expected at San Francisco in the summer, was sufficiently large, as the expedition was likely to last a couple of years. It was important to get a vessel of good speed and not necessarily one built for Polar ice, as ice conditions in the seas they would visit, for example, Ross Sea, were not particularly difficult.

NEW ZEALAND is suffering from a serious epidemic of infantile paralysis. All the schools have been closed since Christmas and juvenile travel is only allowed by a permit from the health officers. Over 800 cases of the disease have been reported since the disease broke out in December, with 127 deaths.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN appraisal filed recently of the estate of Mrs. Anna R. Milton, who died February 15, 1924, shows that Harvard University, as the residuary legatee under the will, receives $765,108. Mrs. Milton stated in her will that the will of her husband provided a trust fund of $1,000,000 for her benefit during her life, and made Harvard the beneficiary upon her death.

PROFESSOR AND MRS. FRANK R. LILLIE have added $30,000 to their recent gift of $60,000 for the new laboratory of experimental zoology at the University of Chicago, construction of which has already begun.

THE State University of Iowa has established the rank of honorary associate which may be awarded to any full professor in a college who is not a candidate for a degree, but wishes to spend a year, a semester or a summer quarter at the university. This appointment carries with it the hospitality of the department with facilities for research, admission to advanced classes and exemption from all fees.

YALE UNIVERSITY announces the appointment of Professor Harold Clyde Bingham, of Wesleyan University, as research associate in the Institute of Psychology, and the appointment of four research assistants, as follows: Helen Heffron Roberts and Alvira A. Kirk, research assistants in anthropology, and Carleton F. Scofield and Donald K. Adams, research assitants in psychology. Dr. Bingham is professor of psychology at Wesleyan, and Miss Roberts and Mr. Scofield are now on appointment in the Institute. Miss Kirk comes to Yale University from the Department of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and Mr. Adams from the Psychological Laboratory at Harvard University.

DR. HERBERT FREUNDLICH, of the Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut for Physical and Electrical Chemistry, Berlin, will remain at the University of Minnesota following the third National Colloid Symposium on June 17, 18 and 19, and will offer a special series of lectures during the first half of the summer session of the university. He will present a general survey of the field of colloids with especial emphasis on adsorption phenomena. Coupled with Dr. Freundlich's work will be a group of other offerings, including colloid laboratory work under Dr. L. H. Reyerson, a seminar in colloid chemistry, conducted by Dr. Freundlich, and a series of courses in the division of agricultural biochemistry. These will be: "The chemistry of wheat and wheat products," Dr. C. H. Bailey; "Flour laboratory methods," Dr. Bailey; "Phytochemistry," Dr. R. A. Gortner, and a series of research problems under Drs. Gortner, Bailey, Palmer and Willaman. In all twenty-three allied courses in chemistry, biochemistry and physics will be offered.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF H_2O_2

IN the August 22nd 1924 issue of SCIENCE there is an article by Dr. Norman E. Ditman in which he states that hydrogen peroxide can be decomposed by a single electrical conductor, one end of which dips in the peroxide while the other end dips into a test tube containing a solution of colloidal platinum. Such a wire does not complete an electric circuit and the results as reported are so contrary to expectation that the experiment was repeated in this laboratory as nearly as could be done from Dr. Ditman's description. Fresh colloidal platinum was made in distilled water, without any stabilizer, by the Bredig method, using a short Pt rod as the positive electrode and a piece of fine Pt wire as the negative electrode. This wire had a total length of about six inches, most of which served merely as a conductor. Only about one fourth inch at one end was allowed to enter the distilled water. It was along this short length that the arcing took place. This end of the wire will therefore be called for convenience the "arced end"—the other end will be called the "unarced end."

The following experiments were then tried:

1. The arced end of the fine Pt wire was put in the beaker containing the colloidal Pt, and the unarced end was put in H_2O_2 of approximately three per cent. strength. No oxygen was given off.

2. The wire was reversed. Bubbles of O_2 formed at once on the arced end of the wire. This effect was unaltered by lifting the unarced end out of the colloidal Pt solution. Arcing had evidently activated the end of the wire.