

has made all the necessary observations of the formation of the mountain and the different heights, it will proceed to explore the mountain of Tupungato and also Mercedario, in the province of Coquimbo, which is nearly as high as Aconcagua.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY receives \$50,000 by the wills of the late Miss E. A. Haven and Miss C. M. Haven. Dartmouth College receives \$15,000 from the same source, and Smith College \$3,000 from Miss E. A. Haven.

MR. C. W. SPAULDING, lately Treasurer of the University of Illinois, is said to have used for his own purposes \$400,000 in bonds and a large amount of money belonging to the University.

PRESIDENT DWIGHT, of Yale University, in his annual report recommends that the fiftieth anniversary of the Sheffield Scientific School, which occurs this year, be celebrated by suitable exercises. He states that a new building for the departments of physiology and morphology is needed and hopes that funds will be provided during the year. Gifts and bequests to the University during the last ten years have amounted to more than \$4,000,000.

FROM the report of Cambridge University for 1896 it appears that during the year the University conferred 679 degrees of Bachelor of Arts, 33 of Bachelor of Law, 6 of Doctor of Science and 1 of Doctor of Letters. The total receipts of the University were upwards of £41,000.

WE stated recently that in nearly all cases the State universities had remained non-partisan. We must now record with regret the fact that the Populists, on securing a majority in the Board of Regents of the Kansas State Agricultural College, have dismissed a President who had served for eighteen years, to make room for a young man 'in harmony with the fundamental principles of the administration,' and have removed other members of the faculty and employees.

MR. JUNIUS MORGAN, a Princeton graduate

resident in New York, who is known for his bibliographical collections, some of which he has recently contributed to the Princeton University library, has been appointed associate librarian in that institution. It may be added that the north stack room of the new library building at Princeton is nearing completion and the main collections are to be removed to it during the coming summer.

MR. W. B. MORTON has been appointed professor of natural philosophy in Queen's College, Belfast, filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. J. D. Everett.

PROFESSOR R. VON LENDENFELD, of Czernowitz, has been appointed professor of zoology in the German University at Prague. Dr. v. Below, of the Münster Academy, has been called to the chair of zoology at Marburg. Dr. Ludwig Heim has been appointed assistant professor of bacteriology. Dr. Gadamer has qualified as docent in pharmaceutical chemistry, at the University of Marburg.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. LOWELL'S OBSERVATIONS OF MERCURY AND VENUS.

THE *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society for January, 1897, contains plates of drawings of Mercury and Venus, made by Mr. Lowell, at the Flagstaff Observatory, in 1896. The markings on Mercury were 'at once conspicuous' with the new twenty-four-inch object-glass; those on Venus are 'perfectly distinct and unmistakable.' The undersigned made a considerable number of observations of Mercury in the years 1873-1885, and a very large number of Venus in the years 1873-1890, with telescopes of six, sixteen, twenty-six, thirty-six inches in aperture, without ever once seeing markings of the character depicted by Mr. Lowell. Other markings of the class drawn by Schiaparelli and many other observers have, on the other hand, been seen and recorded whenever the conditions of vision were good. I have no hesitation in saying that such markings as are shown by Mr. Lowell did not exist on Venus before 1890. It is my opinion that they do not now exist on the planet, but that they