

THE University of Michigan Observatory has received a gift of \$15,000, the income from which will be used for astronomical publications or research fellowships at the discretion of the director. The donors, Mrs. O. B. Wheeler and family, have made this gift as a memorial to Orlando B. Wheeler, formerly a member of the staff of the University of Michigan Observatory and subsequently engaged in the scientific researches of the U. S. Lake Survey.

DR. GEORGE VAILLANT, of the American Museum of Natural History, has returned from a preliminary archeological survey of Middle America, supported by Mr. Clarence L. Hay. He has obtained a permit from the Mexican government for excavations in the Valley of Mexico for next winter, political conditions permitting. At the invitation of the Carnegie Institution, Dr. Vaillant carried out a small excavation at their site of Uuxactun, Petan, Guatemala, that yielded important information on the early history of the Maya. He was enabled, through the courtesy of the Mexican government, to bring back a small synoptic collection of the "Archaic" cultures of the Valley of Mexico. He also visited a number of sites on the highlands of Mexico and Guatemala, as well as in British Honduras and the Petan district of Guatemala.

*Nature* reports that owing to the regulations governing the introduction of scientific films into Great Britain, the paper by Professor Rathjens on his explorations in Arabia had to be withdrawn from the program of the recent International Congress of Orientalists at Oxford. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has conceded that scientific films may be brought into England free of duty on a certificate from the Royal Society to the customs authorities that the film illustrates a scientific investigation. Notwithstanding the fact that Professor Rathjens on August 9, and the secretary of the congress on August 10, had made application to the commissioners of customs for the admission of the film, and application was addressed to the Royal Society for the desired certificate, the customs authorities were prepared to admit the film only on a deposit of the duty, £31, 10s., "to be refunded in the event of the film being certified by the Royal Society."

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

AN offer of approximately \$3,500,000 has been made by the International Education Board to the University of Cambridge to provide for the development of physical and biological studies and for a new library.

GIFTS amounting to \$500,000 and bequests of \$1,830,000 to Columbia University have been announced. The bequests are payments on legacies made by the estates of F. Augustus Schermerhorn, Stephen Whitney Phoenix and Mary B. Pell. Mrs. Nathan J. Miller, of New York, gave \$250,000 to endow a chair for the study of Jewish literature and history.

DR. M. C. TANQUARY has accepted an appointment as professor of entomology in charge of apiculture at the University of Minnesota.

DR. MILTON METFESSEL, for three years National Research fellow in psychology, has been appointed associate professor of psychology and phonetics in the State University of Iowa.

DR. ADRIANCE SHERWOOD FOSTER has been appointed assistant professor of botany at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Foster has been working as a National Research fellow in plant anatomy at the University of Leeds, England.

DR. M. G. PETERMAN, of the Milwaukee Children's Hospital, has accepted the appointment of professor of pediatrics and head of the department of pediatrics at Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee.

DR. FRED W. STEWART, recently assistant in pathology in the Rockefeller Institute, has become associate pathologist in the Cornell Medical College in New York and assistant pathologist at the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases.

AT Swarthmore College, Dr. H. J. M. Creighton has been promoted to a professorship and made head of the department of chemistry. Dr. Duncan Graham Foster, of St. Stephen's College, has been appointed associate professor of chemistry. Dr. John H. Pitman has been promoted to an associate professorship of mathematics and astronomy.

DR. ERNEST CARROLL FAUST, director of the laboratory of parasitology of the Peking Union Medical College, Peking, China, since 1919, has taken up his new work as professor of parasitology in the department of tropical medicine of Tulane University, New Orleans. Dr. John F. Kessel, formerly associate in the Peking laboratory, is now associate professor of zoology in the University of California at Los Angeles.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

#### DOES PURE IRON HAVE ALLOTROPIC TRANSFORMATIONS?

EXTENSIVE work on iron and iron-alloys led the writer to announce the following hypothesis before