

Lester Jones, director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, wanted the modest sum of \$40,000 to enable him to complete wire drag work on the North Atlantic seaboard. General Lord, director of the budget, cut the item out of the appropriation bill, and now Representative Shreve, of Pennsylvania, chairman of a subcommittee on appropriations, declares himself incapable of overriding the decision of General Lord. This means that unless the maritime interests can bring sufficient pressure to bear on the committee on appropriations or General Lord or both wire-drag work extending practically from Newburyport along the Maine coast to the Canadian line must be abandoned. The Coast Survey has performed a remarkable service in clearing coastal waters of the boulders which infest them, most of them unknown, and yet many almost directly in the path of coastwise shipping. It will be recalled that a few years ago off Boston harbor one of the great battleships came within something like fifteen feet of striking a hidden rock that might easily have torn her side open and let her go down into one hundred feet of water. A little later it was necessary to wire drag Salem harbor to permit the entrance of another battleship, and twenty-five boulders were removed during the process. The work had proceeded as far as Newburyport harbor, and Colonel Jones estimated that with the new and improved drags he is using \$40,000 would enable him to clear the whole American coast. The work must be done eventually, and the appropriation officials may have a hard time explaining why it is being delayed."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science is endeavoring to raise \$2,000,000 for expansion of its work, and has already raised the sum necessary for a building site, which has been purchased. It is planned to use the \$2,000,000 for a group of buildings, with equipment, and in providing an adequate endowment. Rear Admiral W. C. Braisted, formerly surgeon general of the Navy, is the president of the college.

BATES COLLEGE has received an anonymous

gift of \$60,000 toward its million-dollar endowment fund. Including the \$200,000 conditionally promised by the General Education Board, this brings the fund total to \$550,000.

THE University of Glasgow has received a gift of £25,500 from Mr. Henry Meehan, of Meehans, Limited, engineers and contractors, Glasgow, for the foundation of a new chair of public health.

ON the death, recently, of Mr. Gemmell, brother of the late Dr. Samson Gemmell, regius professor of medicine in the University of Glasgow, the fortune which passed to him on the death of Dr. Gemmell, amounting to approximately £100,000, has been bequeathed to various Glasgow institutions. The sum of £20,000 is left to the trustees of the university for the purpose of endowing a chair in the faculty of medicine or science, to be known as the Samson Gemmell chair. The choice of subject is left to the trustees.

AT Clark University Assistant Professor C. E. Melville has been promoted to a full professorship of mathematics.

DR. A. E. YOUNG, professor of mathematics at Miami University, has resigned to accept position with the Standard Oil Company at Pittsburgh.

DR. HUGH S. TAYLOR has been promoted by the trustees of Princeton University to a full professorship in the department of chemistry, with the title of professor of physical chemistry.

W. W. RUBEY, assistant geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been granted leave of absence to accept an instructorship at Yale University for the current year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PROPOSAL FOR WILD PLANT CONSERVATION

THE state of Vermont, well noted for rare plants—ferns and flowers—in considerable abundance, recently awoke to the fact that its flora was threatened with extinction. Plants formerly abundant were becoming rare and some rare plants were disappearing from localities where they had been fairly frequent. This applied particularly to various species