

with Mr. B. B. Woodward in the production of several important papers on the Post-Pliocene non-marine mollusca of England and Ireland.

THE Prix de Carthage, a biennial prize founded in 1921 for scientific or historical work, has been awarded to Dr. Nicolle, of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis, for his investigations of typhus fever, kala-azar, trachoma and Malta fever.

SEÑOR DON JOSÉ SERRATO, who was elected president of the Uruguayan Republic last November, has now entered upon his work. Señor Serrato is a surveyor and engineer, having been professor in the faculty of mathematics in the University of Montevideo.

CHARLES R. MANN, since 1917 an educational adviser to the war department, formerly associate professor of physics in the University of Chicago, has been appointed director of the American Council of Education.

PROFESSOR E. I. TERRY, of the department of biology at Middlebury College and manager of the Battell Forest, has resigned his position to accept a position as forester of the Massachusetts Forestry Association.

RICHARD V. AGETON, of the Bureau of Mines, who has been doing examination work for the War Minerals Relief Commission, is acting as assistant chief mining engineer of the bureau.

EDGAR S. ROSS, for a number of years engaged in research dealing with production of metallic tantalum and columbium, has accepted an industrial fellowship at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburgh.

PROFESSOR W. L. BADGER, professor of chemical engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, is taking a year's leave of absence beginning February 1. He expects to continue his research work on evaporator design in Ann Arbor.

DR. JOHN C. MERRIAM, president of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. Marshall H. Saville, director of the Heye Museum, and Mr. William Barclay Parsons, chairman of the Archaeological Institute of Yucatan, have been visiting Yucatan with a view to instituting investigations on the Maya civilization.

SENATOR E. F. LADD, formerly professor of chemistry and president of the North Dakota College, who plans to visit Russia this summer.

PROFESSOR ELMER S. RIGGS, of Chicago, is heading the Chicago Field Museum expedition which has left Rio Gallegos, in South Argentina, for a five-year exploring trip in the heart of Patagonia.

PROFESSOR S. D. TOWNLEY, who during the present quarter has been working at the Harvard College Observatory preparing a catalogue of the variable stars, returns to Stanford University this month.

MISS MINA L. WINSLOW, curator of mollusks in the zoological museum of the University of Michigan, will leave for Europe in the near future to study in the various museums.

DR. VERNON KELLOGG, of the National Research Council, gave a series of three lectures at Princeton University on March 13, 14 and 16, on the Louis Clark Vanuxem Foundation, under the title "Kinds of mind." The lectures reviewed the present status of knowledge of the influence of heredity in determining the character and capacity of mind in the lower animals and man. They will be published in book form by the Princeton University Press.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A BILL has recently been passed by the Oregon legislature and signed by the governor appropriating \$200,000 to the University of Oregon Medical School at Portland for maintenance for the next biennium. This appropriation bill was one of the few that were not cut by this legislature. At present the school has an enrollment of about 200 students and requires three years of collegiate premedical work for admission.

THE Cheney Brothers, silk manufacturers, of South Manchester, Connecticut, have offered to pay Yale University \$1,000 a year for two years for a fellowship in organic chemistry in the graduate school.

FOR the purpose of furthering research in engineering, Mrs. Mary E. Bell has offered to Cornell University a memorial in honor of her son, Harold Ingersoll Bell, who was graduated

from the College of Civil Engineering at Cornell in 1905 and died in New York City two years ago. The memorial is in the form of an endowment fund of \$5,000, the income from which shall be used to purchase equipment and supplies for research in hydraulic engineering and related fields.

SIR NORMAN WALKER, of Edinburgh University, Scotland, has offered the College of Medicine at the University of Iowa his medical library through Dr. Walter L. Bierring, Des Moines. Sir Norman visited the university two years ago in company with a commission of eminent European physicians and surgeons. He has announced that the gift is in appreciation of the medical work being done at the university. He also states that he expects to send his son to the University of Iowa to complete his medical training.

A COLLOIDS research laboratory in the University of Manchester has been established with £11,842 given for that purpose. Mr. D. C. Henry, at present a lecturer in chemistry, has been appointed lecturer in colloid physics and will take charge of the laboratory, which will be known as "The Graham Research Laboratory."

DR. GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY, curator of anthropology and assistant professor of prehistoric archeology in Yale University, has been promoted to professorial rank with the title of research associate.

DR. HUDSON BRIDGE HASTINGS, of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, who has been investigator of business and economic questions under the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research, has been appointed professor of administrative engineering at Yale University.

MR. J. L. SHELLSHEAR, demonstrator in anatomy at the University College, London, has been appointed professor of anatomy at Hongkong, China.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

AN EXCEPTIONALLY DARK DAY IN NEW YORK

AT rare intervals days occur in New York of such exceptional darkness as to attract gen-

eral attention. A remarkable day of this kind was February 28, 1923.

The morning dawned dark, with a few flakes of snow falling until about nine o'clock. The darkness increased toward noon. It was most intense from nine until eleven. At that time the aspect of the city was that which might be expected at night. The shops and shop windows were lighted. Offices, even on the highest floors of the skyscrapers, found it necessary to turn on the electric light. The street cars and taxicabs were lighted as in the evening. For an hour there seemed to be no change in the density. After noon there was a perceptible improvement; but the whole day was unusually dark.

The next day was bright and clear, with a good westerly breeze. It was possible to compare the light on the dark day with that on a normal one. Print could be read as well at 6:15 P.M. on March 1 as at 10:45 A.M. on February 28. Sunset was at 5:46 on March 1. In other words, the light at a quarter of eleven in the morning of the dark day was about the same as it would normally be half an hour after sunset in the same place. The place where this comparison was made was Fifth Avenue and Forty-third Street.

In the streets the atmosphere was clear during the darkness. There was no appearance of fog. Many of the tall buildings could be seen to their tops. It was noticed that smoke and spent steam rose vertically from their roofs. The sky was dark gray.

It is seldom that even very dark days give rise to so much comment. On this occasion the public seemed to feel that it had a special reason to be alarmed. On February 28 the newspapers announced with sensational headlines that the celestial body Beta Ceti had blazed forth suddenly in the sky to the great interest of astronomers. An eminent scientist was quoted as saying that if such a change occurred in our sun, and such changes were not uncommon, the population of the earth would be annihilated. The sudden brightening was of the utmost practical importance. The dark day was therefore looked upon by thousands with alarm.

It has seemed worth while to inquire into the atmospheric conditions which prevailed at