

peg to Victoria. The official party will leave Winnipeg at midnight on September 2 for the trip to the Pacific coast, and will return to Winnipeg on September 13.

THE fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Paris Society of Anthropology will be celebrated July 7-9, 1909. Anthropological societies and institutions are invited to send delegates. The program includes a discourse by the minister of public instruction and fine arts, an address by the president of the society, a report by the general secretary on the scientific activities of the society since its foundation, and messages from delegates who are to be the guests of the society at a luncheon and a dinner.

THE Royal Institution, London, has received from a lady who wishes to remain anonymous a gift of £10,000.

THE trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund are prepared to receive applications for appropriations in aid of scientific work. All applications should reach, before March 15, 1909, the secretary of the board, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

ACCORDING to the Berlin correspondent of the London *Times* the latest available details of the new German airship Zeppelin II., which will be launched in March, state that the total length of the vessel is 446 feet, the diameter 42 feet 8 inches, and the cubic contents about 530,000 feet of hydrogen. There are 17 ballonets, of which 16 are of india-rubber-treated cotton, and the seventeenth is of gold-beaters' skin, and is supplied by a well-known firm of English aeronauts. The two Daimler motors weigh 798.8 pounds, and produce together about 200 horse power. The two aluminium cars form cabins for the captain, hammocks being provided for the men. The cars are furnished underneath with soft fenders in order to lessen the shock of landing on the hard ground. An immense shed is being built to accommodate Zeppelin II. as soon as it is launched.

THE production of petroleum in the United States in 1908, according to a preliminary

estimate made by David T. Day, of the United States Geological Survey, amounted to between 175 and 180 million barrels, an increase between 5 and 9 per cent. as compared with the production of 166 million barrels in 1907. The total value of the product showed an even greater proportionate gain, for the price of oil increased in California and remained steady in other fields except the Gulf. The increases are attributed to steady growth in Illinois and California, though neither field showed phenomenal development.

MR. D. O. MILLS has given to the department of mammalogy of the American Museum of Natural History eight specimens of the fur seal, to be utilized in the preparation of a group illustrating a seal rookery. The specimens were collected at the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, expressly for the museum, by order of Mr. Mills, who had special permission from the Department of Commerce and Labor for their capture. The series consists of male seals two, three, five and seven years old, female seals three and four years old and two pups six weeks old.

BARON DE LENVAL, on the occasion of the Third International Otological Congress, founded a prize of 3,000 francs to be awarded to such person as should invent and produce a small portable instrument materially assisting the hearing of the deaf. As no such instrument has yet been forthcoming to the satisfaction of the international jury appointed to adjudicate upon the matter, the accumulated interest of four years, amounting to about 400 francs, will be awarded as a prize for the best work that has been published during the last four years in the departments of the anatomy, physiology, or pathology of the organ of hearing. Competing works should be sent to the president of the jury, Professor Dr. A. Politzer, I. Gonzagasse 19, Vienna, before the end of February.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE two hundred thousand dollars required to secure the gift of \$600,000 from Mr. John D. Rockefeller for the Harper memorial library at the University of Chicago has now

been secured. A building will be erected, but part of the money has been reserved for an endowment.

PRESIDENT CHARLES F. THWING, of Western Reserve University, announces the completion of a \$500,000 fund for additional endowment of Adelbert College and the college for women. Of this amount \$125,000 was offered by the General Education Board, on the condition that \$375,000 be raised by the university.

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY, St. Paul, Minn., has been offered \$75,000 by the General Education Board of New York on the condition that it will raise three times the amount, making a total of \$300,000, a large portion of which is to be added to the permanent endowment.

THE department of engineering of the University of Michigan has received a gift of the library of the late George Y. Wisner and a rotary engine of the value of \$7,000 from Mr. J. D. R. Lampson.

AMERICANS who have received honorary degrees at Oxford have made through President Butler, of Columbia University, a gift of \$1,200 for the endowment fund.

LORD WINTERSTOKE has offered to give an additional £15,000 towards the proposed Bristol University. This will make a total contribution from him of £35,000.

WE are informed that the statement quoted here from the daily papers to the effect that the office of chancellor would be established at the University of Michigan for President Angell to hold after his resignation is incorrect.

THE daily papers state that the presidency of Dartmouth College has been offered to Mr. S. W. McCall, member of congress from Massachusetts since 1893 and a graduate of Dartmouth College in the class of 1874. Statements in regard to college presidencies printed in the daily papers seem, however, to have a large probable error.

DR. FLETCHER B. DRESSLAR, associate professor of education at the University of California, has become head of the department of philosophy and education in the University of Alabama.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I note in SCIENCE of January 29 a quotation from a Boston newspaper in regard to "Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology"; and it seems desirable that certain erroneous impressions conveyed therein should be corrected.

The important misconception in the article in question is implied in the statement: "It seems probable that the taking from the institute by Harvard of two of its leading professors will bring up again the question of a consolidation or of an alliance between these two educational institutions." This is not only not probable; it is entirely unthinkable, to those acquainted with the true situation. The opposition of the faculty and alumni of the institute to this plan is founded on good and substantial reasons, which are too generally understood and respected to be questioned again.

The Technology faculty and alumni did not oppose the proposed alliance from mere pride in the achievements of the institute, or from any narrow fear that it would lose its individual reputation. They simply recognized that Harvard and Technology represent different and incompatible educational ideals. Harvard's ideal is that of graduate scientific schools following a college course based on the elective system. This, so far as engineering goes, is an interesting and promising experiment and one to which Technology can cheerfully contribute two of her honored sons. Technology herself, however, stands for a different ideal, for a combination, from the beginning, of a broad scientific training with the elements of liberal culture, in a four years' course, laid along the lines of a carefully balanced group system of studies. This ideal has not been fully realized; few ideals ever are; yet in the flux of doubt and questioning which seems to have engulfed the world of higher education, the record of what the institute has actually accomplished stands out as one of the