

Mrs. Charles H. Stoll, photographer. The party proposes, after exploring Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, to arrive at Petropavlovsk, Kamchatka, on June 1, on board the ship *Morrissey*, commanded by Captain Bartlett. After Kamchatka the party will proceed to the Gulf of Anadir and then through Bering Strait to the mouth of the Kolymia River.

ACCORDING to *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, invitations have been received by the executives of large American chemical companies to attend an international nitrogen conference in the Adriatic, beginning April 30. The invitations were issued by the following, who comprise the largest nitrogen producers of Europe: Comptoir Français de l'Azote, Paris; Montecatini Società Generale, Milan; Nitram, Ltd., London; Norsk Hydroelektrisk Kvaestofaktieselskab, Oslo, and Stickstoff-Syndikat, G. M. B. H., Berlin. The scope and objects of the meeting will be to put on record the knowledge which has been gained since the conference held at Biarritz last year in regard to fertilizers in their relation to agriculture and to afford opportunity for discussion. Papers will be presented by J. Bueb, F. C. O. Speyer, L. Bretigniere, H. Warmbold, Sir Frederick Keeble, A. Demolon, Erwin Baur, H. J. Paige, T. H. J. Carroll and J. Galland.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE cornerstone of the William H. Welch medical library at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has been laid by the president of the university, Dr. Frank J. Goodnow, who placed in the stone a copper box containing correspondence between Dr. Welch, the university and the General Education Board, whose financial help made the library possible.

IMMEDIATE construction of a new chemistry building to cost \$350,000 has been authorized by the board of trustees of the University of New Hampshire. The establishment of a department of agricultural economics in charge of M. Gale Eastman has also been authorized.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association records the appointment of Dr. Stuart Graves, of Louisville, Ky., as dean of the school of medicine of the University of Alabama to succeed Dr. Clyde Brooks, who has been appointed chairman of a newly created faculty committee on research, for which the last legislature made a special appropriation. The appointment of Dr. Graves is said to be the first step

in a program to establish a four-year medical course at the university.

PROFESSOR A. B. COBLE, of the Johns Hopkins University, recently accepted a professorship of mathematics at the University of Illinois, where he had been prior to the present academic year.

DR. WILLIAM W. WATSON, assistant professor of physics at the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant professor of physics at Yale University.

AT Princeton University, Dr. Herman Weyl, professor of high mathematics at the Eidgenössischen Technischen Hochschule in Zurich, Switzerland, has been appointed to the Thomas D. Jones research professorship of mathematical physics. The following three members of the department of mathematics have been promoted from associate professor to full professor: James Waddell Alexander, Solomon Lefschetz and Joseph H. M. Wedderburn.

IN place of the existing department of philosophy and psychology at University College, London, a department of philosophy and a department of psychology have been instituted. Professor C. E. Spearman, now Grote professor of philosophy of mind and logic, will be head of the department of psychology, his title being changed to professor of psychology in the University of London.

DR. WERNER HEISENBERG, of the University of Copenhagen, has been appointed professor of theoretical physics at the University of Leipzig.

DR. DEBEYRE has been appointed successor to the late Professor Lanesse in the chair of histology at the University of Lille.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE APPEARANCE OF INSTABILITY OF CONDENSED SUBSTANCES NEAR THE ABSOLUTE ZERO OF TEMPERATURE

IN a previous article in *SCIENCE*,¹ the writer called attention to the possibility of condensed substances becoming unstable and exploding under a high pressure at or near the absolute zero of temperature, and mentioned that *white tin* should behave in this manner. The criterion for the existence of such an instability is that if from external evidence it appears that the controllable internal energy of a substance can not lie below a certain value, and this can not be accounted for by integration of the specific heat down to the absolute zero of temperature, the substance

¹ LXVII, 1725, p. 69, 1928.