UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE corner-stone of the new Eckhart Hall on the main quadrangle of the University of Chicago, which will house the laboratories of Professor A. A. Michelson and Professor Arthur H. Compton, was laid on July 12 by Bernard A. Eckhart, the donor of the building. Three generations of Eckharts assisted in the ceremony, the donor, his son, Percy B. Eckhart, an alumnus of the university, and his granddaughter, Marion West Eckhart, a junior. Professor Gilbert A. Bliss, acting head of the department of mathematics, which with the department of physics and astronomy will occupy the new structure, and Professor Henry Gordon Gale, dean of the graduate school of science, were among the speakers.

DR. PIERRE A. FISH, a member of the faculty of Cornell University since 1890, when he became an instructor in the department of physiology and neurology, has been appointed dean of the college of veterinary medicine, succeeding Dean Veranus A. Moore, who retires this year.

DR. JEAN R. OLIVER, professor of pathology in the Stanford University Medical School, San Francisco, has been appointed professor of pathology at the Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, to succeed Dr. Archibald Murray.

DR. CHARLES L. MIX has resigned as professor and head of the department of medicine, Loyola University School of Medicine, and has been appointed professor emeritus. He will be succeeded by Dr. Italo F. Volini.

AT the College of the City of Detroit, Dr. K. W. Folley, of Trinity College, and Dr. D. C. Morrow, of Northwestern University, have been appointed instructors in mathematics.

DR. W. GARSTANG, professor of zoology at the University of Leeds, England, has been appointed pro-vice-chancellor.

DR. LEWIS F. RICHARDSON, in charge of the department of physics of the Westminster Training College, London, has been appointed principal of Paisley Technical College.

M. L'ABBÉ BREUIL has been elected professor of prehistory in the Collège de France to succeed the late M. Théodor Reinach.

DISCUSSION

BABYLONIAN MATHEMATICS

WITHIN the past twelve years our knowledge of Egyptian and Babylonian mathematics has been considerably extended and it has been surmised that in the near future we may be even better acquainted with Babylonian than with Egyptian mathematics.

Among a number of documents which contribute to the body of known facts regarding Egyptian mathematics two are of outstanding importance: the Rhind mathematical papyrus of about 1650 B. C., a copy of an older document, and the Golenishchev mathematical papyrus dating from about 1850 B. C.; also, probably, a copy of a document dating back earlier, perhaps to 1900 or 2000 B. C.

Of the Rhind papyrus, which is in the British Museum, except for certain fragments in the New York Historical Society, a notable new edition was brought out in 1923 by Professor T. Eric Peet, of the University of Liverpool. A sumptuous two-volume edition by Chancellor Chace, of Brown University, is in the press. Peet's work has inspired many publications, of which the outstanding longer ones are Otto Neugebauer's in 1926 and O. Gillain's volume in 1927. As far back as 1894 it was generally known that Golenishchev, now professor of Egyptian philology at the Egyptian University in Cairo, had a mathematical papyrus, but it was not till Turaev's article in 1917 that we learned anything about this papyrus which had then become the property of the Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow. Tsinserling's article in 1925 gave us still more information. A reproduction of the papyrus with hieroglyphic transcription, German translations and commentary is about to be published by Professor V. V. Struve, of the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad. In 1917 we learned the very extraordinary fact that the Golenishchev mathematical papyrus seemed to prove that the Egyptian of 1850 B. C. knew the equivalent of the formula for the volume of the frustum of a square pyramid. Professor Struve discovered in 1928 that the papyrus contains another geometrical result of an even more extraordinary nature (in spite of what Turaev and Peet have stated to the contrary), indicating a stage of development of geometry among Egyptians undreamt of by scholars a score of years ago.

Until recently comparatively little has been known about Babylonian mathematics. One of the chief sources of information has been Hilprecht's "Mathematical, Metrological and Chronological Tablets of the Temple Library of Nippur," published by the University of Pennsylvania in 1906. He here describes fifty tablets dating from the period 1350 to 2200 B. C. C. J. Gadd's article in *Revue d'Assyrio-*