

and the skill, intelligence and enterprise of physicians may be depended upon to make an investigation."

THE laboratory courses in biology at Wesleyan University will be conducted next year by Mr. Estlin during the absence of Professor Conn in Europe.

THE Berlin correspondent of the London *Times* writes that, at the recent Medical Congress, Professor Liebreich, who may, perhaps, be described as the leader of the anti-Koch party in the Berlin scientific world, stated his theory of tuberculosis as opposed to Professor Koch's. Phthisis, he said, might be present without tuberculous bacilli as concomitants. The reception of tuberculous bacilli into the system had an injurious effect only in cases where there existed a predisposition to disease, and thus the bacilli were only parasites. It was a radically false method to attempt merely to deliver a consumptive patient from the presence of bacilli. The chief thing was to increase the vital power of the cellular tissue. Cantharidine was a specific capable of producing this result. Was there any method of disinfecting the cellular system? In Professor Liebreich's experience he found that etherized oil of mustard had this effect. The lecturer did not think that the therapeutic systems which had been built up on the basis of bacteriology were defensible. The results obtained with diphtheritic serum were apparent rather than real. Professor Koch's method of treating tuberculosis had no prospect of ultimate success. Professor Liebreich's views were summarized in the sentence: "Tuberculosis is a 'nosoparasitism,' and the essential feature of the disease is the deterioration of the organism." Several subsequent speakers of eminence strongly combated Professor Liebreich's assertions, urging in particular the indubitable successes obtained with diphtheritic serum.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE Hull Biological Laboratories of the University of Chicago were formally dedicated on July 2d. The presentation was made by Miss Helen Culver and the acceptance

acknowledged by the President. The dedicatory address was made by Professor William H. Welch, of the Johns Hopkins University, his subject being 'Biology and Medicine.' The laboratories were open to inspection in the afternoon. A dinner was given to the visiting biologists before Professor Welch's address and a reception was given afterwards by the members of the biological faculties to Miss Culver and Professor Welch.

THE University of Chicago will erect a new building outside the University grounds which will contain the plant for power, light and heat, the extensive printing and bookbinding establishment and a retail bookselling and stationery department.

THE trustees of the College of the City of New York have approved the purchase of a site on Convent Avenue, and have authorized the executive committee to select plans for the buildings.

PRESIDENT G. J. KOLLEN, of Hope College, situated at Holland, Mich., announced at the recent commencement that \$100,000 had been subscribed for the College by various donors.

By the will of the late Dr. John T. Atwater, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Yale University receives land valued at \$25,000.

THE Ohio Supreme Court has handed down a decision that gives the Ohio State University the estate left by the late Mr. Henry F. Page, consisting of farms and personal property, the exact value of which is not known.

THE Thirty-fifth University Convocation of the State of New York met at Albany from the 28th to 30th of June, with a large attendance of those interested in higher education. Addresses were made by Chancellor Upson, Governor Black and President Canfield, of the Ohio State University. The first morning was devoted to the teaching of science, papers being presented on the 'Present Trend of Geography,' by Professor W. M. Davis, Harvard University; on 'Methods of Teaching Botany in the Secondary Schools,' by Professor Geo. F. Atkinson, Cornell University; on 'The Proper Use of Library and Laboratory in Teaching Physical Science in

the Secondary Schools,' by Professor John F. Woodhull, Teachers' College, New York; on 'The Practical Study of the Brain in a Primary School,' by Professor Burt G. Wilder, Cornell University, and on 'The Place of Electricity in the College Curriculum,' by Brother Potamian, Manhattan College. These papers were discussed by Professor A. P. Brigham, Colgate University; Professor E. L. Nichols, Cornell University; Professor W. LeConte Stevens, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and others. Among other subjects considered by the convocation were Athletic and Oratorical Contests, Instruction in Ethics in Secondary Schools, The Relations of the College to the University and a National University, under which latter subject Professor R. H. Thurston, Cornell University, read a paper entitled, 'The National University and Technical Education.' In some remarks on the work of the University, Regent T. Guilford Smith called special attention to the work in geology and botany of Dr. F. J. H. Merrill and Mr. J. A. Lintner.

THE New York State Teachers' Association met at the Normal College, New York, from June 30th to July 2d, with about 2,000 members in attendance. There was a nature study section in which papers were read on 'Nature Study in a Crowded City,' 'The Use of the Microscope,' 'The Mounting of Botanical Specimens,' 'Literary Aids,' and other subjects of interest to teachers of science in the schools. A State Society for Child Study was organized with Mr. George Griffith, of Utica, as President, and Professor M. V. O'Shea, recently elected professor of pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin, as Secretary and Treasurer.

DR. CHARLES E. BEECHER has been promoted to a University professorship of historical geology at Yale University, and Dr. L. V. Pirsson to a professorship of physical geology in the Lawrence Scientific School.

DR. F. E. HULL, of Toronto University and the University of Chicago, has been appointed to the chair of physics in Colby University, vacant by the resignation of Professor William A. Rogers.

THE following promotions and appointments have recently been made by the Trustees of the

Johns Hopkins University: John M. T. Finney, M.D., now associate, to be associate professor of surgery; Lorrain S. Hulburt, Ph. D., now associate, to be collegiate professor of mathematics; James E. Humphrey, S.D., now lecturer, to be associate professor of botany; William J. A. Bliss, Ph.D., now assistant, to be associate in physics; N. Ernest Dorsey, Ph. D., now fellow, to be assistant in physics; William T. Mather, Ph.D., now fellow, to be assistant in physics; George B. Shattuck, Ph. D., now fellow, to be assistant in geology; Oliver L. Fassig, S.B., of the U. S. Weather Bureau, to be instructor in climatology; Charles R. Bardeen, M.D., to be assistant in anatomy.

FELLOWSHIPS at the Johns Hopkins University have been awarded as follows: F. S. Conant, Zoology (the Bruce fellowship); Cleveland Abbe, Jr., Geology; G. A. Drew, Biology; C. W. Greene, Biology; J. G. Hardy, Mathematics; W. A. Jones, Chemistry; C. E. Mendenhall, Physics; S. A. Mitchell, Astronomy; J. L. Nichols, Pathology; E. E. Reid, Chemistry, C. W. Waidner, Physics. It appears that these awards represent four notable instances of heredity either of 'nature' or of 'nurture.'

THE White professorship of moral philosophy at Oxford, vacant by the death of the late Professor Wallace, has been filled by the selection of Mr. John Alexander Stewart, tutor of Christchurch, and known as the editor of Aristotle's *Ethics*.

THE allowance made from the public funds for the English University Colleges and for the College at Dundee has this year been increased from £15,000 to £25,000. On the recommendation of a committee, consisting of Mr. T. H. Warren, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Mr. G. D. Liveing, professor of chemistry, Cambridge, the apportionment has been made as follows:

The Owens College, Manchester.....	£3,500
University College, London.....	3,000
University College, Liverpool.....	3,000
Mason College, Birmingham.....	2,700
King's College, London.....	2,200
Yorkshire College, Leeds.....	2,200
Durham College of Science.....	2,200
University College, Nottingham.....	1,500

Firth College, Sheffield.....	1,300
University College, Bristol.....	1,200
Bedford College, London.....	1,200
University College, Dundee.....	1,000

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

## A PLEA FOR 'SCIENT.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I wish to ask you not to use 'Scientist' in the pages of SCIENCE any longer, but to employ in its place the term 'Scient,' which is already well known in English in such compounds as 'omniscient' and 'prescient.' 'Scientist' appears to have been formed from 'Science' after the fashion of Artist from Art, but the 't' is an unfortunate intruder, and the better derivative would have been 'Sciencist.' But 'Scient' is shorter and much more correct. Moreover, it is the exact equivalent of the French term 'Savant,' which is frequently used in English also, but generally in a more or less derisive sense. Therefore, let us in future say 'Scient' (= 'sciens,' a man that knows) to which there is no possible objection, and which is already in frequent use in composition.

T. L. SCLATER.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,  
June 23.

[It is easier to name a hundred species than to give currency to one obsolete word. The word 'Scientist' was introduced by the late Dr. B. A. Gould. It is not used in editorial contributions to this JOURNAL, but being a useful word, correctly formed (from *scientia*; cf., scientific), it bids fair to outlive its ugly associations, perhaps more quickly in Great Britain than in the United States.—ED. SCIENCE.]

## SHARPENING MICROTOME KNIVES.

SINCE Professor Minot has brought into prominent notice\* Moll's method of sharpening microtome knives, it might be of interest to call attention to the fact that in an earlier paper†

\* SCIENCE, N. S. 5, No. 127, June 4, 1897. Pp. 865-866.

† Moll, J. W., *Het slijpen van microtoom-nessem*, Botanisch Jaarboek uitg. door het Kruidondig Genootschap Dodonaea te Gent. 3, 1891, 541-554. Pl. 15; with a French résumé, pp. 554-556. (Gent, J. Vuylsteke.)

Moll describes a very useful part of the method which is not mentioned in the article cited by Professor Minot. It consists simply in the use of emery and water on plate glass to grind the knife into shape and to renew the edge when it has been injured in any way. After trying numerous abrasives, including the particular grades of emery used by Moll, I discovered that carborundum is by far the best for this purpose. It is so extremely hard and is supplied in such uniform grades\* that it is possible after the knife has once been ground to shape to grind out a bad nick in a few minutes, which greatly minimizes the annoyances of cutting resistant tissues. After the edge has been smoothed as much as possible with the finest grade of carborundum, diamantine† is used as Professor Minot describes. Moll recommends using one side of the plate for grinding and the other for polishing the edge. To grind into shape the edge of a knife or razor as furnished by the manufacturer is a matter of considerable difficulty, and here in particular carborundum or emery is almost indispensable. Those possessing microtomes in which razors can be clamped will probably find it more convenient to obtain thick razors already ground to shape and with the superfluous part of the cutting edge removed, as advocated by Moll. Such razors, of good English manufacture, slightly hollow-ground, and having a cutting edge measuring about 14-16°, are sold by P. J. Kipp & Zonen, Delft, Holland, for \$2.50. (A glass plate mounted on a wooden block for sharpening the same can be had for \$1.25.) These razors are rigid, in this respect very different from the thin, very hollow-ground ones usually found on the market. They have an advantage over knives in being more easily handled, besides being cheaper and easier to protect from injury when not in use.

WALTER T. SWINGLE.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

\* I have used the No. 2 Carborundum of the 'sizes' 220, 1 minute, 5 minutes and 10 minutes, supplied by the Carborundum Company, Monongahela City, Pa.

† No. 1 pour franchir of A. Guyot-Lupold, Locle, Switzerland.