public informed of the work that is being done by British men of science.

THE session of the General Council of Red Cross Societies met in Paris during the first week of May. Among the questions dealt with was that of the development of the international course in public health nursing at the Bedford College for Women, London, which had attracted nurses from Red Cross Societies in thirty-four countries. Mlle. Masarykova, on behalf of the Czecho-slovak Red Cross Society, promised a grant of 50,000 francs towards the establishment of a home for nurses who attend this course. Mr. J. B. Payne, for the American Red Cross Society, promised a grant of 500,000 francs for the same purpose and the British delegate stated that his society would also contribute.

THE Experiment Station *Record* states that experiments in sheep breeding conducted for a third of a century by Dr. Alexander Graham Bell on his Nova Scotia estate are to be continued by the station under an arrangement just completed with Dr. Bell's heirs. The agreement will make it possible to combine Dr. Bell's extensive work on Cape Breton Island, continuing from 1890 almost to the time of his death, with the extensive studies in progress for the last fifteen years by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Bell was particularly interested in developing a more prolific breed of sheep and in increasing the milk yield of the ewes so that they could suckle more lambs. It is estimated that he had expended nearly $250,000 on this work, and he had attained considerable success in developing a flock with a very high percentage of twin bearers and with from four to six functional nipples instead of two. The station has been investigating sheep breeding as an Adams Act project, crossing different breeds with a view to determining the closeness with which the characters of hybrids are fixed, in the endeavor to produce a sheep that would combine some of the best features of the wool and mutton types and would be particularly profitable under New England conditions. Under the terms of the agreement the Bell estate will present to the station this fall five ewes and one ram, all of the four to six nipple strain, and all from either a twin or triplet progeny. The animals will be crossed with some of the station sheep, the records of which show a ewe that has produced consecutively five sets of twins and one of triplets, while fifteen additional ewes have produced from two to four twins and no singles. Since the profits in sheep raising come from the lamb crop even more than from the wool, the possibilities in this field are apparent. What has not been generally realized, however, is that the milk yield of the ewes must be developed in order that twin or triplet lambs should not have a stunted growth. This was a firm belief of Dr. Bell and has been emphatically shown by the station experiments.

AN experiment which began in Norfolk recently will, according to the London *Times*, be watched with interest by ornithologists. For 20 years Miss E. L. Turner, F.L.S., has spent each summer on an island in the middle of Hickling Broad, which was previously occupied by E. T. Booth, also widely known as an ornithologist. Mr. Booth, however, relied on his gun for securing specimens; Miss Turner has secured much more wonderful records with a camera. She has photographed the home life of the bittern, the reeve, the bearded titmouse, the great crested grebe and of almost all the Broadland residents, and has visited the Dutch meres and marshes, the Farne Islands and many other famous British breeding stations for birds. In the first week of April Miss Turner began a period of service as bird-watcher on Scolt Head Island for the Norfolk Wild Birds Protection Committee. She is residing in a bungalow, which has been presented by Mr. A. W. Cushion, of Norwich, and erected on a plateau halfway up the highest group of sand dunes. Probably for a considerable part of the season she and a companion will be the only residents on the island. Food, letters and newspapers will be taken daily to the island by boat from Brancaster Staithe, and Miss Turner will be able to devote her time to the observation, recording, photographing and protection of the birds that nest on the island. The protection given last year had very encouraging results, and it is hoped that the number of breeding birds and species will be augmented this year. It is hoped that Miss Turner will be able to observe the autumn migration on the island, as its connection with this great movement is quite unknown.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE General Education Board has given $180,000 to the new Medical School and Hospital of the University of Colorado, now under construction in Denver, and Mrs. Verner Z. Reed, of Denver, has contributed $120,000. The gift from the General Education Board is in addition to its gift of $700,000 made to the construction fund several years ago.

MRS. ELLEN COBB THORNE has given $250,000 to Northwestern University for a memorial to her husband, the late George R. Thorne.

NEGOTIATIONS are in progress to effect a merger of Western Reserve University with other institutions of Cleveland, Ohio, to form a University of Cleveland. These include the Case School of Applied Science, the Cleveland School of Education, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Cleveland School of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Western Reserve Historical Society Museum, the Lakeside Hospital, the Maternity Hospital and the Babies' Hos-

pital. It is planned to raise an endowment fund of twenty million dollars. The ceremonies in connection with the inauguration of Dr. Robert E. Vinson as president of the university will take place on October 9, 10 and 11.

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK has been unanimously elected to succeed the late Sir Edmund Walker as chancellor of the University of Toronto.

DR. GRAHAM EDGAR, professor of physical and applied chemistry in the University of Virginia, has resigned to join the staff of the research division of the General Motors Corporation.

DR. GEORGE K. K. LINK, who for a number of years has been an investigator in market pathology in connection with the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, has been appointed associate professor of plant pathology at the University of Chicago.

AT the Washington University School of Medicine appointments have been made as follows: Dr. David Preswick Barr, assistant professor of medicine at Cornell University, professor of medicine; Dr. Stephen Walter Ranson, professor of anatomy and head of the department of anatomy at Northwestern University Medical School, professor of neuro-anatomy, and Dr. Arthur Isaac Kendall, professor of bacteriology and dean of the Northwestern University Medical School, professor of bacteriology and hygiene.

DR. O. RECHE, of Hamburg, has been appointed professor of anthropology at the University of Vienna, which has been vacant since the death of Professor Pöck two years ago. At the University of Graz, Dr. Otfried Müller, of the University of Tübingen, has accepted the chair of anatomy which had been vacant for many years, and Professor Alfred Wegener, director of the meteorological division of the naval institute in Hamburg, has been appointed professor of meteorology.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF PLATINUM IN SOUTH AFRICA

DR. PERCY A. WAGNER, of the South African Geological Survey, has just sent me a copy of *Industries Bulletin* No. 101 of the survey, on "Platinum in the Waterberg district," prepared by himself and Tudor G. Trevor. As this gives full details regarding this recent much-heralded discovery, an abstract of the bulletin will be of interest.

The deposit is some 90 miles north of Pretoria and ten miles from the railroad to Pietersburg. The prevailing country rock is a felsite interspersed with a felsite tuff, and underlain by a granite which bears an intrusive relation to it. While in places this granite is exposed, at the principal platinum workings it is probably 500 feet beneath the surface. There are many later faults in the region, and the main platinum lode occupies one of them.

This main lode can be traced at the surface without a break for a distance of two and a half miles, and the best assays have been obtained from a branch of this lode. The lode is described as a quartz-impregnated fault zone, ranging from six to 28 feet in width, with poorly defined walls as a rule. The richer branch lode is from two to five and a half feet in width and is roughly parallel to the main lode and seems to be a branch fissure, rather than a fault. The lode filling varies much in character, but often consists of numerous quartz stringers separated by strips of felsite, sometimes of considerable width. More commonly the lode matter is conspicuously brecciated, angular fragments of pink felsite and of earlier-formed quartz combs or patches of specularite or hermatite lying in a matrix of later white quartz interspersed with druses, and invariably exhibiting a comby or radial-fibrous structure. There must have been several periods of brecciation and quartz deposition, and the quartz deposition and brecciation were evidently very closely connected, at least four generations of quartz being present.

In places the lode matter presents a bright green color, or is banded or streaked with green, owing to the presence in considerable amounts of a leek-green chromium mineral, evidently a chlorite. Nickel and copper were tested for with regative results, but one sample of the ore, containing perhaps 10 per cent. of the chlorite, gave 0.40 per cent. Cr_2O_3.

The platinum is rarely visible in the ore, but can be recognized by a lens. The individual grains range from 0.015 to 0.5 mm in diameter, and clearly belong to an early stage of the mineralization. It is frequently observed in intimate growth with specularite, being often enclosed in that mineral. It also occurs intergrown with quartz, and sometimes coated with secondary oxide, which makes it possible that at greater depths it will be found intergrown with or imbedded in pyrite. The later white quartz is probably barren of platinum.

The platinum bullion runs from 20 to 40 per cent. palladium, and sometimes contains small quantities of iridium, but this is often absent. The other metals of the platinum group have not been found, unless possibly traces of osmium. There is no evidence of iridosmium. Careful search was made for sperrylite, but none was found, nor has gold been recognized.

Cuts and shafts have been sunk to depths ranging from 12 to 40 feet, and have revealed the fact that the platinum is very unevenly and erratically distributed through the lodes, and that the rich ore is confined to shoots. The richest ore thus far opened is