

method of dealing with the problem has come as a surprise.

AN exhibition organized by the chief scientific board of Russia is soon to be opened at Moscow, which will demonstrate the researches and achievements of the different scientific institutions in Russia. Exhibits will be furnished by the Baring Sea Hydrological Expedition, by the Polar Expedition, by the Timiryazev Research Institute, by the Roentgen Institute, etc. Professor B. M. Zavadovsky will exhibit his experiments on the physiology of the thyroid gland of birds and animals. A number of charts and drawings will be displayed by the Optical and Radio Institutes. New instruments and appliances will be exhibited by the Astrophysical and Geophysical Institutes. There is also to be displayed a variety of objects of ethnographical interest.

THE *Christian Science Monitor* states that King Haakon, of Norway, on January 29 honored the members of the *Maud* expedition by conferring on them the Order of Saint Olav. After eight years' absence, Captain Wisting will remain in Norway a few days, then proceed to Rome to participate in Captain Roald Amundsen's transpolar flight. Dr. Sverdrup, scientific member of the expedition, has been offered a professorship in the University of Oslo.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE daily papers report that more than \$7,000,000 has been pledged to the University of Miami by residents of Greater Miami, in a campaign started to raise \$10,000,000 for buildings and equipment. Construction of administration buildings has started and it is planned to open the university in October.

DR. CLARENCE C. LITTLE, president of the University of Michigan and former president of the University of Maine, will direct the summer course in biology at the University of Maine biological station at Bar Harbor this year.

DR. ALBERT DAVIS MEAD, director of the department of biology at Brown University, has been made vice-president of the university to act under the direction of President W. H. P. Faunce.

DR. ELMER P. KOHLER, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, has been appointed acting dean of the graduate school of arts and sciences for the second half of the current academic year, during the absence of Dean George H. Chase.

DR. BARTON WARREN EVERMANN, director of the museum of the California Academy of Sciences and of the Steinhardt Aquarium, has been appointed lecturer in zoology at Stanford University. He has also been reappointed chairman of the section on scientific

research of the Commonwealth Club of California, which position he has held for several years.

JAMES ASTON, of Pittsburgh, for the past five years metallurgical engineer in charge of research with the A. M. Byers Company, has been appointed professor of mining and metallurgy and head of the department of mining and metallurgical engineering at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

DR. S. J. BARNETT, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been appointed lecturer in physics at the University of California Southern Branch, for the second half of the current academic year.

DR. CHARLES L. BONIFIELD has been made director of the gynecologic service in the medical school at the University of Cincinnati to succeed the late Dr. Sigmar Stark.

M. GIGNOUX, professor of geology at the University of Strasbourg, has been appointed professor of geology and mineralogy at the University of Grenoble to take the place of the late Professor Kilian.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE DANGER OF EARTHQUAKES IN NEW ENGLAND

IN the November twentieth number of *SCIENCE* is an article entitled "Jay Backus Woodworth" in which the statement was made that it was his opinion "that neither human history nor the relevant facts of geology indicate serious danger for the city of Boston from earthquakes."

This is not in accord with his published statements as quoted below:¹

The belief is quite general about Boston that this region is now practically exempt from severe earthquakes, and that the occurrences of the 17th and 18th centuries at Plymouth, Newbury, and Boston pertain to an exhausted régime in the earth's conduct. It is well to remember, however, that from the great earthquake of 1638, felt at Plymouth, to the shocks at Newbury in 1727 is an interval of 89 years; and that the interval between the earthquake of 1638 at Plymouth and that of 1755 at Boston is 117 years. The interval between the earthquake of 1755 at Boston and the Charleston earthquake of 1886 is 131 years. These long intervals of repose and minimum seismic action lull suspicions and cause the multitude to regard what has not occurred in their father's and grandfather's days as a possibility too remote to enter into their own lives. Nevertheless it behooves us to remember that the earthquake at Plymouth, Mass., in 1638, at Newbury, Mass., in 1727, at Boston in 1744 and more strikingly in 1755, and yet more impressively at Charleston, South Carolina in 1886, and at San Francisco in 1906, offer phenomena during

¹ Harvard Seismographic Station, Seventh Annual Report, including Records 1 January to 31 December, 1915.