A SERIES of popular illustrated lectures on important developments and discoveries in various fields of engineering will be given by members of the staff of the Harvard Engineering School during the spring term. The lectures are open to the public, and will be held in 110 Pierce Hall on Thursday afternoons at 4:30 beginning on February 28. The lecturers and subjects are as follows: Professor Philip Drinker, "Modern Methods of Cleaning Air"; Professor C. L. Dawes, "The Transmission of Electricity at High Voltages"; Professor E. L. Chaffee, "Vacuum Tubes and Their Application"; Professor L. C. Graton, "The Deepest Mines of the World"; Professor L. J. Johnson, "The Use of Concrete in Great Structures"; Professor C. H. Berry, "Modern Steam Machinery."

A SERIES of national lectures has been instituted by the British Broadcasting Corporation under which, three times a year, a formal lecture of nearly an hour's duration will be delivered by an eminent authority on physical or natural science, philosophy, literature, exploration, music, art or medicine. Lectures equal in importance to the Romanes Lectures at Oxford or the Rede Lectures at Cambridge are in mind. The scheme has received the approval and support of the following distinguished authorities, who have also agreed to give the corporation the benefit of their advice on the choice of subjects and lecturers: Lord Balfour, Lord Crawford and Balcarres, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Sir William Hardy, Sir Frederic Kenyon, Sir Donald Macalister, Lord Ronaldshay, Sir J. J. Thomson, Sir William Bragg, Lord Crewe, Sir Israel Gollancz, Sir James Jeans, Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir Henry Newbolt, Sir Ernest Rutherford and Dr. T. F. Tout. On the recommendation of this advisory board, the first of the national lectures will be delivered on Thursday, February 28, at 9:20 P. M., by Dr. Robert Bridges, the poet laureate, whose subject will be "Poetry." The second lecture is to be delivered on April 15 by Professor A. S. Eddington.

MEMBERS of the Beebe exploring expedition are expected in Bermuda during the next three weeks. There it is planned to spend six months in deep-sea fishing, under the auspices of the department of tropical research of the New York Zoological Society. The party includes Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, Dr. W. K. Gregory and Dr. William Beebe. Governor Sir Louis Bois, of Bermuda, has granted the party the use of Nonsuch Island, from March to October. The island contains five acres and is partly wooded. It has alternating coral rocks and sandy beaches, and there are several buildings for laboratories. Directly off shore deep water approaches closer to Bermuda than elsewhere, a mile depth being found a few hundred feet from shore. Daily trawling with the tug *Gladisden* will be carried on for the next six months. By the aid of pressure tanks and dark rooms, both on the tug and on shore, deep-sea fish, both dead and alive, will be studied. Fish life will be studied intensively by the aid of diving helmets, submarine cameras and a fleet of six small boats, while observation will be carried on in limited areas of coral reefs. Laboratory work will be confined to observations bearing directly on life histories and the development of young fish.

THE Chemical Foundation, Inc., of New York City, has made a grant to the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, to make it possible to employ for a three-year period a full-time expert to enlarge its present program of research in chemistry as related to medicine, surgery and dentistry. The special laboratory for this work will also be considerably enlarged.

THE new 225 bed Passavant Memorial Hospital, erected on the McKinlock Campus opposite Northwestern University Medical School, will open about May 1. One third of the beds in the Passavant Memorial will be available for university bedside instruction. Nine of the twelve stories will be for patients. The eleventh floor will be devoted to the operating department; the second floor to the laboratories and physical therapy department. For the present the east wing will be set aside for nurses' quarters and the nurses' school, which will be affiliated with Northwestern University. The superintendent of the hospital will be Dr. Irving S. Cutter, dean of the medical school.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

YALE UNIVERSITY is the beneficiary of a bequest estimated at $3,000,000 by the will of Mrs. Ray Tompkins, of Elmira, N. Y., who died on January 22 last at Cannes, France. Mr. Tompkins, a Yale football star, died on June 30, 1918, leaving his widow the life use of his estate, directing that if no provision was made otherwise his entire estate was to go to his alma mater. An amount estimated at $1,200,000 was bequeathed to the Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital, of Elmira, and approximately $450,000 to the Elmira College for Women.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE has received a gift of $1,200,000 from the General Education Board for endowment of research and teaching in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat at the Oscar Johnson Institute.

ABRAM E. FITKIN, of New York City, has added $100,000 to the gift of $1,000,000 which he made to

Yale University last year for the erection and endowment of the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Pavilion at the New Haven Hospital.

BY the will of Mrs. Gladys Carroll Marvin, Harvard University receives $100,000 conditional on the payment by the university of a life annuity of $10,000 to Mrs. Mabel M. Trowbridge, mother of Mrs. Marvin.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the offer of more than $1,000,000 by the Rockefeller Foundation to the medical school of the University of Minnesota has been withdrawn.

THE University of Toulouse will celebrate on June 9 the seven hundredth anniversary of its foundation. It is expected that the president of the republic will attend and that there will be a large representation of scholars and scientific men from France and from abroad.

DR. HAROLD L. AMOSS, associate professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed professor of medicine at Duke University.

DR. J. V. HOFMANN has resigned his position as assistant director of the Pennsylvania State School of Forestry to accept the appointment as head of the division of forestry at the State College of North Carolina at Raleigh. Dr. Hofmann took up his work in February.

DR. D. W. BRONK has been appointed professor of physiology and biophysics and head of the department of zoology and physiology at Swarthmore College. Professor Bronk has recently returned from England where he spent the past year in research at the University of Cambridge and the University of London.

DR. RAYMOND H. WALLACE, National Research Council Fellow at Columbia University, has been appointed assistant professor of botany at the Connecticut Agricultural College. Associate Professor G. Safford Torrey has been appointed professor of botany, and succeeds Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott as head of the department.

DR. MAX KLEIBER, of the staff of the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School at Zurich, will head the net energy studies to be undertaken in the animal husbandry division at the branch of the college of agriculture of the University of California, at Davis.

COLONEL F. J. M. STRATTON, secretary of the International Astronomical Union, has been elected as Professor Newall's successor with the title of professor of astrophysics in the University of Cambridge and director of the Solar Physics Observatory.

Two new professorial chairs have recently been established in Paris. The first is the chair of phthisiology, whose holder is Dr. Leon Bernard, formerly of the chair of hygiene, which is now occupied by Professor Tanon, and a chair of hydrology and climatotherapy whose first occupant is Dr. Piéry.

A CHAIR on the clinical aspects of tuberculosis and respiratory diseases has been established at the University of Rome. The newly appointed occupant of the chair is Professor Eugenio Morelli, the pupil and successor of Forlanini.

DR. HEINRICH VOGT, professor of astronomy in the University of Heidelberg, has been called to Jena.

DISCUSSION

NOTE ON THE GEOLOGIC AGE OF PITHECANTHROPUS AND EOANTHROPUS

IT is a singular coincidence that the original estimates of the geologic age of both the Trinil ape-man of Java (*Pithecanthropus*) and the Piltdown dawn-man of Sussex (*Eoanthropus*) are being revised at the present time.

Pithecanthropus when discovered was regarded as of Upper Pliocene age—a proper geologic position for the supposedly ancient ancestral link in the human chain. It now seems almost certain that *Pithecanthropus* is of Middle Pleistocene age, since, as Dietrich and Osborn have pointed out, Proboscidean and other quadrupeds among which *Pithecanthropus* lived are apparently Middle Pleistocene and *certainly* not Lower Pleistocene, still less Pliocene. Professor Osborn has written Professor Dietrich, of Berlin, to go over this paleontologic evidence again because unless it can be challenged it proves that *Pithecanthropus* is another instance of the survival of a very primitive type of mammal in a primitive forested environment where food was plenty, there was little need of clothing, and safety was assured by concealment or flight rather than by combat with weapons.

On the other hand, the case of *Eoanthropus* (Piltdown man) is quite different; its darkly colored and thoroughly fossilized skull fragments are intermingled with fragments of grinding teeth of Proboscideans of unquestionable Upper Pliocene age, namely, the species *Archidiskodon planifrons* and *Anancus arvernensis*. If *Eoanthropus* belongs with these teeth it is surely Upper Pliocene, but intermingled in the Piltdown gravels are other tooth fragments of somewhat lighter color belonging to the hippopotamus which in Great Britain was a Lower Pleistocene inhabitant. By this mixed evidence it is demonstrated that the