

week of September 26 to October 1, 1904. It is proposed to make this a congress of officials in charge of the enforcement of laws that control the purity of food products, of chemists conducting investigations of food products, of manufacturers and dealers in foods, and of all persons engaged in the preservation and distribution of food products. The topics for discussion will be: (1) Adulteration, misbranding and fraud in the sale of food and drink products. (2) The practical problems connected with the preservation, packing and distributing of the different food and drink products. (3) The use of antiseptics and coloring matters in foods and their effect upon the health. (4) Uniform standards for the quality and strength of dairy, food and drink products. (5) Uniform state, national and international laws to control the adulteration of foods, and fraud in the sale of foods, and the best methods for enforcing these laws. (6) Methods of analysis for the detection of food adulterants. (7) To expose such specific adulterations and frauds as may be brought to the attention of the congress, and to recommend methods for suppressing and controlling them. All inquiries concerning the congress should be addressed to R. M. Allen, Secretary, International Pure Food Congress, Lexington, Kentucky.

A SOUTH AFRICAN correspondent writes as follows to the *Observatory*: "I have never come across any mention in an astronomical periodical of Carlyle's few remarks on astronomers, or of the fact that he was once a candidate for the directorship of the Edinburgh Observatory. It seems that this position was in the gift of Jeffrey of *Edinburgh Review* fame, and Jeffrey and Carlyle were intimate friends. Carlyle asked for the position, and was gruffly refused it by nearly the return post. Jeffrey appointed his secretary, whom Carlyle calls 'his taciturn friend with the bleary eyes.' Who this was the writer knows not. Carlyle is good enough to say that Jeffrey's nominee did 'well enough.' Carlyle met Airy once—'a hardy little figure, of edacious energetic physiognomy, eyes hard, strong, not fine.' He met Legendre, whose Geometry

he had translated in Edinburgh. He was also touched by the hem of Laplace's garment, thus:—"At a meeting of the *Institut* I saw and well remember the figure of Trismegistus Laplace; the skirt of his long blue-silk dressing gown (such his costume, unique in the place, his age and fame being also unique) even touched me as he passed on the session's rising. He was tall, thin, clean, serene, his face, perfectly smooth as a healthy man of fifty's, bespoke intelligence keen and ardent, rather than deep or great. In the eyes was a dreamy smile, with something of pathos in it, and perhaps something of contempt."

THE following circular letter has been sent to English-speaking scholars by the rector of the University of Turin and the chief librarian of the National Library:

The commotion raised by the disaster of the National library of Turin, and the deep expressions of sorrow presented to it by the most eminent scientific bodies of every civil state, encourage us to address ourselves to the most illustrious of their members; whose studies are in accordance with the sections of the library that have been destroyed and of which sections it is our moral duty to endeavor the reconstruction in their most minute details.

Now since you are a worthy representative of this eminent scientific body and the studies you profess and cherish belong just to the sections destroyed, so we dare hope that in accordance with the joint solidarity which bounds together all the scholars of the world, you will favor and honor our library with the gift of your most esteemed books, which would be even more valued if adorned with an autographic dedication which would remind the studious of your generous present in a moment so painful for the studies.

This request that we have the honor to forward to you is entirely our personal and does not belong to the institution we represent, happy as we are of having an opportunity of so giving public homage to your high scientific attainments in conferring a benefit to the studies.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has instructed its executive committee to confer with the Harvard University authorities on the subject of closer relations between the two institutions.

WILSON COLLEGE, situated near Chambersburg, Pa., has received a bequest of \$40,000 from the late John Lortz, to be used for the erection and maintenance of a natural science building.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY has received a gift of \$60,000 from Mr. Horace W. Charpentier, A.B. ('48), for the chair of pediatrics.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY has dedicated an assembly hall, erected at a cost of \$70,000, the gift of Mrs. Eliza Fowler.

THE University of Leipzig has received from the estate of the late Herr Puschmann, 500,000 Marks for the study of the history of medicine.

A LIQUID-AIR plant will probably be installed in the basement of the Ryerson Physical Laboratory, of the University of Chicago, during the coming summer, at a cost of about \$1,400.

THE Chemical Laboratory of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, at Troy, N. Y., was damaged by fire on the night of May 6. It is said that the fire was caused by an explosion of chemicals and that the loss amounts to nearly \$75,000.

THE British Chancellor of the Exchequer recently promised a deputation that the treasury grant to university colleges should be raised from £25,000 to £50,000 a year, and held out some hope that the sum might be raised to £100,000 next year. The following committee has been appointed to report on the allocation of the proposed increased grant: The Right Honorable R. B. Haldane, M.P. (chairman), Sir F. Mowatt, G.C.B., I.S.O., Mr. C. A. Cripps, K.C., M.P., the Rev. Dr. Woods, late president of Trinity College, Oxford; Mr. Henry Higgs, of the treasury, will act as secretary.

By a recent decree of Queen Wilhelmina the University of the Netherlands will recognize hereafter the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the following American institutions: The University of California, Catholic University of America, University of Chicago, Clark University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Leland Stanford Junior

University, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, University of Wisconsin and Yale University.

THE trustees of Stanford University adopted on March 31 a form of organization which appears to differ from that of most universities by the creation of an advisory board. This consists of nine members, three being elected each year by the academic council or general faculty. All executive acts of general importance, including recommendations for appointments, promotions or dismissals, are to be submitted by the president to the advisory board for approval before they become operative or before they are submitted to the trustees for action, when such action is necessary.

A VACATION course in geography, similar to that of August, 1902, will be held at the Oxford School of Geography during the first sixteen days of next August, provided that a sufficient number of students send in their names. It is proposed to have courses of lectures, probably on the British Isles and on the principles of geography applied to education, and in addition to have classes for practical work both in and out of doors.

PROFESSOR ALBERT W. SMITH, of Stanford University, has been appointed director of Sibley College, Cornell University, succeeding the late Robert H. Thurston.

MISS BERTHA MAY CLARK, of Baltimore, holder of a foreign fellowship from the Woman's College of Baltimore, has been awarded the annual fellowship given by the Baltimore Association for the promotion of the University Education of Women. Miss Clark graduated from the Woman's College in 1900, was the holder of a graduate scholarship at Bryn Mawr College in 1900-1901, and was afterwards instructor in physics in the Woman's College of Baltimore.

DR. HENRY H. DIXON, who has been assistant to Professor Wright since 1892, succeeds him as professor of botany in Trinity College, Dublin.

Erratum: The note on page 774 of the last issue of SCIENCE should read "Johns Hopkins gives opportunity for professional work in connection with the Geological Survey of Maryland."