

along the Lake of Como. Their larvæ live freely in salt water, and seaside places, though usually exempt, are not invariably so. Professor Grassi, in conclusion, confirms the observations of Christophers and Stephens on the occasional presence in the salivary glands of the *culex* of bodies which resemble, but which he does not believe to be, sporozoites. He calls them pseudo-sporozoites.

A PAPER on the metric system read by Mr. Rufus C. Williams, president of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, has been published in a pamphlet by the Decimal Association of London. It gives a very clear account of the advantages of the metric system. Mr. Williams reports that under the Government the system is used in the following cases:

1. In the Department of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the meter was adopted as the standard in the beginning and has been so used ever since.

2. In the Agricultural Department, in all scientific work in chemistry, etc.; and, in the Natural History work metric measurements are exclusively used.

3. The Post Office Department uses it for foreign mails to metric countries, but not for domestic. Postal cards are of metric dimensions, and certain coins have been made to metric weights and measures.

4. In the Department of Surgeon-General of the Army and also that of the Navy, all contracts for medical supplies embody the metric system, and all containers—boxes and bottles—are of metric dimensions.

5. Regulations for U. S. Marine Hospital Service, 1897, made its use compulsory.

6. In Cuba and Porto Rico the Government uses the system exclusively in all official and domestic work. These countries adopted it years ago.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE proposes to erect and furnish buildings for a polytechnic school in Pittsburg, giving it an endowment fund of \$1,000,000. The city of Pittsburg is to furnish the site.

THE amendment to the constitution of the State of California, permitting Leland Stanford Jr. University to receive bequests from those not citizens of the State, and permitting the legislature to exempt part of the property of

the University from taxation, was adopted at the recent election.

WE recorded last week the partial destruction by fire of the N. Y. State Veterinary College of Cornell University. It appears that the damage to the building, which is estimated at \$30,000, is covered by insurance. The departments of histology and bacteriology, however, lost equipments valued at \$25,000 and collections that can scarcely be replaced. The loss of Professor Gage's collections, made in the course of twenty years, is especially serious. It is thought possible that the fire originated in the lamps of incubators in the department of bacteriology which were kept burning all night.

PROFESSOR GEORGE J. BRUSH, of Yale University, has given \$1,000 to a special fund for the Sheffield Scientific School. The general funds of the school have been increased by a gift of \$2,500 from an anonymous donor. The university has also received the following gifts and bequests: \$5,000 from Mrs. Isaac H. Bradley, the income of which is to be devoted to a course of lectures on some subject connected with journalism, literature or public affairs; \$700 by the will of the late James Campbell, of the medical faculty, to maintain the senior prize, provided for by him since 1888 and known as the Campbell gold medal; \$1,000 from Mrs. H. F. English for the Alice Kimball English prize fund in the Art School and \$1,000 from ex-President Dwight for the general funds of the Art School.

JAMES MILLIKEN, the Decatur (Ill.) banker and philanthropist, has added \$400,000 to his gift to the proposed industrial school to be established in Decatur. He had previously given \$316,000. Citizens gave \$100,000, and the Cumberland Presbyterian churches of Illinois, Indiana and Iowa will give \$100,000.

A COMPOUND engine to be placed in the boiler house erected by President Morton in connection with the Carnegie Laboratory of Engineering has been presented to the Stevens Institute of Technology by the Stevens family at Hoboken.

DR. A. KOSSEL, professor of physiology at the University at Marburg, has been called to Heidelberg.