

000; the library has grown from 120,000 volumes to over 300,000 volumes; the teaching force from 226 to 361; and the number of students from 1,564 to 2,560. These figures do not include either Barnard College or Teachers College.

Since removal, also, an educational deficiency of more than \$48,000 has been overcome, and the University, after this academic year, will be running within its income, after assuming the full care of its enlarged plant.

For a few years and for a few years only, the University needs help to prevent its debt from being further swelled by borrowed interest. It is not possible to take any such sum as the University needs, annually, in the immediate future, out of its educational work, without destroying its efficiency. This ought not to be permitted: First, because the work is highly useful and is being economically and well done; second, because any curtailing of the University's educational offer would be reflected immediately in loss of earning power; and, third, because, for the credit of the city, the University must be kept where it now is, in the very front rank.

To meet this situation, appeal is made to all the friends of the higher education in New York. Friends of the University, including the President and Trustees, have already pledged \$38,000 for this purpose. For the rest, the University confidently turns to the citizens of New York who value the things for which Columbia University stands in this metropolitan city.

REPORT ON A WESTERN BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.

As we have already announced, the American Society of Naturalists decided to meet next year at Chicago, and the Council was requested to report on the relations of the Society to the Western Branch, which has held two successful meetings in that city. Prior to this decision a committee consisting of Professors Henry Kraemer, G. D. Macloskie, E. B. Wilson, C. B. Davenport and T. H. Morgan made a report which we publish, in order that men of science may have an opportunity to consider and discuss a problem of considerable importance. The report of the committee is as follows:

The Committee appointed to consider the proposition offered by some of the members of the American Society of Naturalists to form a Western Branch of this Society (See Records of A. S. N., p. 29) submit the following recommendations for the action of the Society:

1. The American Society of Naturalists appreciates the desire of some of the Western members to form a Society of the Central States and, furthermore, appreciates the motives of the members to make this new Society a branch of the American Society of Naturalists. It is doubtful, however, if it will be possible to form such a branch, and if such a society is formed, we believe it should be as a distinct organization having its own officers, control of its own finances and the publishing of its own records.

2. The original intention of the Society of Naturalists was a good one, but we believe that it was unfortunate in changing its name from 'Society of Naturalists of the Eastern United States' to 'American Society of Naturalists' and in limiting the meetings to the Eastern United States. We recommend, therefore, that the original name be readopted in place of the present name. We believe this action would tend to facilitate the formation of similar societies, if desired, in different parts of the United States, and be in accord with the inception principles of this Society.

3. It is further recommended, in order to strengthen the work of naturalists in the United States, and so add to the influence of the whole body of naturalists in this country, that, if a Society of Naturalists of the Central United States be formed, or any similar society, if possible, each society appoint delegates to represent it at the Annual Meeting of the Sister Society; that the Executive Committee of the one cooperate with the Executive Committee of the other for united effort in contributing to the support of different objects such as the Naples and Wood's Holl Biological Stations; and that the societies extend to each other mutual privileges and courtesies such as: (a) Change in membership from one society to the other by approval of the Executive Board of both societies; (b) Admission of members of both societies to the meetings of either society, with enjoyment of certain privileges such as the reading of papers, taking part in the discussions and participation in such other matters as may be deemed advisable.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. JOSEPH WHITE SPRAGUE, of Louisville, Ky., who died recently in Switzerland, left a will that should ultimately greatly benefit the