of the flora of Arizona and New Mexico. Miss Eastwood's special mission was to collect trees and shrubs but chiefly cottonwoods for Professor C. S. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum in connection with the revision of his *Trees of North America*. At the same time Miss Eastwood made important additions to the herbarium of the academy.

The academy is undertaking exploration work this summer in lower California. Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, assistant curator of the department of herpetology, sailed on June 14 on the steamer *Alliance* for La Paz, Mexico, with the purpose of investigating the reptiles and amphibians of the cape region of the peninsula. Mr. Slevin is accompanied by Mr. Gordon F. Ferris, instructor in entomology of Stanford University. Mr. Ferris is commissioned by Stanford University to make a special study of the scale insects of the region and will also collect for the departments of entomology and invertebrate zoology of the California Academy of Sciences. This work will be chiefly in the lower third of the peninsula and will require about three months time.

Dr. Roy E. Dickerson, honorary curator of the Department of Invertebrate Paleontology, sailed May 31 with Mrs. Dickerson for Manila, Philippine Islands. Dr. Dickerson will make an investigation of the Philippine Islands with a view to the location of oil deposits. During Dr. Dickerson's connection with the California Academy of Sciences as curator of the department of invertebrate paleontology important research work was carried on in the geology of the Pacific coast area, which received publication in the *Proceedings* of the academy. These papers are much in demand at present by the commercial interests engaged in oil production.

FOREIGN DELEGATES AND GUESTS AT THE ATLANTIC CITY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PHYSICIANS from fourteen foreign countries were in attendance at the meeting. Apart from Canadians they were as follows:

Lehman, Wilmer S., Lolodorf, Cameroon, W. Africa.
 Casier, Baron Ernest, Belgium.
 Depage, Antoine, Belgium.
 Duesberg, J., Belgium.
 Melis, L., Brussels, Belgium.
 Nolf, P., Brussels, Belgium.
 Sand, René, Brussels, Belgium.
 Captain Van de Velde, Belgium.
 Chutro, Pedro, Buenos Aires.
 Lee, S. T., Peking, China.
 Leonard, Eliza E., Peking, China.
 Ming-Shao, Hsu, China.
 Peter, William Wesley, Shanghai, China.
 Ting-han, Chang, China.
 Almila, E., Havana, Cuba.
 Carrera, Julio, Cuba.
 Fernandez, Francisco M., Havana, Cuba.
 Guiteras, Juan, Cuba.
 Martinez, Emilo, Cuba.
 Somodevilla, Santiago U., San Luis, Cuba.
 Kingman, E. L., Zaruma, Ecuador.
 Brown, W. Herbert, Glasgow, Scotland.
 Dimsey, Edgar R., British Admiralty.
 Groves, Ernest W. Hey, England.
 Hurst, Arthur F., England.
 Lane, Sir William Arbuthnot, England.
 Murphy, Shirley, England.
 Newsholme, Sir Arthur, England.
 Rose, Frank A., London, England.