

University of Pennsylvania, \$212,000 to the Pennsylvania State College and \$112,000 to Jefferson Medical College. Large sums are also appropriated to some forty different hospitals throughout the State.

THE Rev. O. C. S. Wallace has accepted the chancellorship of McMaster University.

DR. J. L. GOODNIGHT has been appointed president of the West Virginia University, and Dr. P. R. Reynolds vice-president.

THE program of the department of astronomy in the University of Chicago announces among its officers of instruction S. W. Burnham, professor of practical astronomy, and E. E. Barnard, professor of astronomy, but the courses during 1895 will be given by Professor George E. Hale, Dr. T. J. J. Lee and Dr. Kurt Laves.

PROFESSOR ROBERT ADAMSON, now of the University of Aberdeen, has been appointed professor of logic in the University of Glasgow.

MR. W. T. A. EMTAGE, professor of mathematics and physics at University College, Nottingham, has been appointed principal of the Wandsworth Technical Institute.

THE regents of the University of California have built two brick dwellings on the summit of Mt. Hamilton for the use of the astronomers of Lick Observatory.

STEPS are being taken for the foundation of a Jewish University at Jerusalem.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIBLIOGRAPHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I have followed with great interest the discussion in SCIENCE about the proposed general index of scientific literature, the more so, as this subject has engaged my own speculations for some time past. Three or four years ago, while still in Sweden, I tried to interest librarians and literary men in the founding of a Bibliographic Society, one of the aims of

which should be to maintain a bibliographic bureau much of the same kind as foreshadowed by some of your correspondents. And last year I read before the *New York Library Club* a paper on 'International Subject Bibliographies,' afterwards printed in *The Library Journal*, July, 1894. The points there specially emphasized were:

1. That the big, monumental bibliographies are things of the past, the need of our days being shorter lists of the available literature in the several sciences and branches of sciences.

2. That such bibliographies should be international.

3. That the work should be carried on from some central bureau, established in connection with some great general library, and which could serve the double purpose, besides this one, of being an information bureau for scientific literature, and a training school for bibliographers. Of such bureaus there could be established several, *e. g.*, one for natural and physical sciences; one for history, geography and archæology; one for anthropology, social and political sciences, etc., and of course there would be needed one set of bureaus here in America, and one or several in Europe.

4. That the work should be in charge of some international congress, as I looked at it then, a Congress of Librarians.

I wish to emphasize right here, as has been done by the Harvard University Committee, that the word *science* should be taken in its very broadest aspect, no subject that can be treated in a systematic and scientific way to be from the outset excluded.

I will not enlarge now on the question of card index *vs.* book index, or on the several other details that have come up in the discussion, as I consider these to be of secondary importance to the questions: Shall anything whatever be done in the matter? And by whom?

If the first of these two questions is answered in the affirmative, the working body created and necessary means secured, then the details of the plan can safely be left for that body.

The *Royal Society* gave as the date, when the work ought to be in shape to begin, the year 1900; and I think that year is none too far away, as the necessary preparations, as a matter of course, will take some years.

It was proposed, and specially by Mr. G. Brown Goode, in his very full and suggestive article, that an *International Congress of Science* be organized, something of the same character as the American and British *Associations for the Advancement of Science*. I agree fully with this proposal of an international congress. But I would make its scope more narrow and to the point, an *International Congress of Bibliography*. And to prepare for this, I would suggest that there be started right here an organization committee to consult with interested bodies and persons both in America and in the European countries. Will the Editor of *SCIENCE* take this matter in his hands and call such a committee?

AKSEL G. S. JOSEPHSON.

LENOX LIBRARY, NEW YORK.

A CARD CATALOGUE OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

THE valuable papers that have appeared in *SCIENCE* on the practicability of a card catalogue of scientific literature have awakened a deep interest in the subject among those who feel how desirable a work of this kind would be to each individual worker in the field of science. Already an immense amount of scientific literature has accumulated which needs to be brought together in such a manner as to be readily accessible to the investigator, and, when we consider the rate at which it is increasing, the necessity for adopting and putting into operation some plan by which the users of scientific

literature may be able to find all that has been written upon a given subject pertaining to science becomes strikingly apparent.

The writer has been engaged in preparing a bibliography and index of certain subjects for several months past, and the desire that the results and such tentative deductions as may be drawn from them may be added to our knowledge of the actual possibilities of a catalogue of scientific literature, and that other workers in this line may be induced to give us their experience, represents the object of this communication. The work just referred to was begun without previous training in this special line and with somewhat indefinite ideas as to what might be accomplished in the time that could be devoted to it. The opinions that have been formed during its progress, in their bearing on the present discussion, will first be stated before describing in some detail the scope and character of the work that is now being carried on.

1. The card catalogue, it has been said, has its limitations. This must be evident to every one when it is considered that such a catalogue as has been recommended to the Royal Society by the Harvard University Committee will extend over a series of years and must inevitably become bulky and unwieldy even when applied to but a single branch of science. Then, too, something more than a bibliography is becoming necessary. This is readily seen when one considers the time and labor expended in frequently running through a long list of titles of papers in order to find what has been written on a given subject.

2. Such a work should be published in book form after the close of each year and contain a bibliographic catalogue and a subject index. It is unnecessary that the indexing should be carried to the extreme, but simply to gather together under each special division of every branch of science