

dangers inherent in the further development of the presidential office in its present temper. With unexpected corroboration of many men of many minds, the autocracy of the college president—to which President Pritchett has called timely attention—was deplored, not alone as undemocratic in principle and harsh in practise, but as tending to undermine the stability of the academic career, and as taking from it its proper dignity, honor and station. It is certainly notable that an occasion that was convened to glorify the president—though in some part only as the representative of his university—the dominant theme of discussion should take as its text the menace and evils of this office. The inquiry was most amicably and fairly conducted; no disturbing factor of personal criticism intruded itself. It was admitted that the needs of the past—closely associated with pioneering crudities and exacting conditions—demanded dictatorial powers, central responsibility, efficient and compromising direction. Yet it was questioned whether this type of government is at all promising for present and future situations. Our universities have been built up too largely at the sacrifice of the academic career; and with material success and the ambition to be big has come a neglect of quality and of the true ends for which universities are maintained. The faculty has paid all too heavily for the progress which it has, with unacknowledged sacrifice, made possible. The issue is thus nothing less than the rehabilitation of the academic career; the restoration of the faculty to a truly directive authority of the educational affairs of the university; the withdrawal of the president to the more modest office of the leading interpreter of faculty opinion, and the interpretation of the function of the board in a more cooperative, less managerial tone. That intense and hampering sense of accountability—which President Pritchett has likewise emphasized—robs the professorial career of its essential worth; and this accountability directly results from the autocratic government by presidents and boards, that imposes policy upon the faculty, and distributes with both a grudging and an unjust hand rewards for

facilitation of administrative measures. Naturally, when stated thus baldly the charge seems exaggerated and in many quarters wholly inappropriate; yet, as a tendency, it has real existence and unusual power to make or mar the academic career. Analogies from the business world have wrought havoc with educational standards, and, unless signs fail, this is to be one of the foremost of educational questions; and it may be that the formal raising of this query will come to be regarded as the memorable feature of the Illinois conferences.—*The Outlook*.

THE BIRD LIFE OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

THE Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History is making a qualitative and quantitative survey of the bird life of a typical grain and cattle farm of central Illinois, with the intention of continuing and extending statistical studies of this description until average results are arrived at, good for the various crops and regions of the state and for the different seasons of the year. This is taken up mainly as a study in ornithological ecology, but it will nevertheless have an economic value as helping to determine the real significance of birds in relation to agriculture.

The data are obtained by an expert field ornithologist who, with a single companion, crosses a four-hundred-acre farm in various directions and at intervals of about four days, the two observers traveling always fifty yards apart and noting the species and numbers of birds flushed on this strip between them. They carry each time a copy of a plot of that part of the farm covered by their trip, drawn to a scale and showing the distribution and areas of each of the crops. On this plot the position of each bird observed is noted, the series of diagrams thus giving a means of determining the average bird population per acre for each crop as well as for the entire area covered.

This work has been in progress since last June, during which time the birds of something over 1,100 acres have thus been accurately recognized and numbered for three summer months. The average was 2.5 birds per acre, omitting English sparrows, or 3.8

per acre if the sparrows are included. The total number of species observed was 38, and the number of birds identified was 4,257. Fifty-nine per cent. of the individuals seen were bronzed grackles, 13.3 per cent. were English sparrows, 12.5 per cent. were cow-birds, 2.5 per cent. were mourning-doves, and 2.3 per cent. were meadow-larks. Nearly 90 per cent. of all the birds on the farm thus belonged to these five species, and to them was due virtually all the impression which was being made by birds on the plant and insect life of this tract.

*THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICANISTS.*

WE have already called attention to the fact that the fifteenth International Congress of Americanists will be held at Quebec from September 10 to 16 of next year. The regulations adopted by the committee of organization are as follows:

Papers will be listed on receipt of title.

Papers will not be assigned a place on the preliminary daily program unless an abstract has been received, as required by the rules and regulations of the congress.

Papers to be read will be arranged according to subject-matter, in a number of divisions corresponding to those of the general program; and papers belonging to the same division will be presented, so far as feasible, on the same day.

Papers in each division will take precedence in the order of the receipt of abstracts.

Authors who intend to submit more than one paper to the congress are requested to designate the paper they desire to read first. The rest of their papers will be placed at the end of the preliminary program of the respective divisions.

In order to insure the prompt publication of the proceedings of the congress, the committee recommends to the congress to set the latest date for the receipt of completed manuscripts and of notes of discussions, October 1, 1906.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

BRIGADIER GENERAL A. W. GREELY, chief of the U. S. Signal Service, has been elected the first president of the Explorers' Club, an organization recently founded in New York City.

PROFESSOR EMIL FISCHER, of Berlin, has been elected an honorary member of the Society of German Chemists.

PROFESSOR ROBERT KOCH, who has been at Amaris in West Usambara and at Uganda to complete his researches on trypanosomes and sleeping sickness, expected to reach Berlin on October 23.

DR. FORREST SHREVE, Bruce fellow in the Johns Hopkins University, sailed for Jamaica on October 13, to spend a year in physiological and ecological work at the Cinchona station of the New York Botanical Garden.

DR. R. M. WENLEY, professor of philosophy in the University of Michigan, has leave of absence for the year, which he is spending in Scotland.

PROFESSOR A. B. STEVENS, who has been studying in Switzerland for two years, has returned to the University of Michigan and will continue his researches upon the composition of poison ivy.

MISS FANNY COOK GATES, who has been engaged in research work in the Cavendish laboratory since last April, has resumed her duties as head of the physics department in the Woman's College of Baltimore.

DR. G. R. HOLDEN and Dr. H. M. Little, respectively resident gynecologist and obstetrician of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, have resigned, and Dr. Stephen Rushmore and Dr. F. C. Goldsborough succeed them. Dr. Little will take charge of a department in the hospital connected with McGill University, Canada.

DR. J. C. R. LAFLAME, formerly rector of Laval University and president of the Royal Society of Canada, has been appointed by the International Waterways Commission as geological expert to make a report upon the recession of the Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

BARON K. TAKAKI, of Tokyo, has accepted an invitation to deliver the Cartwright lectures on surgery in Columbia University. Surgeon-General Takaki will sail for America towards the end of December.