

istry opens at Bordeaux on June 14, under the presidency of M. Philippart, Mayor of Bordeaux.

THE commissioner of Plants and Structures of New York City, Grover Whalen, has placed a municipal ferry boat at the disposal of engineering students to enable them to visit power plants in the vicinity of New York Harbor in connection with the ninth annual joint convention of the branches of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers with the Metropolitan Local Section on April 30. The evening session will be a symposium on Combustion Control.

As the first part of a program intended to awaken interest in astronomy in Philadelphia, Pa., the Camden Astronomical Society has recently completed a course of popular lectures, given in conjunction with the Division of School Extension of the Philadelphia Board of Education. The lectures were delivered in the auditoriums of several of the city high schools, the speakers and subjects being as follows: February 13: "The solar eclipse of September 10, 1923," Professor John A. Miller, director of the Sproul Observatory of Swarthmore College. February 26: "Some interesting objects in the sky," Dr. John H. Pitman, of the Sproul Observatory of Swarthmore College. March 12: "A journey to our stellar neighbors," Mr. A. Clyde Schock, of the mathematics department of the Central High School. March 19: "The big telescopes and what they do," Mr. James Stockley, Jr., of the science department of the Central High School. All the lectures were illustrated with lantern slides, and, in the case of the first, by motion pictures of the eclipse made by the Sproul Observatory expedition to Mexico. The attendance averaged about 600 people, and, as the schools chosen were in widely different parts of the city, an entirely new audience was found in each. In this way, a large group was reached.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MRS. ADDIE V. WILBUR has given to Boston University the sum of \$126,000 to be used for building purposes. The university has also received an anonymous gift of \$100,000 to endow the Borden P. Bowne chair of philosophy.

THE University of Arizona at Tucson is constructing the first unit of a new library building at a cost of about \$400,000. It is hoped that at least part of the building will be ready for use by the time the university opens in the fall.

THE trustees of the Francis Estate have conveyed to the president and fellows of Harvard College the lot at the corner of Longwood avenue and Avenue Louis Pasteur, opposite the medical school, to be the

site of the new medical dormitory. The committee in charge reports that up to March 26 the total subscriptions received were \$158,359.85, which included \$89,027.85 subscriptions from physicians averaging \$77.34 each. It is estimated that the building will cost in the vicinity of \$900,000. It will house 257 students and will contain the assembly hall, which will be also the dining room, living rooms, kitchens and squash courts.

DR. C. D. HURD, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed assistant professor of organic chemistry at Northwestern University.

RALPH G. VANNAME, assistant professor of chemistry at Yale University, has been promoted to the rank of associate professor.

O. F. T. ROBERTS has been appointed Cruickshank lecturer in astronomy and meteorology at the University of Aberdeen.

PROFESSOR OSWALD BUMKE, of Leipzig, has been nominated successor to Professor Emil Kraepelin in the chair of psychiatry and neurology at Munich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE PALEOBOTANY AT THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

IN 1904 I contributed a short note to the pages of *SCIENCE*,¹ entitled "A notable paleobotanical discovery," calling attention to the demonstration by Scott and Oliver that the Carboniferous cycad-like stems, the sphenopteroid fern-like fronds and the large complex seeds known as *Lagenostoma* all belong to a single plant, now known as *Lyginopteris*.

This was the real beginning of a series of discoveries by Scott, Oliver, Kidston, White, Arber and others, that placed the phylum of the seed ferns or Pteridospermophyta on a secure foundation.

The presence of seed ferns from strata older than the Carboniferous has been confidently predicted, not only from their diversity in Carboniferous times, but because of the presence in the Devonian of the petioles known as *Kalymma*, which are rather definitely related to the pteridosperms.

We now have a paper by Goldring² describing the Devonian forest at Gilboa, New York, which might readily be termed a notable paleobotanical discovery had that title not been already used; a paper which in method of research and presentation is in most striking contrast to the recently widely heralded discovery of a monocotyledon from the coal measures of

¹ *SCIENCE*, N. S., Vol. 20, pp. 56, 86, 1904.

² Goldring, W., "The upper Devonian forest of seed ferns in eastern New York," *N. Y. State Mus. Bull.*, No. 251, pp. 50-92, ff. 1-7, pl. 1-11, March, 1924.