

this fluctuation did not take place simultaneously at widely distant stations, but progressed in accordance with the passage of the shadow cone, the presumption will be strong that an eclipse effect has again been detected. A fuller announcement must be reserved for a later occasion.

L. A. BAUER.

DEPT. TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM,
CARNEGIE INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,
September 11, 1905.

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TRUSTEES
OF AMERICAN COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES.

A NATIONAL Conference of Trustees of American Colleges and Universities will be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, beginning Tuesday, October 17, 1905. All trustees of such institutions and all persons who have served as trustees are cordially invited to attend.

The sessions will be held during the week in which Dr. Edmund J. James will be formally inaugurated as president of the University of Illinois. The members of the conference will be invited to attend the exercises connected with the inauguration. This will give the members of the conference an opportunity to meet representative men, presidents and professors, from many different institutions, who will be in attendance as delegates, and also to inspect the work of one of the larger of the state universities.

It is well known that the method of governing higher institutions of learning by boards of trustees, that is, bodies of non-experts—laymen, so to speak, in the field of education,—is peculiarly American.

In England the old universities are self-governing bodies, controlled largely by the faculties; in France and Germany they are departments of the government, and so far as they are not directly under the control of the government, they are autonomous, that is, ruled by the faculties. In the United States alone we felt it necessary to create a third organ, an independent, often self-renewing

body of non-experts, in whose hands the entire legal control has usually been placed.

Many authorities regard this as a most satisfactory method; others find in it some of the most serious weaknesses of our American system of higher education; all believe that the problems connected with such a plan of control are far from being worked out satisfactorily.

This conference has been called for the purpose of discussing some of the most important questions of college and university administration, involving the relations of trustees, presidents and faculties. Among the questions which will be discussed are the following:

1. What should be the real administrative body of a college or university, the faculty or the trustees?

Should the trustees limit their functions to selecting a faculty and then vest in the latter the actual administration, or should the board itself undertake to administer the institution, either as a body or through its committees?

2. Should the president of the institution be the sole advisory authority to the board of trustees, or should the other administrative officers, or the various faculties, be consulted?

3. Should the faculty be authorized to nominate men to the board for vacancies, or should that be done by the president or by the committees, or by the members of the board?

4. How should trustees be selected? (A) By cooperation? (B) By the alumni? (C) By outside authority? (1) In case of private institutions, by the church or other body? (2) In case of state institutions: (a) Appointed by the governor? (b) Elected by the people? (c) Or *ex officio*, *e. g.*, governor, superintendent of public instruction, etc.?

5. Should the trustees assume entire control of the financial administration, or should they allow the faculties to have a representation also, by allowing them to submit a budget either by departments or as a whole?

6. Should the trustees, if they reserve the financial authority, undertake to determine the budget in all its details, or should they simply distribute by departments and leave it to the individual departments to make detailed distribution?

7. Should the trustees of all institutions, public and private alike, be required by law to file full financial statements with some public authority and publish the same?

8. Should the alumni have some formally recognized place in the scheme of government of the institution? If so, what?

9. Should the student body have formal recognition in the scheme of government by being privileged to appoint representatives to any disciplinary or administrative body?

10. Is it possible to devise uniform methods of bookkeeping and statistics, so as to make comparisons more valuable?

It will be seen that these are all vital questions, indicating difficulties which every board of trustees has to meet. It is believed that every university or college trustee will derive great aid in the performance of his duties by attending this conference and exchanging views on these important topics.

Urbana, in which the University of Illinois is located, forms with its adjoining city, Champaign, a single community of about twenty thousand inhabitants. It is situated 128 miles due south of Chicago, at the junction of three great railway systems, the Illinois Central, the Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland and St. Louis (Big Four), and the Wabash railways, and is thus easy of access from every direction.

Persons desiring to attend this conference should notify the undersigned as soon as possible. Suggestions as to other desirable topics for discussion will be thankfully received. Address:

DAVID KINLEY,
Dean of the College of Literature and
Arts, University of Illinois,
Urbana, Illinois.

THE HARVEY SOCIETY.

THE Harvey Society, described by its constitution as 'a society for the diffusion of the knowledge of the medical sciences,' offers the following course of lectures which are to be given under the patronage of the New York Academy of Medicine:

FIRST COURSE OF HARVEY SOCIETY LECTURES, 1905-1906.

October 7, Professor Hans Meyer, 'Die Theorie der Narcose' (in German).

October 14, Professor Carl von Noorden, 'Modern Problems of Metabolism.'

November 4, Professor F. G. Novy, 'Trypanosomes.'

November 18, Dr. P. A. Levene, 'Autolysis.'

January 20, Professor W. H. Park, 'A Critical Study of Serum Therapy.'

January 27, Professor Lewellys F. Barker, 'The Neurones.'

February 2, Professor F. S. Lee, 'Fatigue.'

February 9, Professor L. B. Mendel, 'The Formation of Uric Acid.'

February 16, Professor T. H. Morgan, 'The Extent and Limitations of the Power to Regenerate in Man and other Vertebrates.'

February 23, Professor Charles S. Minot, 'On the Nature and Cause of Old Age.'

March 2, Professor J. C. Webster, 'Modern Views regarding Placentation.'

March 9, Professor Theobald Smith, 'Some Phases of Tuberculosis.'

March 16, Professor W. H. Howell, 'The Cause of the Heart Beat.'

The lectures will be held in the Academy of Medicine at half past eight on the above evenings during the winter. In the Sorbonne at Paris courses of lectures by distinguished Frenchmen and men of other lands are given with the object of bringing science before those engaged in practise and art of various pursuits. The aim of the Harvey Society is similar in character. The Harvey Society cordially invites all interested to attend this course.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. W J MCGEE, U. S. Commissioner of the International Archeological and Ethnological Commission, lately chief of the department of anthropology and ethnology of the St. Louis Exposition and ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has been appointed managing director of the St. Louis Public Museum.

H. FOSTER BAIN, Ph.D. (Chicago), geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey and formerly assistant state geologist of Iowa, has been appointed state geologist of Illinois.