

tion proposed has to do with the industrial possibilities of alcohol in Australia. Although this preliminary study relates chiefly to the commercial aspect, the council's main purpose is to investigate the social and physiologic effects of alcohol, and the rules for conducting these investigations set out that reports of results "shall not be couched in terms which advocate or oppose any scientific reform or existing condition." The president of the council is Mr. I. V. Newman (botanic research department of Sydney University); Dr. Arthur (minister for health in New South Wales) is the vice-president, and Mr. E. R. Walker (lecturer on economics of the Sydney University) is the assistant director of research.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A GRANT of \$1,000,000 has been given to Princeton University by the General Education Board. In making this announcement President Hibben said: "This generous gift of the General Education Board is most gratifying. It is made in recognition of the extensive capital expenditures already made by the university for the construction of buildings and developments of research work in the field of pure sciences. We were compelled to draw on the capital funds of the university for this purpose and are now able to return to our general endowment \$1,000,000. By so doing we are relieved from the necessity of curtailing general university expenditures in order to put through our far-reaching program in the fundamental sciences."

ANNOUNCEMENT was made at the commencement exercises of Wellesley College of gifts to the semi-centennial fund amounting to \$472,000, making the total to date \$8,057,000 and leaving \$943,000 to be raised to complete the \$9,000,000 program. The largest single item was the conditional gift of \$175,000 from Edward S. Harkness, of New York, if the college can raise \$525,000 by July 1. To date \$300,000 of this amount has been obtained.

PROFESSOR E. A. MILNE, of the University of Oxford, lectures on problems in astrophysics during the present summer session of the University of Michigan.

DR. HAROLD R. PHALEN, professor of mathematics and instructor in physics at St. Stephen's College, Columbia University, has been appointed dean of the college.

DR. GEORGE W. HUNTER, 3d, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been elected assistant professor of biology at Wesleyan University.

DR. W. STILES, F.R.S., of the University of Reading, has been appointed Mason professor of biology in the University of Birmingham.

DISCUSSION

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS OF JUNE 7, 1928

ON the night of June 7, 1928, an aurora borealis of unusual splendor was visible to observers of the Washington, D. C., region. So striking were the attendant phenomena in the skies that I have decided to place it on record, as it appeared to me and as I have recorded its phenomena in my notes.

I left the city at 10:20 P. M., arriving at Clarendon, Virginia, at 10:50. At that time the skies were exceptionally clear. The northern sky was strikingly radiant with a broad zone of whitish light similar to the sky illumination normally seen over a city. From this diffused zone of light streamers, narrow and broad, were flashing upwards in a vivid display. So vivid were these streamers that two young men sitting on a doorstep beholding the phenomenon had judged them to be some queer, restless search-light play of humans upon the northern skies. Shortly after this one of the most spectacular auroral displays I have ever seen came quickly into expression. The northern glow advanced rapidly upward from the horizon like tenuous cloud mists, soon covering the entire northern sky, and swinging somewhat more rapidly eastward than westward as it appeared. A zone of light then appeared to hang almost overhead like thin, far-away impalpable clouds catching moonlight. Eastward of my position these luminous clouds, on their outermost or southerly edges, were a decided greenish coloration bordering a broad reddish or pink zone to the northward, or to the left of the greenish luminosity as I faced the east. This reddish light reminded me of the thin pinkish light sometimes seen attending a lightning flash in the rapidly thinning clouds of a passing thunderstorm in the late afternoon. From time to time beautiful lance-like streamers and broad beams of light shot quickly upward to a point somewhat past the zenith. It appeared as if the focus of these was here, and at one time many radiated from this zenith point as it seemed, perhaps as a result of the phenomenon of optical perspective. The advance of the great auroral sheet of light was rapid, and it was but a short time until the front of the luminous zone of greenish or reddish light had reached a point somewhat south of the zenith line. The pivoting of the display appeared to be at the zenith point, but the luminous clouds swung more rapidly eastward than westward, so that the display eastward reached its highest development and glory and faded some time before the westward display, attended with the same tenuous luminosities of red and green, had reached the peak of its glory. At all times there were long, lance-like, quivering streamers at play straight to the zenith, some of them flashing from easterly and some