

versities addressed. The proposed conference was held in Baltimore on November 17, 1913, on the eve of the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. It was attended by eighteen delegates, from the following universities: Clark (Professors Taber and Webster); Columbia (Professors Cattell and Dewey); Cornell (Professors Bennett and Nichols); Harvard (Professor Minot); Johns Hopkins (Professors Ames, Bloomfield, Lovejoy, Morley); Princeton (Professors Capps, Kemmerer, Warren); Wisconsin (Professors Cole, Marlatt), and Yale (Professors Harrison, Mendel). After prolonged discussion of the whole subject it was unanimously voted that the organization of the proposed association should be undertaken; and the chairman, Professor Bloomfield, was authorized to appoint a committee, representing the principal subjects of study and the principal universities, (a) to determine what professors, or classes of professors, should be invited to attend a meeting, to be held at some time during the current year, for the formal establishment of the association; (b) to determine the time and place of this meeting, and (c) to prepare a draft of a constitution. After some unavoidable delays, the chairman of the conference has announced the composition of the committee as follows: Astronomy, George C. Comstock (Wis.); Biological Sciences, E. G. Conklin (Princeton), R. G. Harrison (Yale) and Theodore Hough (Virginia); Classical Philology, E. Capps (Princeton); Chemistry, Julius Stieglitz (Chicago); Economics, M. A. Aldrich (Tulane), Alvin S. Johnson (Cornell); Education and Psychology, John Dewey (Columbia); Engineering, Guido Marx (Stanford); English, J. W. Bright (Johns Hopkins), C. M. Gayley (California); Geology, W. H. Hobbs (Mich.); Germanic Philology, M. G. Learned (Penn.); History, W. E. Dodd (Chicago); Law, Roscoe Pound (Harvard); Mathematics, C. J. Keyser (Columbia), Henry Taber (Clark); Medicine, C. S. Minot (Harvard); Oriental Languages, Morris Jastrow (Penn.); Philosophy, A. O. Lovejoy (Johns Hopkins), Frank Thilly (Cornell); Physics, C. E. Mendenhall (Wis.); Political Science,

Isidor Loeb (Missouri); Romance Philology, F. M. Warren (Yale). Professor Dewey has consented to act as chairman.

In selecting the members of this committee of twenty-five, the chairman of the conference has, of course, had in mind three criteria: the representation of the principal universities, the representation of the several sciences, and the special qualifications of individuals for service upon such a committee. With very few exceptions those first asked to serve upon the committee have readily agreed to do so. In two or three instances, however, it has been necessary to leave important universities thus far unrepresented, owing to the inability of the professors first invited to serve, and the inexpediency of further delaying public announcement of the committee's membership until other representatives of those institutions could be selected and notified, and their acceptances be received. The committee may be expected to begin at once the consideration of the questions submitted to it; and it will doubtless be able to announce the date of the contemplated meeting, and its general proposals with respect to the association, within a few months.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Jefferson Medical College and the Academy of Natural Sciences have arranged a memorial in honor of the late Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, to be held on the evening of March 31, in the Hall of the College of Physicians. Addresses will be delivered by Dr. Talcott Williams, New York City; Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore, and Mr. Owen Wister, Philadelphia.

DR. CHARLES W. ELIOT, president emeritus of Harvard University, celebrated his eightieth birthday on March 20.

A PORTRAIT of Dr. James Ward, professor of mental philosophy at the University of Cambridge, by Mr. Ambrose McEvoy, has been presented to the university.

THE University of Cambridge proposes to confer on the occasion of the opening of the new physiological laboratory on June 9 the degree of doctor of science on Sir William Osler, Sir David Ferrier, Sir E. A. Schäfer and Professor E. H. Starling.

THE opening ceremonies of the Institute for Medical Research, founded with an endowment of \$1,000,000 by Mrs. George William Hooper in memory of her husband, were held on March 7 at the University of California Hospital, San Francisco. Addresses were made by Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, of the Carnegie Foundation, on "The Value of Medical Research to a Great City," and by Dr. Richard Mills Pearce, Philadelphia, on "The Opportunity of the University in Medical Research."

THE Vienna Prehistoric Society was recently founded with Professor Moritz Hoernes, of the University of Vienna, as its president.

ON the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Circolo Matematico of Palermo a gold medal will be presented to Dr. Giovanni B. Guccia, founder of the society and editor of its publications.

THE Hon. Bertrand Russell, of the University of Cambridge, has taken up his duties at Harvard University during the second half-year.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY, of the University of Nebraska, is spending the month of March at the Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution near Tucson, Arizona. Professor Bessey plans to study and collect material of numerous species of the desert flora. While he is away Dr. R. J. Pool is in charge of the department of botany at the University of Nebraska.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK, head of the department of biology and public health at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been given leave of absence for the present term, on account of a recent illness. He will pass the time in southern Europe.

MR. FRANK ALVORD PERRETT, the American volcanologist, has been slightly burned on the hands and legs by an explosion of molten lava while studying the volcano of Sakura-Jima.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was tendered to Dr. Samuel Sheldon at the Hotel Astor on March 21 to celebrate a quarter of a century of service as professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

THE members of the Chemists' Club, New York, gave a complimentary dinner to Dr. Wolfgang Ostwald, of the University of Leipzig, on March 19.

MR. EMIL HUBER-STOCKAR, engineer in charge for the Swiss government of the electrification of the Gothard tunnel and president of the Swiss national committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission, was a guest of honor at a dinner given at the Engineers' Club, New York City, on March 13, by Mr. C. O. Mailloux, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

PROFESSOR GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY, of Yale University, has been elected a corresponding member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia.

MR. FRANÇOIS E. MATTHES, associate geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been elected a corresponding member of the International Glacier Commission.

PROFESSOR H. H. NORRIS, until last year professor of electrical engineering in Cornell University, has accepted an appointment as associate editor of the *Electric Railway Journal*, and, beginning on July 1, when his term as secretary of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education expires, he will devote his entire time to that publication.

CARL SPENCER MILLIKEN has been appointed assistant superintendent of Agricultural Extension in the University of California, with headquarters at the Graduate School of Tropical Agriculture at Riverside.

DR. HENRY NORRIS RUSSELL, professor of astronomy in Princeton University, lectured before the Columbia Chapter of Sigma Xi on March 24, the subject being "Eclipsing Variable Stars."

PROFESSOR ROSWELL H. JOHNSON, of the University of Pittsburgh, lectured before the department of geology of Columbia Univer-

sity on March 24 and 26, the subjects of his lectures being "The Origin of Petroleum and Natural Gas, New and Old Theories" and "Proposed Methods of Securing an Increased Yield from Oil-wells."

PROFESSOR ARTHUR W. GOODSPEED, of the University of Pennsylvania, lectured at Bucknell University on March 13 on "Radioactivity with Special Reference to Radium."

PROFESSOR F. E. LLOYD, of McGill University, recently gave a lecture before the Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club on the subject of "Abscession in Flowers, Fruits and Leaves."

PROFESSOR GEORGE GRANT MACCURDY, of Yale University, completed on March 10 a tour of the eastern Canadian circuit, where he lectured on "The Dawn of Art" by invitation of the Archeological Institute of America at St. John, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton.

ADOLPH FRANCIS ALPHONSE BANDELIER, a distinguished authority on South American archeology, lecturer in Columbia University, died in Madrid, Spain, on March 20, aged seventy-four years.

DR. W. T. DUTTON, professor of mathematics and civil engineering at Allegheny College, in Meadville, Pa., has died at the age of sixty-two years.

PROFESSOR GIUSEPPE MERCALLI, director of the Mount Vesuvius observatory, and professor of vulcanology and seismology in the University of Naples, has died at the age of sixty-four years, having been burned by the overturning of a lamp, or perhaps murdered.

DR. EDWARD C. PICKERING, director of the Harvard College Observatory, has sent under date of March 10, the following bulletin:

The following statement has been received from Professor W. H. Pickering, in charge of the Mandeville Station of this observatory: Attention was called to the lunar crater, Einmart, in A. N. 4704. It is there stated that its interior was very brilliant in January, 1913, but since March had been very much darker. This darkness persisted throughout the remainder of the year, and through January of this year. In February, however, it again brightened up, being about as bright as it

was in February, 1913, though by no means as brilliant as in January of that year. As it is a large crater, 25 miles in diameter, the brightness of its interior may be easily observed, even with a small telescope and under unfavorable atmospheric conditions. This past month it has been clearly brighter than any area of similar size between it and the limb. This had not been the case since the previous March. In the preceding January it was the brightest area of that size visible at that time upon the Moon. All observations should be made immediately following the first quarter. The interior is full of fine brilliant detail, constantly varying, not only from night to night, but also from month to month. This observation is, however, probably too difficult for any northern telescope, since it requires not merely one, but a succession of fine nights.

THERE is in the Paris Museum of Natural History a skull, which, according to tradition, once enclosed the brain of Descartes. The *British Medical Journal* says that the Academy of Fine Arts recently invited Dr. Paul Richer, professor of anatomy in the Paris School of Fine Arts, and a member both of the Academy of Medicine and the Academy of Fine Arts, to compare by scientific methods, in collaboration with M. Gaston Darboux, the supposed skull of Descartes with the different portraits of the famous philosopher. Dr. Richer indicated on a plaster cast given him by the museum certain distinctive characters which are well marked on the head of the portrait painted by Franz Hals. It is said to be on these resemblances that Cuvier based the opinion that the skull is authentic, which he expressed in 1821. He next drew a skull, as closely adapted as possible, resembling that outlined in the portrait. Then he made a drawing of the museum skull posed with the same orientation and on the same scale as the head of the portrait. Lastly, he superimposed the two drawings. In his first drawing Dr. Richer marked certain points—at the root of the bones of the nose, on the external orbital apophyses, and on the nasal spine. These same points were repeated on the cast of the skull in the museum. By means of these marks it was easy to place with almost mathematical precision the skull in the posi-

tion which Hals had given his model. The superimposition of the two drawings showed an almost absolute agreement. On the other hand, other drawings made under the same conditions of several skulls taken at random, showed notable discrepancies. The same experiment was repeated with the other portraits of Descartes, namely, that by Sebastian Bourdon in the Louvre; that of Beck, of which there is a copy in the library of the institute, the terra cotta medallion of the Versailles Museum, and an old portrait by an unknown painter belonging to M. Rulhe, of Courvevoie. The comparison of the skulls in these different portraits with that of the museum shows some striking resemblances, but never so complete an agreement as was found with the Hals portrait. Before Dr. Richer began his investigation much the same procedure was employed by Dr. Verneau, professor of anthropology at the museum, who came to the same conclusion. As a matter of history it is known that the skull was detached from the philosopher's body in 1666 by Israel Planstrom, Captain of the Queen of Sweden's Guards, and it was given to the French nation by Berzelius. Now that the relic has been satisfactorily identified, it is suggested that it should be placed in the coffin which contains the decapitated skeleton of the philosopher. This is in the Church of Saint Germain des Prés, where it lies in one of the chapels between the remains of Mabilion and those of Montfaucon. Another suggestion is that the skeleton and skull might be solemnly transferred to the Pantheon in accordance with a decree of the Convention of October 2, 1793, to which effect was never given. At a meeting of the Académie des Sciences on January 20, Professor Edmond Perrier declared that the identification having been made conclusively, it was no longer right that this relic of the great thinker should be left amidst the collections of the gallery of anthropology and paleontology in the museum. He undertook to have a kind of reliquary constructed in one of the rooms of the museum where there are already relics of other famous men. There the skull of Descartes will be

deposited, together with the documents establishing its authenticity.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

TENTATIVE plans for buildings to replace the burned College Hall of Wellesley College provide for a quadrangle, including four buildings, on the old site. It is expected that the college will be able to reopen on April 7.

AMHERST COLLEGE has received a bequest of \$5,000 for a scholarship under the will of Addison Brown, late of New York, and a non-graduate of the class of 1852.

UNDER the will of the late Dr. Rosewell Park the medical department of the University of Buffalo will receive his entire medical library of about three thousand volumes.

THE valuable psychological library of Dr. Arthur Henry Pierce, late professor of psychology at Smith College, has been given to the college.

It is said that the secretary of the interior has written to the chairman of the house committee on education expressing disapproval of the bill to establish a national university.

THE first structure that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has erected for its own uses on its site in Cambridge is the new aerodynamic laboratory. The building is finished and the apparatus is in process of installation. The portion of its equipment that is first to be installed is the four-foot wind tunnel with its accompanying blower. This is of the pattern now in use at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, England, which has furnished the plans.

It is expected that a school of fisheries will be established at the University of Washington. If the plans mature, the resulting school will be the first school of its kind in the United States, though there are such schools in Japan and other countries.

PROFESSOR FREDERICK SLOCUM, who for the past four years has been in charge of the solar observations and stellar parallax work at the Yerkes Observatory, has been elected professor