

skilled in high mountain craft to the highest altitudes. Geoffrey Bruce had never climbed a snow and ice mountain before. Yet under Finch's skilled leadership he was able to attain a height of 27,300 feet. And the Sherpa porters, though they were practically untrained to snow and ice work, were able, under General Bruce's stimulating influence—and we must gratefully acknowledge that it was he who originated and carried out the idea of forming a corps of these men—to carry loads up to 25,500 feet, some of them making the journey four times and so earning the unstinted praise of the best mountaineers.

So by careful organization and combination of effort, by using experience to guide inexperience, and by the display of indomitable pluck on the part of the highest climbers, the expedition has at a bound brought the record up from 24,600 feet to 27,300 feet, and thus left only 1,700 feet to be climbed before the crowning summit is reached.

The standard of human achievement has thereby been sensibly raised. And many another climber, many another traveler, and many another struggler upward in every walk of life and in every country will be braced and heartened in remembering what Finch and Mallory, Somervell, Norton and Bruce have this year accomplished on Mount Everest. And this, to my mind, is incomparably the most valuable result of the expedition—and a result which makes their efforts in the highest degree worth while.

In conclusion may I quote from an article on mountaineering I have just read? "Mountaineering proper is not necessarily rashness, but is entirely a question of prudence and of courage, of strength and steadiness, and of a feeling for nature and her most hidden beauties, which are often awe-inspiring, but for that reason the more sublime and to a contemplative spirit the more suggestive." These words were written thirty-three years ago by an Italian Alpine climber, a certain Father Ratti. That mountaineer has now become Pope Pius XI and his words exactly express the sentiment which has animated all those connected with the Mount Everest Expedition, whether in its initiation or in its execution—and which will continue to animate them till the final goal is reached.

The *Public Ledger*, in a cable dispatch, announces that the expedition to climb Mount Everest has been abandoned as a result of an avalanche in which seven porters were killed. Three members of the expedition, C. L. Mallory, T. H. Somervell and C. A. Crawford, had

narrow escapes. The dispatch said the final attempt to scale Mount Everest had been made on June 7.

## ENGINEERS AND AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN EUROPE

ESTABLISHMENT in Central Europe of a great American university and library is urged by Dr. B. Stepanek, minister to the United States from Czechoslovakia, who, to advance international peace, calls upon the engineers of this and other countries for united participation in world affairs. Dr. Stepanek makes an appeal for the formation of a world federation of engineers, and for an international engineering conference to deal constructively with the problems of civilization.

Dr. Stepanek's views, made public by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which, through its official journal, stresses the need of engineering solidarity among the leading nations, are regarded by engineers as a significant diplomatic utterance supporting the efforts now being made in America, Great Britain, France and Italy to bring about closer relations among engineers.

Award of the John Fritz medal to Senator Guglielmo Marconi has aroused fresh interest in the idea of a world union of engineers. Marconi's expressed hope of promoting peace through science coincides, it was said, with action to devise a working plan of international cooperation between the engineers of America and Italy.

John W. Lieb, vice-president of the New York Edison Company, has reported, after a trip to Italy, that Italian engineers are ready to form such an alliance. Herbert Hoover, Professor Comfort A. Adams, of Harvard University, Eugene Schneider, of Paris, and Sir Robert A. Hadfield, of London, are others who favored advancement of world peace through the united action of men of science. Actively backing the project also are the presidents of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Federated American Engineering Societies.

Alfred D. Flinn, secretary of the Engineering Foundation, and chairman of the Engineer-

ing Division of the National Research Council, endorses Dr. Stepanek's suggestions "that at an early date there should be an international conference of engineers, rather than of politicians and of statesmen, bound by tradition and self-seeking nationalism—a conference of constructively-minded men who could take fresh views of the world's condition, deal scientifically with fundamental causes, and suggest impartial, far-sighted plans for continuing progress."

In appealing for the establishment of an American university in Central Europe, Minister Stepanek said that it would constitute a center from which could be given out the best products of American culture, a source of correct information about America and American ideas. Through a world alliance of engineers, the minister said, a constructive type of mind could be brought more effectively into the service of the nations.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

JACOBUS CORNELIUS KAPTEYN, professor of astronomy and theoretical mechanics at the University of Groningen since 1888, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

WILLIAM WISLICENUS, director of the chemical laboratory of the University of Tübingen, died on May 8, at the age of sixty-one years.

DR. EDWIN E. SLOSSON, editor of *Science Service*, received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the recent commencement of the University of Kentucky.

DR. W. S. THAYER, formerly professor of medicine in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has been elected an overseer of Harvard University.

DR. OTTO KLOTZ has been elected an honorary overseas member of the Norman Lockyer Observatory in England.

M. HENRI LESBEGUE has been elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of mathematics to succeed the late M. C. Jourdan. M. Lesbegues has recently been elected professor at the Collège de France.

At the meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh on June 19, the Keith Prize (1919-

1921) was presented to Professor R. A. Sampson for his astronomical researches, and the Neill Prize (1919-1921) to Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, for his contributions to our knowledge of physiology.

At a special meeting of the directing board of the National University of Mexico, it was voted to grant an honorary diploma to Dr. S. Ramón y Cajal. The Mexican Academy of Medicine has appointed him an honorary member.

THE second year's work of the American School in France for Prehistoric Studies began the first week in July at La Quina, Charente, under the directorship of Dr. Charles Peabody. The retiring director, Professor George Grant MacCurdy, will visit Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Belgium and England before returning to Yale University in September.

DR. JOHN L. STENQUIST, who has been assistant to the director of reference and research in the Department of Education of New York City, has been appointed director of the new Bureau of Educational Measurements, Statistics and Research for the city of Baltimore, where he will assume his duties about September 1.

DR. EDWARD A. SPITZKA has been appointed district medical officer, Second District, U. S. Veterans' Bureau. The Second District embraces the state of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

HUGH M. HENTON, formerly instructor in metallurgy at Case School of Applied Science, has opened an office as consulting engineer in Cleveland.

PROFESSOR HERBERT H. WHETZEL, who has been head of the department of plant pathology since its organization in the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, has been relieved from the leadership at his own urgent solicitation in order that he may devote his time exclusively to teaching and research.

PROFESSOR JOEL STEBBINS, of the University of Illinois, who, as was reported early in the spring, has been appointed professor of astronomy and director of the Washburn Observatory