

other trustees to appeal to all the friends of *Discovery* to continue to support it and to extend its circulation by every means."

PROFESSOR HARRY N. HOLMES, Chairman of the Committee on Colloids of the National Research Council, announces that the papers and discussions presented at the First Annual Colloid Symposium, held at Madison, Wisconsin, in June, 1923, have been published by the Department of Chemistry of the University of Wisconsin. The monograph comprises 420 pages. The twenty-two papers cover a wide range of theoretical considerations and applications to medicine and the industries, from the University Cooperative Company of Madison, Wisconsin.

THE Cleveland Museum of Natural History is completing its first field season in the excavation of fossil fishes from the Cleveland Shale (Upper Devonian) of northern Ohio. Under the direction of J. E. Hyde, curator of geology for the museum and professor of geology in Western Reserve University, Mr. Peter Bungart, a well-known and experienced collector in these shales, has been continuously in the field from the first of May to the end of November. This is the first sustained, systematic attempt to secure this material, since the death twenty-five years ago of Dr. William Clark, of Berea, who brought together much of the large collections of this material in the American Museum of Natural History and in the British Museum. The season has been a successful one. A large amount of Titanichthys and Dinichthys material has been secured, some of which is unique. One fairly complete head of the latter will be between five and six feet in length when finally assembled. A dozen essentially complete sharks have been secured, ranging in length from 18 inches to 6 feet. Though these remains have been the objective of collectors since Herzer's discovery of them in 1858, and have been elaborately described by many students, these are believed to be the first large collections ever removed with adequate data on the horizon, locality and mode of field occurrence. Mr. Bungart will devote the winter to preparation of the material for exhibition.

WE learn from *Nature* that a local astronomical society formed at Capetown ten years ago has now been extended to include the Johannesburg society, and the first *Journal* of the combined body has been published. The inaugural presidential address by Dr. Hough deals with the tides, explaining methods of tidal analysis and prediction, and giving an outline of Sir George Darwin's theory of the development of the earth-moon system by tidal evolution. The society has been especially active in comet and variable star work; the former is fully dealt with in the *Journal*.

THE Jamaican Legislature has voted £900 towards

the expenses of holding an Agricultural Conference in Jamaica next year. By a majority of three the council refused to pledge the colony to contribute an annual sum towards the maintenance of an agricultural college in Trinidad. It was argued that Jamaica needs its own college to serve the Bahamas and British Honduras.

DETAILS of a plan to explore a water route, north-eastward from Alaskan waters through the Arctic regions, were announced recently by Captain Robert A. Bartlett, commander of the *Roosevelt*, on which Admiral Peary made his voyage toward the North Pole. Captain Bartlett said he proposed to leave Seattle next June or July, pass through Bering Strait, and drift eastward with the ice to Greenland or Spitzbergen. He should reach civilization again in four or five years, he said. A party of ten, including scientific men, will make up the expedition. A wooden, non-magnetic ship will be used and instruments for surveying the northern regions, sounding the depths of the Arctic Ocean and examining whatever life may be found, will be included. The ship will carry wireless and a seaplane.

A SCIENTIFIC expedition is being fitted out for Africa under the direction of M. C. Moureu, professor at the Collège de France, who will be assisted by MM. Lepape and Moureu. The main purpose of this expedition is to study the mineral waters of Antsirabé, which are said to resemble the waters of Vichy and also to possess radioactivity.

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### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

GROUND has been broken for the construction of a new building for the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. The building, which will cost \$1,000,000 when equipped, will be erected opposite the pathology building of the hospital. It will be an eight-story building of modern Italian design. The basement, first and eighth floors will be of Indiana limestone, the intervening stories gray brick. It will be ready for occupancy in about a year.

CHARLES LATHROP PACK, president of the American Tree Association, has added \$500 to an original gift of \$500 made to the forestry department at Cornell University. In addition, he has given another \$1,000, the income of which is to be used as an annual prize to encourage forestry students in writing about forestry in a way that will interest the general public.

BRADFORD KNAPP, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Arkansas and director of the Arkansas Station, has been appointed president of Oklahoma College and has entered upon his work.

PROFESSOR H. F. TOMPSON, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has resigned as professor of

vegetable gardening and director of the Market Garden Field Station at Lexington, Mass. He is succeeded by Mr. R. M. Koon, who has been appointed extension professor of vegetable gardening.

DR. T. H. BISSONNETTE, PH.D. (Chicago, '23), has been appointed head of the department of zoology at Coe College.

ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN, former premier of Canada, has been chosen chancellor of Queen's University to succeed N. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who resigned last spring.

M. J. A. SECARD has been appointed to the chair of medical pathology in the University of Paris, and M. G. Guillain to the chair of neurology.

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### PRIZE ESSAYS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

A NATIONAL COMMITTEE, with secretary Herbert Hoover as chairman, has been formed to act as judges in the American Chemical Society's Prize Essay Contest.

Dr. J. R. Angell, president of Yale University, and Dr. H. N. MacCracken, president of Vassar College, have accepted membership, representing the nation's educators, while the scientists will be represented by Dr. Robert Andrews Millikan, Dr. J. C. Merriam and Dr. Edgar F. Smith. Dr. Charles H. Mayo, of the Mayo Foundation, at Rochester, Minn., represents the medical profession; Frederick E. Weyerhaeuser, the lumber field, and Julius Rosenwald, of Sears Roebuck and Co., Chicago, the merchants of the country. Prominent women on the committee will be Alice Ames Winter, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Ida M. Tarbell and Jane Addams. General J. J. Carty, Senator Arthur Capper, Robert J. Cuddihy, of the *Literary Digest*, George Eastman and Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., are also members of the committee.

The prize essay contest, which is the result of a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Garvan, of New York, in memory of their daughter Patricia, is being conducted by the American Chemical Society. Every high-school and secondary school student is eligible to participate. Six cash prizes are being offered to the winners in each state and six scholarships to Yale or Vassar will be the awards in the national competition between the state winners. Each contestant may submit one essay not to exceed twenty-five hundred words which must be confined to one of the following six subjects: The relation of chemistry to health and disease, to the enrichment of life, to agriculture and forestry, to national defense, to the home, to the de-

velopment of the industries and resources of your state. The best essay on each of these six subjects in each state will be awarded twenty dollars in gold, and six best essays will be selected by the national committee from among the state winners.

The writers of the winning essays will be awarded four-year scholarships to Yale University or Vassar College, each scholarship to carry with it five hundred dollars a year in cash in addition to tuition fees.

National and state educational officials have endorsed the project and over twenty thousand sets of reference books, including "The Life of Pasteur," "Creative Chemistry," "The Riddle of the Rhine," "Discovery," "The Spirit and Service of Science, and the Future Independence and Progress of American Medicine in the Age of Chemistry," have been donated to schools and libraries all over the country. Booklets and posters describing the contest have been distributed and it is estimated that more than a million essays will be written by high school boys and girls. Through the generosity of the publishers the committee has been enabled to offer sets of the reference books to interested individuals at the actual cost of printing. This was necessitated by the great demand for the books and the fact that the funds of the committee did not permit the free distribution of books to those other than schools and libraries.

Committees similar in form to the national committee are forming in each state and to these state committees will be entrusted the duty of selecting the six best essays written by the boys and girls of their state. These committees will be announced through the committee in charge and through the press.

The competition will close on April 1, 1924, and on that date all competing essays must be in the hands of the designated state authorities.

Booklets describing the contest and sets of reference books at cost, may be had upon application to Alexander Williams, Jr., Secretary, Committee on Prize Essays, American Chemical Society, Munson Building, New York City.

Committee on Prize Essays:

H. E. HOWE, *Chairman*,

W. D. BANCROFT,

CHARLES H. HERTY,

ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR., *Secretary*

#### A NEW PATROL STATION FOR THE SOUTHERN SKY

A NEW astronomical station of the Harvard Observatory, equipped with two photographic telescopes, has been installed on the edge of the nitrate desert of Northern Chile to test the atmospheric conditions in that locality, and to watch and photograph the southern stars that can not be studied at the existing sta-