

men who have been refused service in the army or navy for minor defects may have these defects cured or so remedied that they will be able to enlist later. This is carrying out the plan of Dr. William Duffield Robinson, which won the approval of the surgeon-general. The entire equipment of the German-town Hospital has been offered.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE will of the late Colonel Oliver H. Payne provides bequests of more than \$7,000,000 to charitable and educational institutions. The largest gifts are to Yale University, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and the New York Public Library, each of which will receive \$1,000,000. An endowment of \$500,000 is bequeathed to the Cornell University Medical College. Other gifts include: Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., \$500,000; St. Vincent's Charity Hospital, Cleveland, \$200,000; Cleveland Jewish Orphans Asylum, \$200,000; Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., \$200,000, and the University of Virginia, \$200,000.

MRS. REED, widow of late Dean John O. Reed, has presented to the library of the department of physics of the University of Michigan about 400 scientific books and bound reprints from the library of Professor Reed, the books being principally on physics and mathematics. There was received from Mrs. Reed, also, a gift of eight prisms of special design of various kinds of glass and natural crystals made by Professor Reed and used by him in research work. Mrs. Guthe, widow of the late Dean Karl E. Guthe, has presented to the library about 100 volumes of scientific works from Professor Guthe's library, together with about 1,000 catalogued reprints of scientific papers and a card catalogue of several thousand references.

PROFESSOR ROBERT DEC. WARD, of Harvard University, is giving instruction in meteorology in the school for the preliminary training of aviators, recently established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in cooperation with the War Department. For the pur-

poses of this work, Professor Ward has become a member of the teaching staff at the Institute of Technology, and, under orders from the War Department, has been to Toronto to familiarize himself with the instruction which is there being given at the Cadet School of the Royal Flying Corps.

THE State College of Forestry at Syracuse announces the appointment of Mr. Ernest G. Dudley, of Leland Stanford University and the Yale Forest School, as assistant professor of forest extension. Mr. Dudley goes to the college from the U. S. Forest Service in California where he has recently been in charge of the Forest Service Exhibit at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego.

DR. MILTON C. WINTERNITZ, formerly associate professor of pathology in Johns Hopkins University, has been elected professor of pathology in the school of medicine of Yale University.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE

THE most remarkable coincidence known to me relates to the discovery of Perrine's second comet. I published the facts in the case in *The Observatory*, Vol. 26, pp. 293-94, 1903, where they were made familiar to many astronomers. On describing the coincidence recently to a group of my colleagues in other sciences they urged strongly that I republish the facts in a journal of more general character, and thus make known the occurrence to students in other subjects.

Professor Charles D. Perrine, of the Lick Observatory staff, discovered the first of his many comets on November 17, 1895. This was Comet *c* 1895. He observed it night after night until December 20, 1895, when it was lost to sight in the glare of the sun's rays. The orbit of the comet was accurately determined, and its path for the early months of 1896 was computed and published in advance. I had the pleasure of assisting Mr. Perrine when he first looked for its reappearance from behind the sun, on the morning (just before dawn) of January 30, 1896. He found it at once, in the