

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OPENS INTERNATIONAL FISH SCHOOL

The University of Washington is to be an international center of the United States and Canadian fisheries research work on the Pacific coast, according to announcement from Dean John N. Cobb, of the College of Fisheries. The International Fisheries Commission, composed of official state fisheries commissions of Pacific coast states, Alaska, and British Columbia, together with the entire Canadian department of fisheries, will consolidate all work here. The university was selected especially because of its proximity to the halibut and salmon supply. Eighteen leading fisheries scientists will locate here, among them William S. Thompson of the California state fisheries and Dr. H. F. Rich of Washington, D. C.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

CONSTELLATION CHARTS, by S. G. Barton and W. H. Barton, a series of twelve charts, each 18 inches in diameter, accompanied by sixteen pages of descriptive matter, Philadelphia, 1925. For sale by S. G. Barton, 26 North Millick St., Philadelphia, or Eastern Science Supply Co, Box 1414, Boston, Mass; \$2.75.

To the student of the stars, whether amateur or professional, it has always been a source of regret that there has not been available any really satisfactory constellation charts, which would actually show the stars as they appear in the sky. Though many sets of charts have been published, and planispheres, designed to show the aspect of the heavens at any time, have been invented, they have all suffered from at least one disadvantage. A star but slightly within the limits of naked eye visibility has invariably been shown when near the horizon just the same as when it was at the zenith, even though the absorption of the atmosphere for the low altitude is actually enough to make it invisible. This has led not only to an unreal appearance of the skies, but has unduly crowded such maps.

Prof. S. G. Barton, who is in charge of the Flower Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania, has naturally recognized this defect, and in the present series of charts it has been corrected for the first time. The brightnesses of the stars, taken from the Harvard Revised Photometry, the standard authority for stellar magnitudes, have been represented by seven different symbols, and atmospheric absorption at low altitudes has been calculated and allowed for, with the result that the charts show the sky for each month as it actually appears to the eye.

By means of a most happy collaboration with Mr. W. H. Barton, an engineer of considerable ability, the execution of the charts, which has taken several years, is most excellent in every way, and they may be heartily recommended to anyone who wishes to know the constellations, as well as to those who already maintain a speaking acquaintance.