

the members of the Boston Society of Natural History, held on November 1st, a paper was read by Professor W. M. Davis on 'Geographical Notes of a Year in Europe.'

PROFESSOR LEITH, on taking the new chair of pathology and bacteriology at Mason University College, Birmingham, on October 9th, delivered an address on the advance of bacteriological science in the diagnosis and prevention of disease.

THE library of Harvard University has sent out circulars to various cattle-breeders' associations throughout the country, requesting them to contribute complete files of their published pedigrees of cattle, horses, sheep and swine. The collection is to aid students in research into the heredity of domesticated animals, and will be placed in the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

A SOMEWHAT acrimonious attack has been made by 'a correspondent' in the *Aberdeen Free Press* upon the trawling work of the Scottish Fisheries Commission. The article has been reprinted and is said to have been widely distributed. The author concludes "that their so-called scientific experiments on trawling have been carried on with no regard whatever to uniformity and in such a slipshod manner that the public money might, considering the results accruing, have been more profitably thrown into the sea." The author does not explain how the greater profit from the sea is to be secured. He demands an investigation of the work.

ACCORDING to *Nature*, a scientific and commercial mission, under the direction of M. Ernest Milliau, Director of the Laboratory of Technical Experiments in connection with the Ministry of Agriculture, Paris, has been sent to Russia and Roumania with the object of taking measures for facilitating and extending business relations with those countries, especially with regard to the exportation of olive oils.

THE New York *Evening Post* states that Dr. Robert T. Hill of the United States Geological Survey and four companions have arrived at Langtry, Texas, from a voyage through the cañons of the Rio Grande, their trip being the second successful one down that

river ever attempted. The party left Presidio, Texas, and completed the five hundred miles of the tortuous course of the river without seeing a human habitation. Veins of gold and silver-bearing rock were seen at several points, and there were indications in the almost inaccessible cañons that they had at one time been occupied by cliff dwellers, but it was found impossible to explore the ruins from below.

MR. JOSEPH B. BANCROFT, of Hopedale, Mass., has built a public library building for that town, at a cost of \$50,000, which will be dedicated during the present month.

THE School Board of the City of Chicago has decided to appoint fifty medical inspectors with special reference to preventing the spread of contagious diseases among children. The inspectors will examine pupils who have been absent from school four days or more and all those who show symptoms of fever or sore throat. The plan, which is modeled on that already adopted in New York and Boston, will be tried for two months as an experiment.

THE Committee of the British Association Table at the Naples Zoological Station announces, says *Nature*, that the Table is fully occupied until the middle of April next, but that applications for its occupancy from then until the end of August, 1900, should be sent at once to the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, Professor Howes, F.R.S., at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. Mr. Kyle will occupy the table from now until Christmas, when he will be succeeded by Mr. M. D. Hill, who will continue investigations on the reproduction processes of Crustacea, and in March Professor Herdman will go out and devote a month to the study of the Tunicata of the Bay.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MAJOR HENRY LEE HIGGINSON, of Boston, has given \$150,000 to Harvard University for the establishment of a university club, and the corporation offers as a site the property at the corner of Harvard and Quincy streets.

IN the Supreme Court of the United States, on October 30th, the petition for a writ of cer-

tiorari in the Fayerweather will case was denied. It is reported, however, that the contest involving, it will be remembered, some four million dollars for American colleges is not yet settled.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE has received for its physical laboratories two checks of \$5,000 each from Mrs. George Holt and her daughter, Miss Emma Holt.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made under the direction of Mr. H. J. Rogers, of Albany, for the United States educational exhibit at the Paris Exposition of 1900. It is planned to represent the university system of the United States by letting the different universities each represent some special departments, so that the collective exhibit may not be of separate universities, but of higher education as a whole. In scientific work Johns Hopkins University will exhibit its departments of physics, geology, and the medical sciences, the University of Pennsylvania its archæological collections, Columbia University its library and its work in education and psychology, and Harvard University its astronomical observatory.

THE Technical Institute at West Ham, London, was destroyed by fire on December 23, 1898. The fire originated in the chemical laboratory. The loss is estimated at over £80,000 and is only partially covered by insurance. The adjacent Natural History Museum, the gift of Mr. Passmore Edwards, which is now approaching completion, was fortunately saved as were also the books from the free library.

THE number of new matriculations at Cambridge University was this year 893 as compared with 902 in 1898 and 884 in 1897.

DR. ALONZO E. TAYLOR, Assistant Director of the Pepper Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed professor of pathology in the Medical College of the University of California.

DR. ALEX. HILL, Master of Downing College, in his speech to Congregation on resigning the office of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, stated, says the *British Medical Journal*, that the amount already received towards the Benefaction Fund instituted

at the meeting over which the Duke of Devonshire presided at Devonshire House, amounted at the end of the financial year, to £50,000. It had thus been made possible to consider the erection of new buildings for law, medicine, botany and archæology. The response, however, had not been sufficient to warrant any of the new developments of University work which many friends of the University desired. In the interests of national progress, Dr. Hill said, it was greatly to be desired that laboratories of applied science should not be isolated but should be established in connection with schools which were already strong in pure science. Technical training in any limited sense of the expression was impossible. In every subject of practical application—whether it were to a learned profession or an industrial art—success depended upon breadth of knowledge of the sciences upon which the profession or art was based. Advances in technology were almost invariably due to the application by practical men of principles discovered by those who carried out investigations in pure science. Conversely, the strength and vitality of a school of pure science was largely increased when opportunities were afforded to students of passing on to its applications. The remarkable progress of natural science in Cambridge was closely associated with the growth of the medical school. During the past twelve years a larger number of students had entered for the Natural Science Tripos than for any other examination for honors, notwithstanding the fact that but few students were in a position to allow their prospects in life to depend upon the discovery in themselves of a special aptitude for pure science. Almost all those who had since distinguished themselves in various branches of science had commenced their career by preparing to qualify for a profession. The majority of the graduates, for example, who were at present prosecuting researches in the physical, chemical, botanical, zoological, physiological, anatomical and pathological laboratories, making, to the great credit of the University, additions to knowledge which were not exceeded, if they are equalled in amount, by any other university in the world, entered as medical students.