SINCE our last issue news has reached us of the death of the eminent English physician, Sir Russell Reynolds, who died at London on May 29th at the age of 68. He was the President of the British Medical Association, and until lately President of the Royal College of Physicians and Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in University College. He made important contributions to the scientific study of diseases of the nervous system, being one of the first to apply the statistical method. He was also the editor of the first 'English System of Medicine,' which appeared in five large volumes between 1866 and 1878.

CAPTAIN JOHN G. BOURKE, United States army, died in Philadelphia on June 8th. He had a brilliant record as a soldier, but deserves mention in this place owing to his contributions to anthropology and folk-lore. He was this year President of the Folk-lore Society. It is also proper to record in this JOURNAL the death of Mr. George Munroe, the New York publisher, not only on account of his generous gifts, which included $500,000 to Dalhousie College, Hallifax, but because he was from 1850 to 1856 instructor in mathematics in the Free Church College, Halifax.

M. DAUBRÉE, the eminent geologist, has died at the age of 82. He was from 1839 to 1855 a professor at Strasburg University, whence he was called to a chair at the School of Mines and the Natural History Museum, Paris.

WE regret that we must record in this issue an unusually large number of deaths of men of science. These include Dr. Finkelnburg, of Bonn, author of important works on hygiene; M. Raulin, professor of industrial and agricultural chemistry in the University of Lyons; Mr. Richard Sims, the antiquarian; Dr. Joseph Alexis Stolz, at the advanced age of 92, a native of Alsace, who was a professor at the Strasburg Faculty of Medicine till 1871, removed with the faculty to Nancy, and retired in 1880; Sir George Johnson, F. R. S., an eminent physician and professor of clinical medicine in King's College, at the age of 78; Dr. Hosius, of Münster, professor of mineralogy, at the age of 70; Professor Schickendantz, the chemist, at Buenos Ayres; Dr. Ludwig Mark, associate professor of agriculture at Königsburg, at the age of 56, and Dr. Wilhelm Hanke, sometime professor of anatomy at Tübingen, at the age of 62.

*Natural Science* notes that Mr. G. A. Boulenger is one of the first to use X-rays for purposes of systematic zoölogy, having used a skiagram to determine the more important points in the skeleton of the rare toad *Pelodytes caucasicus*, the second known species of the genus represented by a single specimen. The skiagram showed the junction of the astragalus and calcaneum, the form and extent of the fronto-parietal fontanelle, the shape of the widely-expanded sacral transverse processes and the direction of those of the lumbars.

THE *Lancet* states that an effort is at present being made to establish a museum in the historic city of Derry, Londonderry, and it is suggested that Gynn's Institution might be let for purpose of a museum at a nominal rent. There is a nucleus of a museum, which was some time ago handed over to Mr. Bernard, and at present the articles are being arranged in suitable cases. They are chiefly minerals. Moreover, several local gentlemen have private collections which would probably be forthcoming if a suitable habitation were obtained. Mr. Bernard, whose stock of relics and curios is a most valuable one, has expressed his willingness to give them to a local museum, and Sir J. A. MacCullagh has also a series of relics specially associated with the past history of Derry. It is hoped a building will soon be set apart for the museum.

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*UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.*

IT is announced in the daily papers that Sir Donald Smith will build in Montreal a Royal College for women, at a cost of $2,000,000.

MISS HELEN CULVER has added $25,000 to the $1,000,000 she had already given to the University of Chicago. This sum is to be added to the $300,000 set apart for the erection of four biological buildings.

THE class of 1876 of Princeton University has subscribed $15,000 towards the endowment of a McCosh professorship of philosophy.

THE scientific school of Harvard University will offer, during the summer, courses in surveying in Martha's Vineyard.

LIEUT. MURRAY, of the First Artillery, United States Army, has been appointed to succeed Capt. Pettit as professor of military tactics at Yale University.

IN addition to the fellowships in the scientific departments of Cornell University, announced in the last number of this JOURNAL, the following appointments have been made: In civil engineering, Stephen Gregory, C.E. (University of Texas); chemistry, Hector R. Carveth, A.B. (University of Toronto); physics, Arthur L. Foley, A.B., A.M. (University of Indiana). Twenty-two fellowships and sixteen scholarships are awarded annually at Cornell University.

DR. ARTHUR ALLIN has been appointed professor of psychology and pedagogy in the Ohio University at Athens.

THE *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau* announces the following appointments: Dr. Otto Fischer, associate professor in the University of Leipzig; Dr. Paul Eisler, full professor of anatomy in the University of Halle; Dr. L. Joubin, professor of zoölogy in the Faculty of Science at Rennes; Dr. H. Prous, professor of zoölogy in the Faculty of Science in Lille; Dr. J. A. Wislicenus, professor at the School of Forestry at Tarandt; Dr. G. Frege, full professor of mathematics at the University of Jena; Dr. H. Klinger, full professor of pharmaceutical chemistry in the University of Königsberg, and Dr. Scholl, assistant professor of chemistry at Karlsruhe.

THE following docents have recently been recognized in German Universities: Dr. v. Geitler, at Prague, for physics; Dr. Hans Batterman, at Berlin, for astronomy; Dr. Wagner, of Strasbourg, at Giessen, for zoölogy; Dr. J. Hofer, at the technical high school at Munich, for electrolysis, and Dr. Scholl, at Leipzig, for physics.

## *DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.*

### THE HABIT OF DRINKING IN YOUNG BIRDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In response to a request that has just reached me, may I ask for space in your columns to say that the statement I made with regard to the habit of drinking in young birds was to the following effect? The chicks that I have observed pick instinctively at any small objects at suitable distance. If a small drop of water be such an object they will peck at that. But if a shallow tin of water be placed in their run the stimulus of the sight of still water does not evoke any instinctive drinking response. If there be grains of sand or food, or other objects at the bottom of the tin, they will peck at these and incidentally find the water. Sometimes they will peck at a bubble on the brim. Sometimes when one is thus led to drink others will follow by imitation. No sooner does the beak touch the water than, in the domestic chick, up goes the head and the instinctive drinking response is shown. I have seen ducklings waddle through the tin repeatedly and not stop to drink, though I had reasons for believing that they were thirsty; for when I dipped the beak of one of them beneath the water he drank eagerly and continued to do so for some time. On the other hand a little Moor hen or water hen, when I quickly lowered it at about 16 hours old into water, drank so soon as its breast touched the surface. It then swam off with instinctive definiteness of coördinated leg-movements.

The statement of fact (so far as my observations go) that I made was this: that the sight of still water evoked no instinctive response; but that the touch of water in the bill at once evoked the characteristic instinctive behavior.

C. LLOYD MORGAN.

### A SUGGESTED EXPERIMENT ON HEREDITY.

As far as I have learned, there has been as yet no series of direct experiments on natural selection and heredity of acquired characters with adult animals. The success of Mr. Waller, President Cleveland's sporting friend, in baiting wild mallards with grain on platforms at different depths, so that the ordinary mallard is forced at length to dive six feet for its food, suggests that if such ducks were carefully thus trained, segregated and bred under scientific supervision, there might come some important results as bearing on the modification of struc-