

E. W. Brandes, sugar plant specialist, which will use an airplane in searching the unexplored wilds of New Guinea for disease-resistant varieties of sugar cane that may prove valuable to the industry in Louisiana and other parts of the South. Dr. Brandes will sail from San Francisco April 12, accompanied by Dr. Jakob Jesweit, who was formerly chief of sugar-plant breeding work in Java and now of the University of Wageningen, Holland, and Richard K. Peck, who will pilot the plane. They will be joined at Honolulu by C. E. Pemberton, entomologist of the Hawaiian Sugar Plant Association Experiment Station, and proceed to Port Moresby, the base of the expedition on the southeast coast of New Guinea.

LECTURES will be given during April and May at the New York Botanical Garden on Saturday afternoons at 4:00 P. M. as follows: April 7, "Beauties from the Flower Shows," Kenneth R. Boynton; April 14, "On the Long's Peak Trail," Howard H. Cleaves; April 21, "Gladiolus, Wild and Cultivated," Dr. Forman T. McLean; April 28, "Insects of Shade Trees and Ornamentals," Dr. E. P. Felt; May 5, "Daffodils," B. Y. Morrison; May 12, "Farming for Bouquets on the Cote d'Azur," Mrs. Wheeler H. Peckham; May 19, "How to Study Ferns," Professor Henry J. Fry, and May 26, "Chinese Asters," Professor Roland H. Patch.

THE summer school for engineering teachers which was established by the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education in 1927 is to continue its sessions during the coming summer. Two schools will be held: one for teachers of physics and the other for teachers of electrical engineering. As in 1927, when mechanics was the subject studied, the purpose will be to study the principles and methods of teaching rather than to review actual content of subject-matter. The session on the teaching of physics will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under the directorship of Dr. S. W. Stratton, president of the institute. The session on electrical engineering will be held at Pittsburgh, under the joint auspices of the University of Pittsburgh and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. Dr. F. L. Bishop, of the University of Pittsburgh, secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, and Professor Charles F. Scott, of Yale University, chairman of the society's board of investigation and coordination, will serve as codirectors of the Pittsburgh session of the school. Professor H. P. Hammond, associate director of the society's investigation of engineering education, is in general charge of the school. Both sessions will be of three weeks' duration and will begin shortly after July 4.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has taken action converting its previously made pledge to an appropriation of \$312,500 for the support of fellowships in physics, chemistry and mathematics by the National Research Council during the years 1928 to 1930, inclusive, at the rate of \$125,000 a year for 1928 and 1929, and \$62,500 for the year 1930.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE will receive about \$1,500,000 from the estate of the late Edwin Webster Sanborn.

PHILIP S. BIEGLER, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Southern California, has been appointed acting dean of the college of engineering just created at that institution.

PROFESSOR LESTER S. GRANT, dean of the faculty and professor of mining engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, has resigned.

PROFESSOR A. I. KENDALL has left the medical school of Washington University to become research professor of bacteriology at Northwestern University.

DR. CLARENCE ERROL FERREE, of Bryn Mawr College, has been appointed resident lecturer at Wilmer Institute at the Hopkins Medical School and director of the research laboratory in physiological optics.

DR. ERICH BRENNKE, of the Geodetic Institute in Potsdam, has been called to the professorship of geodesy at the Berlin Institute of Technology.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### THE AURORA OF MARCH 28, 1928

THE peculiar combination of an aurora with a lunar halo as visible in Cambridge on the night of March 28 is such an unusual occurrence that the event seems deserving of more than passing mention.

The lunar halo first attracted my attention about 11 P. M., Eastern Standard Time. A few minutes later the halo bore a fringe strikingly suggestive of a solar corona. By 11:30 a well-defined auroral fan was centered at a point on the horizon directly under the moon (at first quarter) with a streamer extending from the horizon directly past the moon and vertically upward. Oblique streamers arranged themselves approximately symmetrically about this line. One of these passed above Capella and at 11:50 P. M. extended across Polaris, and between Vega and Hercules to the eastern horizon.

A similar brilliant streamer mounting from the auroral center extended southward, passing Procyon and Regulus in Leo. These two streamers crossed the