

be, say that the state constitution is violated by the removal of timber from the ground 'for purely commercial purposes.' There has been no removal of timber for any such purpose. If the science of forestry is to be taught at all, it must be done by first clearing some portion of the land for the reception of new growth. The timber removed would naturally be sold on the general ground of economy and for the special purpose of reimbursing the state for the cost of cutting and hauling. The only question which now confronts the state is that of continuing the scientific instruction in forestry which it has begun or of abandoning it.—The N. Y. *Evening Post*.

#### AGE OF GERMAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

DR. F. EULENBURG, privat-docent in the University of Leipzig, has published in the *Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik* a lengthy article dealing with the age of the active full professors in the universities of Germany as also of the German universities in Austria and Switzerland. It is practically exhaustive, only about two per cent. of the complete data being wanting, so that it covers 1,288 professors for the winter term of 1890-91, and 1,429 for the winter term of 1901-02. According to these statistics, the average age of the full university professors at present is 53.4 years, which is two years above what it was a decade ago, when it was 51½ years. The highest average age is found at the ten Prussian universities, where it is 54.5 years, and the lowest average in the three universities of Switzerland, where it is 51.8. It is significant that the smaller universities exhibit a smaller average than the larger; this is explained by the fact that usually men do not gain an entrance into the faculties of the larger until they have been tried and found approved in the smaller. In different departments the average varies considerably. In the case of the 201 theological professors it is 54.2; of the 226 law professors, 54.2; of the 295 medical professors, 54.8; of the 707 men in the several departments of the philosophical faculty, 53.1. That the average among the medical men should be the highest is readily explained by the fact that the rush to this

department is especially great, and that the number of assistant professors and privat-docents is very large. On the other hand, the law faculties have not been attracting so many candidates, and the chances for earlier promotion are accordingly greater. The highest averages are reported from Berlin, Königsberg, Munich and Leipzig; which can readily be explained in the case of the first, third and fourth, as these leading universities are the Ultima Thule of the German savant's ambition. The youngest full professors are found in Bonn, Heidelberg, Vienna and Strassburg, in the non-theological faculties, and in Tübingen, Marburg, Innsbruck, Erlangen and Giessen in all departments. There are only two full professors under thirty, both in the law department, one in Tübingen and the other in Bern. About four per cent. of the professors continue in the harness after they have passed their seventieth year, but it should be remembered that in Austria, as in the German provinces of Russia, professors are retired by law when they reach this age. Eulenburg suggests that the German states pass a law giving the incumbent of an academic chair the right to retire at the age of sixty-five with a pension, and making this compulsory, except in rare cases, at the age of seventy, but in each instance, in the latter case, making the incumbent Professor Emeritus and giving the 'Lehrauftrag' to a younger man. This, he declares, would be justice to both students and professors. His discussion has an added interest when compared with the paper published in 1876 by Laspeyres on the same subject.—*Medical News*.

#### PROGRESS OF THE CONCILIUM BIBLIOGRAPHICUM.

DR. HERBERT HAVILAND FIELD is now in this country in connection with the *Concilium Bibliographicum*, and will visit various institutions, in order to report in person on the progress of the concilium, and to enter into communication with all who are interested in bibliography in the various lines of natural history. His address during his stay in America will be 106 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York.

The turning point has been reached in the history of this really great undertaking. The chief support has come through the generosity of the Swiss government, and it is hoped that the American government and some of the leading American institutions will unite in placing this work upon a secure foundation. Naturally one of the first questions asked is how the undertaking is regarded abroad, and why it should receive the united support of workers in the various lines of natural history. There are several striking proofs of the esteem in which the concilium is held on the continent. Through the death of Professor Carus, who has given his entire life to bibliography, almost without remuneration, a vacancy has occurred which the concilium has been invited to fill. It is a matter of continuing the zoological bibliography conducted by one who has been universally acknowledged to be a master in his subject and which reaches back without interruption to the year 1700. Before agreeing to undertake to carry on this work, the concilium is brought to face obligations which it can not fulfill without new support. At the same time the botanists on the continent, impressed with the thoroughness of the work of the concilium, at the international conference held in Leiden on April 16, voted to place the editorship of the well-known botanical bibliography in the hands of the concilium, as soon as funds could be obtained for doing the work. In both these cases, zoology and botany, it is only a small portion of the entire expense that is needed, but failure to obtain this comparatively small aid will make it impossible for the concilium to undertake these new duties. Meanwhile a number of European geologists are awaiting the results of these negotiations, with a view to establishing a geological section of the concilium similar to that of other parts of the institution. This endorsement from workers in three entirely separate fields, arrived at entirely independently, is so striking that it needs no further comment. Never was the conjunction of circumstances for securing a thoroughly adequate bibliography of an entire group of natural sciences more

marked. It is hoped, therefore, that the effort that Dr. Field is now making here will be crowned with success.

The special needs of the concilium are, in the order of importance: \$3,500 for improvements in the Zurich plant, especially for the acquisition of a linotype printing machine; \$4,000 for the liquidation of an accumulated debt; and at least \$1,000 additional for current expenses.

Dr. Field especially invites criticisms and suggestions upon the work as it is now being carried on. From several persons the criticism has been made to the present writer that the cards accumulate too rapidly and are somewhat difficult of arrangement. This difficulty, in the nature of *embarras de richesse*, has been felt in many laboratories. It will be readily obviated, first, by the introduction of the guide cards which are supplied by the concilium, and which make the arrangement of the titles a purely mechanical matter; second, it is proposed, wherever desired, to limit the number of cards sent out which relate to certain local faunæ and are of purely local interest. These, and any other matters of criticism which may arise, Dr. Field, as director of the concilium, will be glad to receive and carefully consider as suggestions for improvement of the service. All those who are using the cards appreciate that, whatever criticisms as to details may be made, the concilium is doing a magnificent work, a work far surpassing in accuracy and fulness and readiness of arrangement that which has been done or is now being done elsewhere. Many of the former critics and opponents of the concilium are now recognizing its superiority, and it is certainly to be most earnestly desired that the United States should strongly support an undertaking which has been conceived and carried out only through the persistence, energy and devotion of an American.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN.

---

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE  
BIRTHDAY OF JUSTUS VON LIEBIG.

On the twelfth of May, by invitation of the New York Section of the Verein Deutscher