he first became professor in Berlin, numbered only some 1,500 specimens. But Virchow is not merely the greatest of living pathologists; he has for half a century been equally prominent in his own country as a politician. He has for many years been the leader of the Opposition in the German Reichsrath, and between thirty and forty years ago he had the honor of being challenged by Prince Bismarck. It is much to Virchow's honor that he had the courage to decline to risk a life so valuable for science and humanity in a foolish duel. Even pathology and politics do not exhaust the intellectual activities of this many-sided man. He is President of the German Geographical Society, in the work of which he takes the keenest interest. He is also justly famous as an anthropologist and archæologist. It may be added that in his writings he shows a feeling for literary form rare in medical authors, and especially rare in German professors. His lucidity of style and the logical order in which he unfolds his thoughts make his works a pleasure to read.

Dr. Woodward, Health Officer of the District of Columbia, has submitted to the Commissioners his estimates for appropriation, the sum being placed at $160,540. The estimates include $5,000 for the establishment and maintenance of a bacteriological laboratory.

Good work is being done by the Paris municipal bacteriological laboratory, says the New York *Medical Record*. This laboratory for the diagnosis of contagious affections was created by the Municipal Council in 1895, and is open to the public every day in the year from eight o'clock in the morning until eight in the evening, including Sundays and holidays; moreover, the necessary articles are given to doctors who ask for them for the bacteriological diagnosis of diphtheria, tuberculosis and contagious affections of which the germs are known. The results of the analyses are sent directly to the doctors, at longest twenty-four hours after reception of the pathogenic products at the laboratory. These results can be sent by telegraph if desired and at the expense of the doctor, but the examination and diagnosis are absolutely gratis. The laboratory received in August, 1898, forty-eight products suspected to be tuberculous, in which the bacillus of Koch was discovered sixteen times.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

The Board of Education of New York City has presented to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment a request for over $12,000,000 for current expenses and about $10,000,000 for new buildings for the year 1899. The estimates for current expenses are $3,000,000 more than the appropriation for the present year, the additional sum being intended chiefly for the increase of salaries.

The will of the late John D. W. Joy, of Boston, gives $30,000 to Tufts College, the bequest to take effect on the death of his widow.

A new class of honorary fellowships has been created this year at Cornell University. Those holding the Ph.D. degree from any institution may obtain these fellowships, which carry no emolument, but allow free tuition, the use of the library, etc.

Dr. Simon Flexner, associate professor of pathology at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed professor of pathological anatomy.

The following promotions and new appointments have been made at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Henry P. Talbot, to be professor of analytical chemistry; H. O. Hoffman, professor of mining and metallurgy; D. P. Bartlett, associate professor of mathematics; R. R. Lawrence, instructor in physics; and as assistants: J. C. Coffin, H. W. Smith and M. D. Thompson, in physics; and G. M. Holman, in biology.

The following instructors have been appointed in the University of Michigan: Lawrence Bigelow, in chemistry; James Pollock, Hamilton Timberlake and Julia W. Snow, in botany; Augustus Trowbridge, in physics; W. H. Butts and A. W. Whiting, in mathematics, and Archibald Campbell, in organic chemistry.

Dr. Martin B. Stubbs, of Haverford College and Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed assistant in chemistry and physics in Haverford College.

The British Education Department has issued

the reports which have been received this year from the twelve colleges which participated during the year ended March 31st in the annual grant, now amounting to £25,000, made by Parliament for 'University Colleges in Great Britain,' and the three colleges in Wales, which receive from the Treasury a grant of £4,000 each. The twelve colleges are: Birmingham, Mason College; Bristol, University College; Dundee, University College; Leeds, Yorkshire College; Liverpool, University College; London, Bedford College, King's College, University College; Manchester, Owens College; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Durham Science College; Nottingham, University College, and Sheffield, University College. The Welsh Colleges are: Aberystwyth, University College of Wales; Bangor, University College of North Wales; Cardiff, University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire. Major P. G. Craigie's annual report to the Board of Agriculture on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in 1897–98 has also been issued as a Parliamentary paper. The total amount distributed during the financial year to the fifteen institutions receiving assistance was £7,200, as compared with £7,000 in the previous year.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

TROCHOSPHÆRA AGAIN.

IN SCIENCE of December 25, 1896, Dr. Kofoid, of the Illinois Fresh-water Biological Station, records the occurrence, during the preceding summer, of *Trochosphæra solstitialis* Thorpe in the Illinois River. The discovery in America of this remarkable Rotifer, previously known only from the antipodes, is of great interest. Dr. Kofoid raises the question whether its presence in Illinois is due to recent importation, or whether *Trochosphæra* is to be considered a normal member of our fauna, taking a place with many other Rotifera as a cosmopolitan form. Its rediscovery at a station distant from that recorded by Kofoid is perhaps worthy of mention in the columns of SCIENCE. *Trochosphæra solstitialis* was found in the work of the Biological Survey carried on during the past summer at Put-in-Bay Id., Lake Erie, by the U. S. Fish Commission. It occurred very sparingly in a swamp near the U. S. Fish Hatchery, Put-in-Bay, for a few days in August, 1898. This swamp has a dense bottom growth of *Ceratophyllum*, while the surface is completely mantled with *Lemna*, *Spirodela* and *Wolffia*. It is connected with Lake Erie by a streamlet about forty feet in length, the direction of the current through which depends upon the level of the lake. When the lake is high, water flows into the swamp, and at such times the ordinary plankton Rotifera of the lake are found in the swamp. When the lake is low the swamp water passes outward into the lake. *Trochosphæra* was found at a low-water period, along with *Notops clavulatus* and some other Rotifers which, though rare, are known to be widely distributed. As this swamp has such intimate connection with the lake, it would not be surprising to find *Trochosphæra* in swampy parts of Lake Erie itself.

The discovery of *Trochosphæra* at two such widely separated stations in the United States certainly tends, so far as it goes, to indicate that the animal is to be considered a normal member of the American fauna. Workers on Rotatoria are few in America, and it may be that more extended observations would show *Trochosphæra* to be widely distributed, even though somewhat rare.

Unfortunately, but few individuals were obtained, so that it is not possible to furnish specimens to those desirous of examining this remarkable animal.

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THE OCCURRENCE IN GREAT ABUNDANCE OF INSECTS ORDINARILY MERELY COMMON.

A NOTE in one of the New York papers a day or so ago reporting that a strange butterfly—in all probability *Anosia plexippus*, judging from the description of the color—was present in extraordinary abundance at Topeka, Kansas, on the 6th inst., preventing work out of doors and gathering on the rails of a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad in such numbers as to stop a train by their bodies greasing the rails, calls to mind a similar large swarm of this species seen by the author near Unadilla, Nebraska, in 1885. The air was full of the in-