UNDER authority of the Research Committee of the Archeological Society of Washington, Dr. Mitchell Carroll recently examined with Professor George Grant MacCurdy the prehistoric cave and rock-shelter known as Castel Merle in the commune of Sergeac, 30 minutes from Les Eyzies, considered by Dr. Hrdlička and other authorities as perhaps of equal promise with the now famous prehistoric sites of the region, and concluded a ten-year lease from the owner, M. Castanet, with sole privilege of excavation and control of the finds. This was made possible through the generosity of Colonel William Eric Fowler, one of the trustees of the society. The society entered upon an agreement with the American School of Prehistoric Research to conduct the excavations which began at once in charge of Professor MacCurdy, who has already announced the discovery of numerous prehistoric flint implements in addition to faunal remains. Half the archeological specimens found on the site are to be deposited with the U. S. National Museum as the property of the Archeological Society of Washington.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "One of the most interesting recent acquisitions by the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences is a magnificent specimen of the East African gorilla. The specimen is an adult male measuring six feet in height when standing erect; the chest measures 63 inches, the span of arms 91 inches and the weight was 480 pounds. These figures show that this specimen is one of the largest gorillas in any museum in the world. It was shot in the Birunga Mountains, north of Lake Kivu, in the eastern part of the Belgian Congo. It was artistically mounted by an expert taxidermist in London, from whom it was purchased for the academy by Mr. A. Kingsley Macomber, well-known clubman and capitalist of Burlingame and patron of the California Academy of Sciences."

PROVISION is made in the will of Andrew W. Preston, late president of the United Fruit Company, that in the event of the death of all heirs the estate shall be used "for advancing the science of chemistry in the United States." The estate is estimated to exceed $6,000,000.

THE Deseret Museum of Salt Lake City, a general geological and biological collection containing one of the largest and most complete mineralogical collections in the West, was recently presented to the Brigham Young University, of Provo, Utah.

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY dedicated on October 24 its recently completed seismic station to be one of the few in the world devoted exclusively to the recording of earthquake phenomena. The building is the gift of William J. Spain, of New York, in memory of his son, William J. Spain, Jr., a member of the class of 1924 at Fordham.

BY unanimous vote the administrative board of the American Engineers Council has agreed to insist on abolition of the Department of the Interior of the Federal Government to be replaced by a Department of Public Works. The Department of the Interior was held to be archaic, and the motion, as put by L. P. Alford, of New York, and formally adopted, called for an aggressive course in support of the new plan.

AUTHORITY for the transfer of approximately 14,000 acres of public land in the Salt River Mountains of Arizona to Phoenix for public park purposes has been granted by the Interior Department. The sale for $1.25 an acre was authorized by the Congress. The land makes available recreational facilities for the entire Salt River Valley population of about 100,000, including Phoenix.

BY far the most comprehensive and vigorous enforcement of the Alaska fishery laws and regulations ever undertaken has been in progress this season under the supervision of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. In southeastern Alaska alone approximately 75 special stream guards have been on duty. Six patrol vessels have been engaged and there has also been the regular force of employees. In other sections of Alaska this character of work has been expanded over that of former seasons. Various cases, including trap and vessel seizures, have been presented for court action. This is the first time that such seizures have been made, authority being derived from the recent Alaska fisheries act of June 6, 1924. Commissioner O'Malley has been in southeastern and central Alaska during most of the current fishing season giving personal supervision to salmon-protection activities. The results will be highly beneficial in reestablishing and maintaining this very valuable natural resource.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE movement, started last May by the alumni of St. Louis University, to raise $1,000,000 for a new medical college, has thus far brought a total of $410,000 in pledges, according to Dr. Hanau W. Loeb, dean of the school of medicine.

AT the University of Oklahoma two new structures, the medical and engineering buildings, are nearing completion. These buildings are being constructed under the appropriation of $100,000 for each, made by the last state legislature.

THE will of the late Charles L. Hutchinson, of Chicago, provides a bequest of $30,000 to Harvard University for the work of the Arnold Arboretum.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received a gift of $15,000 from the Borden Company to be used for research in the field of food chemistry and nutrition, and $6,000 from an anonymous donor for the laboratory of surgical research.

WESTMINSTER Hospital Medical School, London, has been offered by A. J. H. Carlill £20,000 towards the establishment of a pathological unit as a memorial to his father.

THE Jefferson Medical College has created a department of bronchoscopy and esophagoscopy. Dr. Chevalier Jackson, professor of laryngology in the college, has been elected to the professorship of the new department. Dr. Fielding O. Lewis has been elected to fill the chair vacated by Dr. Jackson.

DR. GEORGE A. TALBERT, associate professor of physiology at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, has been appointed professor of physiology at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine.

DR. D. S. MORSE, of Cornell University, has been appointed assistant professor of mathematics at Union College.

DR. HARRY H. KNIGHT, assistant professor of entomology and curator of the insect collection at the Farm School of the University of Minnesota, has resigned to accept a similar position at the Iowa State College.

EDUARDO DIAZ LUQUE was recently appointed professor of physics at the Universidad Nacional in Mexico City; he is also doing work for the Mexican Light and Power Company.

PROFESSOR HENRY BRIGGS, who has been for several years professor of mining engineering in the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, has been appointed to the newly established chair of mining in the University of Edinburgh.

DR. HANS V. HABERER, of the University of Innsbruck, has been appointed professor of surgery at the University of Graz, to take the place of Professor v. Hacker.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ALKALINE REACTION OF THE COTTON PLANT

IN an article which has recently appeared under the above title (SCIENCE, September 19, 1924, page 268), Mr. J. E. Mills has referred to some observations published about a year ago by Mr. C. M. Smith regarding the alkaline reaction of the dew of the cotton plant (*J. Agric. Research*, 1923, *26*, 192). The subject was incidentally considered by Mr. Smith in connection with an investigation of "arsenical injury to plants," and from an examination made by him of dew collected from the plants, he was led to conclude that its alkalinity was to be attributed to the presence of the bicarbonates of calcium and magnesium. It was also observed by him that "the dew gave a reaction alkaline even to phenolphthalein," which he stated would indicate the presence of soluble hydroxide or salts of very weak acids. Mr. Mills has now noted (*loc. cit.*) that it would hardly seem possible that the alkalinity of the dew can be attributed to these compounds.

In collaboration with the Bureau of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture an investigation was undertaken by the undersigned for the purpose of determining the volatile constituents of the cotton plant and of ascertaining their attraction for the boll-weevil. This work was begun in the summer of 1923 and has continued to engage our attention to the present time. Although the complete results of this investigation will be published in due course in a scientific periodical, in view of the above-mentioned article by Mr. J. E. Mills and also the statements relating to the subject from time to time in the daily press it seems desirable that we should now place on record some of our observations.

The chemistry of the cotton plant is a very complex subject, and although much progress has been made in our investigation of it, considerable time will still be required for its complete elucidation. We now particularly wish to state that we believe the alkalinity of the dew of the cotton plant to be attributable, at least in part, to the presence of ammonia and trimethylamine, since we have determined the presence of these substances in it and have also obtained the same substances in very much larger amounts from the products of distillation of the cotton plant with steam. Both ammonia and trimethylamine are evidently emanations from the plant, and it has already been ascertained that the trimethylamine possesses a particular attraction for the boll-weevil. An account of the numerous other substances that have been isolated from the cotton plant and completely identified must be reserved for a future publication.

FREDERICK B. POWER,
VICTOR K. CHESNUT
BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RADIOACTIVITY OF RIPE TOMATOES

IN cooperation with the Bureau of Standards a project for experimental study was outlined in the