Managers' Association are cooperating. The annual general meeting will be held in the University of Leeds on Thursday, March 21, and the anniversary dinner will take place in the Town Hall, Leeds, the same evening. The Railway Clearing House has granted facilities by which those attending the meetings will be able to travel from all parts of Great Britain to Leeds at the reduced rate of an ordinary fare and one third for the double journey.

THE Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has appropriated $10,000 for the study of influenza. The study will be conducted by the company's influenza commission, of which Dr. M. J. Rosenau, professor of preventive medicine and hygiene in the Harvard Medical School, is chairman. The commission was formed originally to help combat the influenza epidemic of 1918 to 1919.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A GIFT of $500,000 has been made to Washington University for an institute for research and study of eye, ear and nose diseases as a memorial to Oscar Johnson, one of the founders of the International Shoe Company. The institute will be under the direction of Dr. Harvey J. Howard, formerly director of the eye department of the Rockefeller Medical School in Peking. Teaching will be directed by Dr. Lee Wallace Dean, formerly dean of the medical school at the University of Iowa.

DR. JACOB GOULD SCHURMAN, American Ambassador to Germany, presented to Heidelberg University on December 18 a gift of more than $500,000 from friends of the university in the United States. Dr. Schurman was made an honorary citizen of Heidelberg, where a half century ago he entered the university as a student.

TRUSTEES of the Rockefeller Foundation have placed $170,000 at the disposal of the University of Utrecht to establish a school of physiology.

THERE has been completed and occupied at Iowa State College a new building for dairy industries, which with its equipment cost $500,000. It was formally dedicated on November 14.

HUGH M. HENTON, formerly assistant professor of metallurgy and mining at the Washington State College, has become associate professor of metallurgy at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines.

DR. WERNER GERLACH, of Hamburg, has been called to a professorship of pathology in the University of Halle.

DR. OSCAR B. MUENCH has accepted the position of head of the department of chemistry and physics of New Mexico Normal University, East Las Vegas, New Mexico.

PROFESSOR POETZL, of Prague, has succeeded Professor Wagner-Jauregg as head of the psychiatric clinic at Vienna.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

PYREX GLASS AS A RADIUM CONTAINER

RECENTLY Dr. L. F. Curtis described in *Nature* (Vol. 120, p. 406, 1927) his experience at the Bureau of Standards in using pyrex glass to store a solution of radium salt containing 140 milligrams of the element. After a year and a half of use he found a network of fine cracks developed in the glass container above the water-line, which were therefore attributed to the effect of alpha ray bombardment. The flask was otherwise intact and had remained gas tight.

Having just previously prepared in this laboratory a system in pyrex glass for the collection of radon (emanation) from a solution of chloride containing 265 milligrams of radium element, it was decided to attempt to employ pyrex for one year—with all due safeguards in case of its failure.

The experiment, which has been completed without accident, confirms Dr. Curtis's results in every respect. The object of the present note is to give some additional details which may be significant in interpreting the effect

Not only was a longitudinal system of fine closely spaced cracks developed in the upper part of the 250 cc flask in the area extending for an inch below the neck, but larger cracks less frequently spaced extended longitudinally downward exactly to the water-line (the flask was half filled) which were crossed by large transverse cracks extending almost continuously around the flask. Just below the neck (one half inch in diameter) and also near its top where it was constricted to connect with quarter inch tubing leading to the purification system, spiral cracks had formed, passing several times around the tube with regular spacing of about 1 mm.

From inspection of the system, the writer concluded that the cracking was probably due to the gradual relief of preexisting strains in the glass, by a process of expansion under alpha radiation. The expansion may have been caused or assisted by chemical action produced in the glass by alpha rays, such as the decomposition of water. On the other hand, ordinary soda-lime glass which also contains water does not crack, and presumably, therefore, does not contain strains to the same degree. It should be mentioned that there is some evidence of incipient scaling on the