

to Columbia University. These sums will be used in erecting and equipping the new medical center. Thirty-three other gifts, including \$124,286 in cash, have been announced by trustees of the university. The sum of \$2,500 has been contributed by the Copper and Brass Research Association. The department of bacteriology receives an added gift of \$1,250 from Willis D. Wood and Dr. Seely G. Mudd has given \$1,000 for work in the Institution of Cancer Research. James Taylor Kemp gave to the department of geology and mineralogy the scientific library of his father, the late Professor James Furman Kemp.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that the regents of the University of Minnesota have approved the recommendation that the name of the department of animal biology be changed to that of the department of zoology. In the early days of the university the work in zoology and in botany was under the supervision of the professor of geology. In the catalogue for the year 1884-85 there is the first indication of the independent place of zoology, but in 1885 Professor Henry F. Nachtrieb was appointed assistant professor of biology and in 1889 his title was that of professor of animal biology. As the work of the department is that covered elsewhere by the department of zoology, the change in name appeared to the regents as desirable. The university is expanding the work in zoology in the summer session so as to provide opportunity for teachers and others who can not attend the regular session. Professor H. W. Norris, of Grinnell College, will give the course in general zoology and an advanced course in comparative anatomy in the coming summer session of the University of Minnesota. Professor E. W. Stafford, of Mississippi A. and M. College, will offer the summer work in elementary and advanced entomology.

THE Alberta Government has made a grant of \$2,500 to the Metallurgical Congress of the British Empire. This congress is to make a tour of Canada during the coming summer and their western itinerary will include stop-overs of varying periods in Edmonton, Jasper Park, Coal Branch, Sturco, Lethbridge, Turner Valley, Banff and Crowsnest Passes. The first session of the congress will be held in eastern Canada on August 22.

ACCORDING to press dispatches from Oslo ten expeditions of foreign astronomers have announced that they will go to Norway to study the total eclipse of the sun which occurs on June 29. The absolute solar obscuration will be visible in Alaska, Europe, Asia and north Africa. From the United States Professor Samuel A. Mitchell, astronomer of the McCormick observatory of the University of Virginia, is to lead

an expedition which will establish its headquarters at Fagernas, in the Valdres Valley.

It is announced that the University of Michigan, which sent an expedition to Greenland last year under Dr. William H. Hobbs, professor of geology, will send a group again next summer to continue the research work. Two members of the party will establish themselves in a hut, erect a wireless apparatus and remain in Greenland through the following winter.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY has dropped its proposed \$1,000,000 Luther Burbank foundation fund to perpetuate the experimental work at Santa Rosa and Sebastopol.

A FUND of \$50,000 for dental research at Temple University, at Philadelphia, has become available through the death of Dr. Henry Isaiah Dorr, emeritus professor of anesthesia in the school of dentistry there. The income of the fund will be used to establish, equip and maintain a laboratory of dental pathology and bacteriology, with special reference to the relationship existing between these subjects and anesthesia.

THE Japanese Department of Commerce and Industry has appropriated the sum of 111,000 yen for research and experimental production in connection with the working of the deposits of iron sands in northern Japan. A total of 200,000 yen per year for at least the next three years will be granted for this purpose.

NEARLY 60,000 range plants, representing more than 6,000 different species, have been collected by the Forest Service in the last 20 years, thereby making the Forest Service herbarium, in Washington, the most complete specimen of its kind in the United States. The collecting of the plants represents the work of more than 1,000 collectors. Each plant is accompanied by a note stating its forage value, growth requirements and other important data.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE campaign for \$6,000,000 to complete the medical center at Western Reserve University has been opened with \$2,000,000 already subscribed.

NEGOTIATIONS are under way for a new site for the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. The board of estimate of the City of New York has sanctioned the sale by the city to the Polytechnic Institute of the block bounded by Third and Fourth Streets and Fourth and Fifth Avenues. An enabling act has been passed by

the legislature and signed by the governor authorizing the sale. Negotiations are under way for the purchase of additional property so as to make a plot of approximately eight acres.

At the University of Chicago, Dr. Fielding Wilkinson, of the Mayo Foundation, has been appointed assistant professor of otolaryngology, and Dr. Bela Halpert, of the Johns Hopkins University, assistant professor of pathology. Associate Professor Edward Sapir and Associate Professor Fay-Cooper Cole, of the department of sociology and anthropology, have been made full professors. Assistant Professor Maud Slye, of the department of pathology, has been made an associate professor.

THE trustees of Williams College have made the following appointments for the next college year: Dr. Wilford E. Kaufman, assistant professor of chemistry, to take the place of Professor John F. King, who will be absent on sabbatical leave; Donald E. Richmond, assistant professor, will replace Dr. Malcolm Foster, resigned, in the mathematics department, and Edward H. Cutler, instructor, will fill the vacancy made by the absence on leave of Professor Hardy, of the same department.

DR. C. S. HAMILTON, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Nebraska, has accepted a similar position at Northwestern University. He will have charge of the researches on organic compounds of arsenic.

G. H. ESTABROOK, of Springfield College, Massachusetts, has been appointed assistant professor in psychology at Colgate University.

DR. CYRIL A. NELSON, associate in mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University, will go to Rutgers University next year.

DR. ARNOLD SOMMERFELD, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Munich, has been called to the chair of theoretical physics at the University of Berlin, left vacant by the retirement of Professor Max Planck.

DR. HANS FISCHER, professor of organic chemistry at the Institute of Technology in Munich, has been called to the chair of organic chemistry at the University of Leipzig, to take the place of Professor Hantzsch, who recently retired.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE ARCTIC FLYING OF CAPTAIN WILKINS AND LIEUTENANT EIELSON

WE want to call attention to one of the most heroic and dramatic adventures of polar history, which is

now going on in the Arctic north of Alaska, where Captain George H. Wilkins, Lieutenant Ben Eielson and their associates have already made striking contributions to science and the progress of northern aviation, although their program is only in its beginning.

Last year the city of Detroit, ambitious to become the air capital of the world as it is already the motor capital, got behind the plans of Captain Wilkins and sent out an expedition which on its scientific side was sponsored by the American Geographical Society of New York. They had much bad luck. Two planes were seriously disabled by unfortunate landings and one in an unsuccessful attempt to take off with a heavy load. But the thing to remember about these accidents is that they all took place on a regular landing field in the city of Fairbanks, Alaska, which is in the temperate zone and not in the Arctic. In the Arctic itself the Wilkins expedition of last year had only one accident in 5,000 miles of flying; this was when Wilkins broke his wrist in taking off from a prepared landing place at Barrow.

The Wilkins expedition of last year had no accident in the air or in landing. They crossed five times a range of Arctic mountains so little known that it had been given on maps as 5,000 or 6,000 feet high, while it proved to be around 10,000. One of these flights was from Fairbanks, 550 miles north to Barrow and thence 150 miles out over the ocean and then back to Barrow, a flight on which 10,000 square miles of previously unknown territory were seen. Thus Wilkins proved that flying is distinctly feasible in the most northerly possession of the United States, setting at rest a controversy of importance both in civil and military aviation as to whether Alaska can be used as a flying base for commercial or military operations against Asia, and as to whether Alaska could be flown across by Asiatic airplanes wishing to reach Canada or the United States by that route for purposes either of peace or war.

This year the plans of Captain Wilkins were quietly resumed with the support of the *Detroit News*. He took two Stinson planes to Fairbanks, and he had one Fokker there already. The only accident this year was to one of the skis of the largest machine, which broke under a heavy load when they were trying to take off from the Fairbanks landing field. Thereupon with two of his own planes and one hired at Fairbanks, Wilkins took again the 550-mile flight across the Endicott range and the northern prairies to Point Barrow, once more without accident or any trouble.

Then on March 29, with fuel for 1,400 miles in calm weather, Wilkins and Eielson took off in a Stinson plane, intending, if all went well, to fly 600 miles northwest, then 200 miles south, and thus back to Bar-