for young beginners; they are suitable, rather, for educated readers of maturer years, who desire to acquaint themselves with modern advances in the subjects in which they are interested.

L'Assaut du Pole Sud. By l'Abbé Th. Moreux. Pp. 221. (Paris: Jouve et Cie., 1911.) Price 1.50 francs.

THIS popular account of the various expeditions in Antarctic regions, arranged chronologically, will appeal to many readers. In English schools it might serve the double purpose of an interesting French text and leisure-hour reading in geography. The story is brought down to the present day and is illustrated, some of the pictures being views taken by Dr. Charcot on the *Pourquoi-Pas?*

Subject List of Works on Chemical Technology in the Library of the Patent Office. New Series, YN-ZB. Pp. iv+171. (London: The Patent Office, 1911.) Price 6d.

THE present list is concerned with oils, fats, soaps, candles, and perfumery; paints, varnishes, gums, resins, and india-rubber; and the paper and leather industries. With the volume, new series YK-YM, it supersedes "Patent Office Library Series, No. 7," published in 1901.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

The Late Sir Francis Galton.

I AM engaged on a memoir dealing with the life and work of the late Sir Francis Galton. He had a very wide correspondence, the width of which can only be appreciated by those who have seen the replies to his letters. Many of these are of great interest and value, and deal with important scientific problems. The main bulk of the letters start with 1885, although there are isolated letters from de Candolle, Speke, Buckland, Clerk Maxwell, and others from 1860 onwards. The letters from Francis Galton which led to these replies may still exist. May I appeal to any of your readers who have letters from Francis Galton to lend them to me for the preparation of this memoir? I should value especially any letters from 1850 to 1880; but all will be of value. Letters sent to me shall be carefully preserved, and returned if the owner desires it. Any letters which the owners are willing to present to this laboratory will be filed in the Galtoniana, which already contain many Galton manuscripts. KARL PEARSON.

Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics.

The Kaiser-Wilhelm Institut für physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie at Dahlem, near Berlin.

ON October 1 Prof. F. Haber began his work as director of the new Kaiser-Wilhelm Institut für physikalische Chemie und Elektrochemie at Dahlem, near Berlin. The buildings of the institute, work upon which was begun during the summer of this year, are being erected by the Prussian Government working in conjunction with the "Koppel-Stiftung for the purpose of improving the intellectual relations of Germany with other lands."

The Koppel-Stiftung, which was founded in Berlin some years ago by Geheimer Kommerzienrat Leopold Koppel, and until now has maintained the German School of Medicine in Shanghai and the American Institute in Berlin, will provide the funds for the erection of the new institute, and will also give 35,000 marks annually for its maintenance during a period of ten years. The Prussian Government has provided the site, which is situated at the terminus of the new underground railway from the centre of Berlin to Dahlem, and has endowed the institute with the sum of 50,000 marks annually.

The institute will be controlled by a board consisting of

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two representatives of the German Government, two representatives of the Koppel-Stiftung, and the director of the institute. The director has an absolutely free hand in the choice of his work, his fellow-workers, and his assistants.

For the admission of investigators who wish to follow their own lines of investigation in the institute with their own means, the director must have the assent of the board of control.

The institute will consist of scientific and technical departments in separate buildings. The building of the scientific department is 600 square metres in ground area, and has a basement, entirely underground, containing constant temperature rooms. On the ground floor are the professor's laboratory and consulting room, the offices, the calibrating room in which are to be kept the necessary laboratory standards, the mechanic's workshop, and a lecture theatre to seat twenty-five persons. Further lecture-rooms are not provided in the building, as *teaching in the ordinary sense is not contemplated in the institute.* The first floor will be devoted to the library, chief assistant's room, glass-blowing room, and a laboratory for eight research men. On the second floor are the living rooms for the mechanic and his family, since the mechanic also acts as caretaker. This floor also contains rooms for photo-chemistry, for scientific collections, and workplaces for several more research workers.

The building is connected by a corridor with the technical department, the most important feature of which is the machinery hall, with a floor space of 200 square metres. This hall is surrounded by smaller rooms for chemical preparations, high-voltage and heavy-current work, and a blacksmith's shop. The ground floor of the technical building contains a consultation room and the laboratory of the assistant in charge of that department. On the first floor is living accommodation for two assistants and an engine-man, and also a room for the serving of refreshments.

The director's house will be erected in the grounds of the institute.

Although there exists no stipulation on the point, it may be taken as a rule that, on account of the fact that no teaching as such is to be undertaken, only such students will be admitted by the director as have already finished their normal university course and desire a wider experience in scientific research. There are no restrictions whatever as to the nationality of the men admitted by the director.

The director of the institute, Prof. Haber, was born in Breslau in 1868, and obtained his Ph.D. in Berlin in 1891. After obtaining his degree he spent several years partly in technical work and partly in securing further scientific training. In 1894 he went to Karlsruhe, and was appointed Privat-dozent in chemical technology in 1896 and associate professor in 1898. In 1902 he was sent to America by the Bunsen Society of Applied Physical Chemistry to study the system of chemical instruction and the condition of electrochemical industries in the United States. In 1906 he was appointed to the post of professor in physical and electrochemistry in Karlsruhe, where he built up the best equipped research laboratory of physical chemistry in the world. Students from all parts of the world were attracted to this laboratory to such an extent that its accommodation was insufficient to allow all of them to enter, even although Prof. Haber admitted as many as forty men at one time as research workers. What was most remarkable was that he personally directed the work of all these men, and often aided them in their experimental work. In 1907 he was called to take the place of Lunge in Zürich as professor of chemical technology, and in 1909 he was asked to undertake the control of one of the largest chemical works in Germany, but he declined both these appointments.

Prof. Haber introduced into Germany the rational method of instruction in elementary chemistry as embodied in the laboratory outline written by Prof. Alexander Smith. This book was translated into German by Prof. Haber and Fritz Hiller. The two books, "*Lehrbuch der technischen Elektrochemie auf wissenschaftlicher Grundlage*" (1898, now out of print) and "*Thermodynamik technischer Gasreaktionen*" (1905; English edition 1908), together with numerous contributions to the *Zeitschrift für Elektro-*