

THE *Presse médicale* states that the four universities in Belgium have recently received 8 gm of radium from the radium deposits in the Congo.

THE assistance publique of Paris has recently been left a legacy of one and a half million francs, a large part of which is to be employed for the supply of radium to the principal Paris hospitals.

IN transmitting to SCIENCE a letter concerning the Colombian earthquake an error was made in the name of the writer. It should have been given as the Honorable Samuel H. Piles, the American minister at Bogota.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MR. AND MRS. HENRY PHIPPS are announced as the anonymous donors of \$1,000,000 to Johns Hopkins University last year. The gift was conditional upon the university raising another \$1,000,000 to endow permanently the Phipps psychiatric clinic. Pledges to this amount have now been received. The General Education Board and Edward S. Harkness, of New York, were among the contributors.

THE General Education Board has appropriated \$400,000 to Washington University, St. Louis, for the endowment of a department of bacteriology and preventive medicine in the Medical School. This makes approximately \$4,400,000 that Mr. Rockefeller has given to the university.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has given a further \$250,000 to Hong-kong University for the chairs of surgery and medicine.

THE new science building at Tulane University, New Orleans, was formally opened on February 21. This building, the first constructed on the Tulane campus for years, contains experimental laboratories for the natural and medical sciences.

DR. PERCY E. RAYMOND, associate professor of paleontology at Harvard University and curator of the Agassiz Museum, will have charge of the Harvard Summer School of Geology this year, and will take the school to the Canadian Rockies.

DR. CHARLES SHATTUCK PALMER, who for the past two years has held a National Research Fellowship at Yale University, has been appointed assistant professor of organic chemistry at Northwestern University.

WITH the view to educating the Belgian public in matters not treated in the general university curricula, an institute of higher studies has been organized by private initiative under the chairmanship of M.

Guillaume De Greef, with the collaboration of Bordet, Brachet, Errera, Lameere, Massart, Zungz, Zwaerde-maker and others. There will be a section of natural science, in which instruction will be given in general biology, anatomy, embryology, physiology, pathology, anthropology, zoology, physical geography and paleontology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PROPOSED NEW "CHALLENGER" EXPLORING EXPEDITION

THE Navy Department through its Hydrographic Office has sent to some forty of representative national scientific societies a request for their opinions as to the value of a scientific exploring expedition which it is proposed to carry out within the Pacific region. Such an expedition would be a modernized "Challenger" expedition to extend over at least a number of years and to have for its primary purpose the preparation of a map of the bottom of the ocean. This can now be accomplished with use of the new sonic depth finder, which in 1921 was perfected within the Navy Department itself. To quote the circular letter of Commander Guy Davis, Acting Hydrographer, "it is now possible to survey the sea-bottom with an accuracy, speed and economy of effort and expense that has heretofore been considered impossible."

Accessory to these sounding operations, which would necessitate extended cruises throughout the Pacific and Caribbean regions, the opportunity would be afforded for taking scientists on board to make studies of oceanography, geology, zoology, botany and anthropology, either at sea or upon the oceanic coasts and islands. Moreover, it would now be a relatively simple matter to take on board a core drill and expert operator, so that with the aid of the enlisted men of the vessel it would be practicable to make deep borings in reefs and on atolls at such positions as to supply an answer for some of the most vexed questions of the day.

The Navy Department, it is assumed, would supply the vessel or vessels together with their navigating and operating personnel, as also the instruments and the staff necessary for the sounding operations. The remaining scientific personnel could, it is suggested, be secured from the educational and research institutions of the country, probably for the most part upon the plan of "leave of absence" with the pay either in whole or in part supplied by these institutions. If the scientific societies included in the questionnaire give their endorsement to the expedition, it is proposed by the Navy Department to invite a committee of scientists named by the National Research Council