

for undergraduates are announced, viz., the Charlotte Louisa Williams Scholarship, founded by Mrs. Peter M. Bryson and Miss Grace H. Dodge, which is tenable for one year, yields \$150 a year, and is for women, and the Earle Scholarship for men, also awarded annually, and worth \$150 a year.

MR. WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH has given the University of Glasgow property yielding an income of £150 a year for a fellowship in physics. *Nature* states that Mr. Houldsworth has taken this method of showing his interest in the welfare of the University and the advancement of science, and his recognition of the distinguished services rendered to scientific research by Lord Kelvin during a professorship of fifty years.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, Oxford, will award, in October, a fellowship in medical science.

THE seventh summer session of Cornell University will be held from July 5 to August 13, 1898. An announcement of the courses of instruction, just issued, shows that fourteen departments of study will be represented, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, botany and experimental engineering.

ACCORDING to the daily papers Mr. James M. Davis, of St. Louis, has 'bought' Garfield University at Wichita, Kan., and will present it to the Society of Friends.

THE London University Commission Bill has been read for the second time in the House of Lords.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM W. BIRDSALL, now Principal of Friends' Central School of Philadelphia, has been elected President of Swarthmore College, to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of President Charles De Garmo, lately appointed to the position of head of the pedagogical department of Cornell University.

CHANCELLOR C. M. ELLINWOOD, of the Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Neb., has resigned, and Dr. D. W. C. Huntington has been made Chancellor temporarily.

DR. W. J. SIMPSON, late health officer of Calcutta, has been appointed professor of hygiene in King's College, London.

KING'S COLLEGE, Cambridge, has elected to professional fellowships Mr. James Alfred Ew-

ing, M.A., F.R.S., professor of mechanism and applied mechanics, and Mr. A. A. Kanthack, M.A., professor of pathology.

THE professorship of surgery at Cambridge University has been suspended for the present and a reader will be appointed. The lectureship in geography will be made a readership, the Council of the Royal Geographical Society having continued the annual grant of £150 for a term of five years. To this grant the University adds £50.

PROFESSOR BASTIAN has retired from the chair of clinical medicine in University College, London, after a service of twenty years.

MME. MADELEINE LEMAIRE, the flower painter, has been appointed professor of botanical drawing at the Jardin des Plantes, Paris.

DR. K. GROOS, of Giessen, has been appointed professor of philosophy at Basel.

DR. PH. LENARD, assistant professor of physics in the University of Heidelberg, has been called to the chair of physics at Kiel.

DR. A. SAUER, docent in mineralogy, and Dr. Bela Haller, docent in zoology, have been promoted to assistant professorships in the University of Heidelberg.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE LONGEVITY OF SCIENTIFIC MEN.

IN the *Cosmopolitan Magazine* for March, I quoted from the *Popular Science Monthly* of May, 1884, certain statistics with regard to the longevity of astronomers from Dr. A. B. Lancaster, who derived his data from the records of 1741 astronomers as given in Houzeau and Lancaster's 'Bibliographie générale de l'astronomie.' Lancaster's figures agree, in a general way, with those given by Quetelet in his 'Anthropometrie,' and with those given by Riccardi in his 'Biblioteca mathematica Italiana.' In *SCIENCE* for March 18th the editor objects to Dr. Lancaster's conclusions and points out what he supposes to be an error of method on Lancaster's part. In fact, his own method is identical with Lancaster's. Their data are quite different, however. The difference in results depends entirely upon the difference of data. Dr. Lancaster assumes that an astronomer 'begins his career,' and deserves

a place on the list, at the age of 18 years. The editor, on the other hand, fixes the age at 40 years. Professor Jastrow in *SCIENCE*, volume 8, fixes the age in question at 37 years. We have thus three opinions as to the data and, naturally, three results. After examining these three opinions I venture to add a fourth—namely, that the age fixed by Lancaster is too low; that the editor's is much too high and that Professor Jastrow's is somewhat too high. Jastrow's conclusion is: "Men of thought live 69.5 years, or 3.5 years longer than ordinary men, while the lives of men of feeling [poets, musicians, artists, etc.] are three years, those of men of action five years shorter than those of average men." These statements show 'that the kind of psychical and physical activity influences the life period.' Quantitative results in this matter are only to be reached after a critical study of the data. Neither Lancaster nor the editor have made such a study. The assumption of Professor Jastrow is so based, but the details of his processes are not given. I am inclined to think that for astronomers his figures are too low.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MARCH 20, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: In the matter of the longevity of scientific men, I should like to direct the attention of your readers to an article which I published in *SCIENCE* of October 1, 1886 (reprinted in *Nature* November 4, 1886). I there considered the erroneous conclusions as to the longevity of astronomers and mathematicians, which Professor Holden has recently revived. Inasmuch as I had available in the case of a considerable number of great men the approximate date at which they accomplished work, which would presumably entitle them to a place on this list, I was able to compare more exactly the average longevity of these great men with the average longevity of ordinary men who had reached a similar age. This age I found to be about 37 years, which, with the expectation of life at that age, namely 29 years, would make the age at death 66 years, which was precisely the age at death of the great men selected for this comparison. It is quite possible that men of science live longer than other

great men; but, if so, it would, of course, be only a very modest increase of years consistent with the known laws of variation.

JOSEPH JASTROW.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,

March 20, 1898.

#### SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

##### A NEW EDITION OF ECKER'S FROG.\*

THERE is probably no single animal, man excepted, which is more studied than the frog. It can be had in quantities; it presents the characters of the vertebrates in a comparatively simple condition, and hence it is used in every zoological course, while the vitality of its tissues renders it of extreme value to the physiologist. Naturally, such a useful animal has been the subject of considerable literature, and outlines of its structure will be found in almost every laboratory manual. Most of these, however, present only outlines, but in 1864 Alexander Ecker, then professor of anatomy in the University of Freiburg, began the publication of what was intended to be an exhaustive account of the anatomy of the common frog of Europe. Ill health, and finally death, prevented his completion of the work, but it was taken up and carried through by Wiedersheim, who succeeded Ecker in the anatomical chair, the final part appearing in 1882. Later (1889) an English edition of the work appeared, but this was more than a translation, for its editor, Dr. George Haslam, left his impress on every chapter, his changes in some instances amounting to a complete revision of certain sections.

Now a new German edition is in process of publication, and it is interesting to note that the new editor, like his predecessors, is connected with the anatomical institute of the University of Freiburg. Professor Gaupp began his studies of the frog in 1892, and since that time most of his publications have related to that animal, its skeleton and its muscles; especially noteworthy

\* A. Ecker's und R. Wiedersheim's *Anatomie des Frosches auf grund Untersuchung durchaus neu bearbeitet von Dr. Ernst Gaupp*. Erste Abtheilung, dritte Auflage. Braunschweig, Vieweg und Sohn. 1896. Pp. x+229. Zweite Abtheilung, erste Hälfte, zweite Auflage. Braunschweig. 1897. Pp. ii+234. 22 Marks.