

WE learn from *The Geographical Journal* that Colonel P. Kozloff is about to start on a new exploring expedition to Mongolia and Tibet organized by the Russian Geographical Society, this being the sixth in which he will have taken part, and the third under his leadership. It is planned to last three years, and will consist of twenty-one persons. During the present year the expedition will proceed to Kiakhta, and then make its way through Mongolia *via* Urga and Khara Khoto to the Middle Nan Shan and Tsaidam. It will spend 1924 in Tibet, exploring the elevated region about the sources of the Yangste, Mekong, Salween and other rivers, and carrying out researches in geology, botany, zoology and ethnography. It is impossible to say at present what further work will be undertaken, *e.g.*, whether it will extend to southern and eastern Tibet, which, with their comparatively rich vegetation and animal life, offer an attractive field for study; nor can it be said whether it will return through China, Mongolia or Eastern Turkestan.

THE council of the Royal Institute of Public Health has accepted invitations from the mayor and the University of Bordeaux to hold its annual meeting there at Whitsuntide. The president will be Viscount Burnham, and the local honorary secretaries, Professor René Cruchet, professor of medicine in the University of Bordeaux, and M. G. Faure, treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce. The meetings will take place in the university. Special arrangements are being made for traveling and hotel accommodation.

DURING the first quarter of the current year, there were registered in the ninety departments of France: 196,105 births (living infants); 190,036 deaths (19,014 infants under 1 year); 70,656 marriages, and 5,666 divorces. The excess of births over deaths, during the first three months of the year, was thus 6,069. In the department of the Seine, there were reported, between January 1 and March 31: 19,444 births, 18,830 deaths (an excess of 614 births), 11,322 marriages and 1,432 divorces.

THE New York State Agricultural Experiment Station has leased from Vassar College a building which is to be used for special research in entomology and plant pathology in the Hudson River Valley.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THROUGH the death of the widow of the late William F. Milton, retired merchant, who was graduated from Harvard University in 1858, the university receives a bequest of over a million dollars. The will directs that the money be used for the erection of a new library, but should the university possess an ade-

quate library—which is the case—the money is to be used for research.

THE creation of a chair of hygiene and physical culture at McKendree College, Lebanon, Illinois, is provided for, and a bequest of more than 10 acres of land near the college is made in the will of the late Dr. Benjamin M. Hypes, St. Louis, a founder of the Marion Sims Medical College. It will be known as the Benjamin Hypes Professorship, in memory of the testator's father.

A \$12,000 foundation, to be known as the Maurice Stern Fund for Medical Literature, has been given to the Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, by Mrs. Maurice Stern as a memorial to her husband. The income from this will be used to purchase medical periodicals for the school library, and for medical books selected by the faculty.

THE board of directors, New Jersey Zinc Co., Palmerton, Pa., has voted a fund of \$15,000 to Lehigh University, Bethlehem, for the founding of the New Jersey Zinc Co. research fellowship in science and technology. The income from the amount will be paid to the holder of the fellowship, who must be a graduate student from the institution in some division of engineering or science.

DR. CHARLES KEYSER EDMUNDS, who recently resigned the presidency of the Canton Christian College of China, has been elected to the newly established office of provost of the Johns Hopkins University.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### "SOOT" IN COAL

WHILE on a visit to the Bertha Mine in the Scott's Run District, West Virginia, the writer's attention was called by the mine boss, Charles Miller, to a soft, wet inclusion in the Pittsburgh coal. Samples were gathered later through the courtesy of Mr. Miller and his assistant, Mr. Brown, and a brief study was made of the occurrence.

This inclusion, called "soot" by the miners, varies in color from brown to dull black when wet. When dry, all specimens collected were brown. The wet masses are of soft putty-like consistency, modified in some specimens by a distinctly gritty feel. When worked in water, most of the mass breaks into minute, formless particles which are held for some time in suspension, and into heavier gritty particles or pieces which quickly go to the bottom. This gritty material was found by qualitative tests to be mostly sulfur and iron, which it will be assumed were combined, at least before alteration, as pyrite. Some unaltered coal was found included with the grit.

When dry, the soot looks very much like the "punk"