

Southern Iowa,' by T. J. and M. F. L. Fitzpatrick, including a catalogue of several hundred species of flowering plants and ferns.

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THE SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY AT OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY.

THE recent founding of a School of Geography at Oxford University is an event of more than passing interest to the educational and scientific world, and deserves a word of comment on this side of the water. The Royal Geographical Society has long deplored the lack of opportunity for geographical training in Great Britain and has been endeavoring to get geography properly recognized in both university and school. Over fifteen years ago the present Secretary of the Society, Dr. J. Scott Keltie, made a careful study of the status of geography teaching in the schools of Great Britain, and published a complete report that has been of great and permanent value. For the last few years readers have been maintained in Geography at both Oxford and Cambridge, largely through the efforts of the Society. At the same time, at the Society's rooms, training has been giving to prospective travellers in the art of surveying and in the other scientific lines of value to all explorers. The success of these various lines of work has led to the establishment of the School at Oxford, under the joint auspices of the Society and the University. Each institution will contribute £400 annually, and the management of the School will be vested in a committee, consisting of the Chancellor *ex-officio*, of three nominated by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society and three nominated by the Delegates of the Common University Fund.

The School will start with a staff of four members, consisting of the present Reader, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M.A.; the Assistant to the Reader, Andrew J. Herbertson, Ph.D.; a Lecturer in Physical Geography, Mr. H. N. Dickson, F.R.S.E., and for the year 1899-1900 a Lecturer in Ancient Geography, Mr. G. B. Grundy, M.A.

The work of the School will include a course in systematic instruction primarily in-

tended for graduates and other advanced students, with demonstrations and practical work in physical geography, cartography and surveying. Courses of lectures will also be given with special reference to the historical and scientific teaching in the University.

Sir Clements Markham, in his annual address to the Royal Geographical Society, spoke at length in reference to the project and outlined a large field of results to come from the increased opportunities in geographical training. He particularly emphasized the fact that the School would be open to all, whether attached to the University or not.

It is to be hoped that the enterprise may succeed abundantly, and certainly it is fitting that the leading commercial nation of the world should undertake to give its young men training in an important branch of education, whether in preparation for business or political life. The importance of geography in commerce has long been recognized by certain leaders in Great Britain, but the necessary steps for bringing about commercial progress through increased geographical training have been too long deferred. This School is the only one in Great Britain and should fill a long standing need. With the opportunities at Bruxelles and at Oxford, both of which have recently been established, geography has received a recognition that ought to be a lesson to this country, especially to the authorities of our many large universities that have no chairs in this science.

R. E. D.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DETAILS have reached us in regard to the approaching meeting of German men of science and physicians, which will be held at Munich, from the 17th to the 23d of September. The Congress will be divided into no less than thirty-seven sections, of which seventeen are in the natural sciences and twenty in medicine. There will be two general sessions of the whole Congress, at each of which three lectures will be given. These will be 'The Results of My Expedition to the North Polar Regions,' Dr. Fritjof Nansen; 'Radiography in the Treatment of Surgical Diseases,' Professor von Bergmann; 'The Change in the Astronomical View