

gestion being made that a grant of £500 a year should be made for five years.

EXPERIMENTS are being undertaken by Professor Lawrence Bruner, of the University of Nebraska, to determine the methods that might be used in spreading among our native species a locust disease discovered by him in South Africa last year. The disease is closely related to the fungus used for destroying chinch bugs in some parts of the United States. Professor Bruner contributes an article on the subject to the July bulletin of the Nebraska Section of the Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau.

THE *British Medical Journal*, quoting from the *Morning Post*, states that two members of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Signor Leopoldo Franchetti and Signor Fortunato, have issued a circular proposing the foundation of a society for studying the phenomena of malaria. "The malaria," they state, "keeps 2,000,000 hectares (nearly 5,000,000 acres) of ground in Italy from cultivation; it effects, more or less, 63 provinces and 2,823 communes; and every year it poisons about 2,000,000 inhabitants, killing 15,000 of them. It is impossible to estimate the economic damage done to our country by the scourge, and no sanitary problem is more intimately bound up with the question of our prosperity." The authors of the circular, therefore, propose that a society be formed for studying malaria and for discovering the best means of combating it. Those who contribute 500 lire will have the title of founders, and ordinary members will pay 36 lire a year. Signor Franchetti and Signor Fortunato have subscribed 1,000 lire each.

THE first Congress of Legal Medicine will be held at Turin in October, under the presidency of Professor Lombroso.

A METEOROLOGICAL department in connection with the Federal telegraph service has just been established in Mexico.

THE government of British Guiana has lately taken steps of great practical utility in arranging for geological surveys in the gold districts. *Nature*, quoting from a report on the gold and forest industries of British Guiana, states that a survey has already been conducted by Professor J. B. Harrison in the northwest district

and the results embodied in a report, while an additional report on the petrology of the district is awaiting publication. A further expedition to examine the formations of the Potaro-Conawarook district is now being organized. The great importance of this work will be recognized in view of the fact that there are no trustworthy official reports on the geology of British Guiana in existence. The experience of the past ten years has proved that British Guiana is rich in gold; and what is now needed is the importation into the colony, and the adoption of, mechanical washing appliances for alluvial gold. By such means deposits of alluvial gold, vast areas of which are known to exist, but would not pay to work by the means now employed, could be made to produce large quantities of gold. During the year ending on June 30th the amount of gold exported from the colony was 117,265 ounces, or a decrease of 10,326 ounces upon the output of 1896-97. This serious decrease is partly ascribed to exceptionally bad weather, and partly to the exhaustion of alluvial workings in the Barima district.

THE N. Y. Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission proposes to purchase about 50,000 acres of land in the Catskills, in addition to the 56,212 acres already owned by the State. The Commission reports that deer are increasing very rapidly in the Catskills. It is estimated that the 44 animals turned loose about a year ago have increased to 150, and that there will be between 400 and 500 of these animals at the expiration of the five-year period during which their killing is prohibited.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE second cousins of Dr. Elizabeth H. Bates, who died at her home at Port Chester, N. Y., a few months ago, leaving the University of Michigan an estate valued at \$125,000, for the establishment of a chair for diseases of women and children, have filed a notice at Ann Arbor that they will contest the will.

At the New Mexico Agricultural College and Experiment Station, Professor C. H. T. Townsend has been appointed Biogeographer and Systematic Entomologist to the Station; E. O.

Wooten has been appointed professor of botany, and T. D. A. Cockerell has been appointed professor of entomology in addition to being Station Entomologist.

ROBERT B. OWENS, for the past seven years professor of electrical engineering in the University of Nebraska, has resigned in order to accept a similar position in McGill University, Montreal. His successor has not yet been appointed.

T. PROCTOR HALL has been appointed professor of physics in Kansas City University.

DR. BLOCHMAN, professor of zoology in the University of Rostock, has been called to Tübingen as successor to the late Professor Eimer; Dr. Fritsch has been appointed Director of the Botanical Museum of the University of Vienna; Dr. D. K. Morris, lecturer in technical electricity in the Mason University College, Birmingham; Dr. D. Frazer Harris, lecturer in physiology in the University of St. Andrew's. Dr. Kerschner, of the University at Innsbruck, has been promoted to a full professorship of histology; Dr. Reitzenstein, of the University of Mühlhausen, has qualified as docent in chemistry in the University at Würzburg; Dr. Kolkwitz, in botany in the University of Berlin; Dr. Klingenberg, in mechanical engineering, in the Polytechnic Institute of Berlin; Dr. Schröter, in botany, in the University at Bonn, and Dr. Rothmund, in physical chemistry, in the University of Munich.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF PLACOCEPHALUS (BIPALIUM) KEWENSE IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Two specimens of land-planarians from the Sandwich Islands were sent to the writer from the National Museum for identification which proved to be the interesting Placocephalus (Bipalium) Kewense. They were taken by Dr. Steiniger in November, 1896, on the island of Oahu, at the top of the Pali, near Honolulu. The specimens were small ones, and in the living condition could not have exceeded 150 mm. in length. If we except New Zealand, this form has been known in the Pacific only from Upolu, one of the Samoan Islands, and its occurrence in the Sandwich Islands is of es-

pecial interest in bridging over a large gap in the distribution of so cosmopolitan a form. Doubtless it has also been introduced there, where so much of the vegetation is of foreign origin.*

The writer† has recorded the occurrence of this species in the United States at Cambridge, Mass, and has since received specimens from Baltimore, Md.; Pittsburg and Allegheny, Pa., and Springfield, Ohio, in every case from green-houses. Outside of the tropics the form has been taken only in plant houses. The writer would be grateful for any specimens or information from the Pacific Coast.

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MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., August 15, 1898.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

La Theorie Platonicienne des sciences. Par ÉLIE HALÉVY. Paris, Félix Alcan.

It is to be feared that Mr. Halévy and his reviewer have gained admission to the pages of SCIENCE under cover of an *équivoque*. The word 'sciences' in Mr. Halévy's title has perhaps a somewhat broader meaning than that it bears in ordinary English usage. It is rather 'knowledge' than 'science.' Mr. Halévy's book is not an account of Plato's supposed contributions to mathematics and astronomy, or a discussion of his casual utterances concerning the inchoate physical sciences of the fourth century B. C. It deals rather with epistemology than with physical science. Its main thesis is that the Platonic philosophy is the result of a dialectical analysis of the epistemological conditions of the sciences—of the 'knowledges,' of the certainty of human knowledge. The arts and sciences exist. What are the logical presuppositions of their existence and of our sense of certainty regarding them? Whatever philosophy of ideas is involved in the very existence of a body of arts and sciences must be a true philosophy. In constructing such a philosophy out of Plato's dramatic dialogues Mr. Halévy displays great ingenuity and power of consecutive logical thought. He over-refines,

* For the distribution of this interesting form see Colin, A. Sitzungs. Gesell. naturf. Freunde, Berlin, Jahrg., 1892, No. 9, p. 164.

† *American Naturalist*, Vol. XXX., p. 1046, 1896.