

THE third half-yearly report on the progress of civil aviation in England has been issued as a White Paper. According to the abstract in *Nature* it is pointed out that regular air services have now been established from London to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, and that passenger, mail and goods traffic is increasing. The total number of aeroplane miles flown in the half-year ending September 30, 1920, is nearly 700,000, whilst the aggregate since May, 1919, exceeds 1,000,000. The number of passengers by air exceeds 30,000, whilst the goods carried weigh little less than 90 tons. In value the imported goods exceed £500,000, whilst the exports and re-exports are about half that amount. As part of the mail services, about 50,000 letters have passed each way between London-Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam with a regularity which is notable. Of the three routes the best shows 94 per cent. of deliveries within three hours of schedule time, and the worst 76 per cent. As part of the organization for further improving these records, it is stated that the wireless direction-finding apparatus installed at Croydon has proved its value, enabling aircraft to correct their course in thick weather. The equipment of aircraft with apparatus for wireless telephony is extending, as it is found to be of considerable assistance to navigation. The fatal accidents are given as in the ratio of 1 per 50,000 miles flown or per 5,000 passengers carried. The international character of flying is brought out in a statement of activities in other countries.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

FOLLOWING the investigations made by Professor S. C. Prescott, instructor in industrial biology of the department of biology and public health of the Institute of Technology, who has just returned from Seattle, where he studied the work of the College of Fisheries of the University of Washington, it has been announced that the administrative committee of the institute is considering the inclusion of a course in the scientific problems of fish culture and problems of the fisheries. Establishment of a college of fisheries similar to that of the University of Washington has also

been suggested to Harvard University, by leading men in the fishing industry at Boston.

HERETOFORE Brazil has had no regularly coordinated university though she has had individual faculties vested with the power to confer degrees. The faculties of law and medicine and the polytechnic institute of Rio de Janeiro have now been combined and will be known henceforth as the University of Rio de Janeiro.

DR. JOHN M. THOMAS, since 1908 president of Middlebury College, has accepted the presidency of the Pennsylvania State College.

DR. E. K. MARSHALL, professor of pharmacology in Washington University, has been elected professor of physiology in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, beginning in July. Dr. Marshall received his bachelor's degree from Charleston College, 1908, and the doctorate in philosophy and medicine from the Johns Hopkins University.

AT Yale University the following lecturers in special applications of organic chemistry in the industries have been appointed: Dr. Ralph H. McKee, professor of chemical engineering, Columbia University; Dr. Moses L. Crossley, research chemist, Calco Chemical Co.; Dr. P. A. Levene, biochemist, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Dr. David Wesson, technical manager, The Southern Cotton Oil Co.; Dr. Harry N. Holmes, professor of chemistry, Oberlin College, and Dr. Elmer V. McCollum, professor of chemistry, School of Hygiene, Johns Hopkins University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH IN THE SOUTH- EASTERN STATES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In SCIENCE, December 10, 1920, page 545, I commented upon the interesting fact that the observatory of the University of Virginia, named after the donor, Mr. McCormick of Chicago, is the only active observatory in our southeastern states. My further comment that Barnard and other astronomical enthusiasts, born and grown to manhood in the former slave-holding states, had found their opportunities in the great