

in a survey of the public oyster grounds of Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound. This work, undertaken by the division of scientific inquiry, is under the immediate charge of Dr. H. F. Moore, assisted by Mr. T. E. B. Pope, assistants of the Bureau of Fisheries. The survey has for its object the accurate charting of all areas of oyster growth, detailed examinations of such growth respecting quality, quantity and conditions of oysters located, and the determination of suitable but unutilized ground.

ACCORDING to information printed in the *Geographical Journal*, the Austrian African traveler, Herr Otto Arthauer, set out in October with the intention of making his way into the Tibesti region between Fezzan and Wadai—the portion of Africa which best deserves the epithet “dark” in our own day. He is accompanied by an Austrian artillery officer, First Lieutenant Emil Kraft von Helmhacker. The leader is an Arabic scholar and is also master of a number of African dialects, besides possessing ethnographical and geological qualifications. His companion will undertake the cartographical work and meteorological observations. As is well known, the relatively fertile highlands of Tibesti are inhabited by the Tibbu—a race known to the ancient Romans—who have an evil reputation for wildness and barbarity. Nachtigal has been, so far, the only traveler who has come into contact with them and escaped with his life, though the opinion has been expressed, both by Slatin Pasha and by Oskar Lenz, that their country might be safely crossed by a traveler who could convince them of his peaceable intentions. The new expedition is well equipped, and provided on the one hand with presents likely to be held in esteem in that region, and on the other with serviceable weapons. After completing their proposed examination of Tibesti, the travelers hope to cross Wadai by a route leading well east of Lake Chad, though should the state of affairs in that country make this impossible, they will take the easier way towards the Kamerun.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE progress thus far made in ascertaining the approximate value of the Wyman bequest for the Graduate College of Princeton University confirms the original estimate of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. Erection of the buildings will be started in the spring, and will include, in a large quadrangle, the Thomson Graduate College, the Cleveland Memorial Tower and the Proctor Memorial Dining Hall. The faculty committee on the graduate school has been reconstituted with one member from each of the eleven departments of the university, as follows: Dean Andrew F. West, chairman; department of philosophy, Professor John G. Hibben; history, politics and economics, Dean Edward Elliott; art and archeology, Professor Allan Marquand; classics, Professor Frank Frost Abbott; modern languages, Professor W. U. Vreeland; English, Professor T. M. Parrott; mathematics, Professor L. P. Eisenhart; physics, Professor W. F. Magie; chemistry, Professor Fred Neher; geology, Professor W. B. Scott; biology, Professor E. G. Conklin.

As a memorial to her husband, Mrs. Edward H. Harriman, of New York City, has endowed with \$100,000 the chair in forest management in the Yale Forest School.

THE foundation for the new \$50,000 science hall of Dakota Wesleyan University has been completed and work on the superstructure will be advanced as rapidly as weather conditions will permit. This building will consist of two stories and basement and will contain laboratories for physics, chemistry and biology besides class rooms and a large lecture room.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology will hold a Congress of Technology on April 10 and 11 next to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment.

THE Oxford congregation has rejected the plan to make Greek optional in the entrance examinations by a vote of 188 to 152.

A DESPATCH from Munich says that the oath disavowing modernism, required of theological professors by the Vatican, has caused a schism in the faculty at the University of

Munich. One professor has retired from the church.

DR. GEORGE EDGAR VINCENT, professor of sociology and dean of the faculties of arts, literature and science in the University of Chicago, has been appointed president of the University of Minnesota.

BARTHOLOMEW J. SPENCE, Ph.D. (Princeton, 1909), has been made assistant professor of physics in the University of North Dakota, and Edward B. Stephenson, Ph.D. (Illinois, 1910), instructor in physics in the same institution. Dr. Spence was assistant in physics at Wisconsin 1905-06; instructor at Illinois 1906-07, and instructor at Princeton 1909-10. He has had several years of teaching experience in the high schools of Illinois and in Knox Academy. Other appointments at North Dakota are E. C. Griess, E.E. (Purdue), as instructor in mechanical drawing, and William E. Henwood (Armour Institute, 1910), instructor in mechanical engineering. William T. Wells, M.D. (Ann Arbor), has accepted a position in the Public Health Laboratory, and Robert P. Stark, M.D. (Ann Arbor), and Carl F. Raver, M.D. (Ann Arbor), in the branch laboratories, located, respectively, at Minot and Bismarck.

DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN, professor of physics at Zurich, has been called to the chair of mathematics and physics in the University of Prague.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

CALENDAR REFORM

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In Professor Chamberlin's discussion on "The Reform of the Calendar," in SCIENCE of November 25, 1910, after reference to discussions on the subject by Reininghaus, Slocum, Cotsworth, Patterson and Dabney, the suggestion is made that 364 days be divided into four quarters, each to consist of three months of four weeks each and a "close week," to be called:

- (1) Easter Week between March and April,
- (2) Julian Week between June and July,
- (3) Gregorian Week between September and October and (4) Christmas Week between De-

cember and January, these *close weeks* to be named and known in addition to the twelve months; and the odd days (365th every year, and 366th in every fourth year), which are to be placed between Christmas Week and January, are to belong to no month or week, are not to be named as days of the week, but only as New Year's Day and Leap Day, respectively, but they are to be counted with the days of the old year. Thus every year, every month, and every week is to begin with the same day of the week, this day to be Monday.

Professor Chamberlin advises that sufficient study should be given to this subject from all points of view, so that the new calendar may be "so well matured before its adoption is seriously urged that it will not itself need to be laid aside for something better by the time it has fairly come into use."

In accordance with this advice I beg to point out some objections to the calendar proposed and to suggest a calendar which includes the advantages and eliminates the objections.

To omit certain weeks from the designated months and to omit certain days from both the recognized weeks and the named months are serious objections, as would be similar omissions in the division of any whole into its parts. To change the first day of the week from Sunday to Monday adds confusion without any apparent benefit. To introduce four names (for the *close weeks*) in addition to the twelve names of months is less objectionable, but to eliminate a day, or two days, from the weekly measure of days is the point of paramount objection; and I predict that no calendar which requires such elimination will ever be accepted, primarily because of the law recognized for four thousand years, which reads:

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Six days [not seven or eight] shalt thou labor, and do all thy work:

But the seventh day [not the eighth, nor even the seventh and eighth] is the sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work.

Will Jews and Christians set aside this law for one week each year?